

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
109 Market Street, Room 106, Denton, Maryland

Minutes
March 17, 2020

Present: President Larry C. Porter; Vice President Daniel J. Franklin; Commissioner Wilbur Levensgood, Jr.; Jeremy Goldman, County Administrator; Sara Visintainer, Chief of Staff; and Jennifer Farina, Administrative Coordinator

On motion by Commissioner Franklin, Seconded by Commissioner Levensgood the Commissioners formally convened as the Board of Health

Situation Report and Response Update Regarding COVID-19: Scott LeRoy, Health Officer and Anna Sierra, Director, Caroline County Emergency Services, briefed the Commissioners on the latest response to COVID-19 in Caroline County. Mr. LeRoy stated that the Health Department is working with internal and external agencies to ensure the safety of the community. He stated a testing facility will be forming on the Eastern Shore with funding from the State at Chesapeake College. The testing facility will test Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, with all tested having severe symptoms. Mr. LeRoy reminded the Commissioners that there have not yet been any confirmed cases in Caroline County, however they will remain proactive in planning for an outbreak.

Ms. Sierra stated that a good public health response always looks like an overreaction and the County will continue to take certain measures to make sure no one is affected negatively in Caroline County. She stated that the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is partially activated where many neighboring counties have yet to activate. She stated that Choptank Community Health System has tests available at all six of their facilities. Ms. Sierra also emphasized the county's new procedures for all first responders to have the proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) available. Ms. Sierra stated that the JIC (Joint Information Center) has been set up under the authorization of Sara Visintainer as Public Information Officer and Jenn Farina as Deputy Information Officer.

Ms. Visintainer stated that staff has drafted a county wide disinfection plan to disinfect all public offices, ambulance, and police vehicles. The Board of Education has helpfully lent the County electrostatic sprayers that will be able to properly disinfect all public areas. Ms. Visintainer went on to explain that when there is a public health crisis you also have a public information crisis. She thanked the Board of Education for allowing members of their staff to move into the JIC to help staff push important information on all social media platforms. She stated that the County will have an official website dedicated to COVID-19 in Caroline County by the end of the week.

The Commissioners thanked staff for the detail update on Caroline's COVID-19 response. On motion by Commissioner Levensgood, seconded by Commissioner Franklin, the board moved to pay for 100 county residents to be tested free of charge.

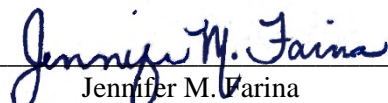
On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the Commissioners reconvened in regular session.

Resolution #2020-006, Amendment to Caroline County Personnel Rules and Regulations, Continuity of Operations: Ms. Visintainer stated that this resolution was drafted to update the policy for employees during this public health emergency. Prior resolutions only touched on natural disasters such as hurricanes and snowstorms. On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levengood, the Commissioner moved to signed Resolution #2020-006, Amendment to Caroline County Personnel Rules and Regulation, Continuity of Operations

Resolution #2020-07, Declaration of Local State of Emergency and Executive Order COVID-19 Public Health Emergency: Mr. Goldman stated that the following resolution would allow the county to enter level III of their emergency operation plan and full activation of the EOC. He stated that as of Monday, all Caroline County offices and buildings would be closed to the public. On motion by Commissioner Levengood, seconded by Commissioner Franklin, the Commissioners moved to approve Resolution #2020-007, Declaration of Local State of Emergency and Executive Order COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

The Commissioners and staff from the Finance and Tax Office held a discussion regarding the FY2021 Capital and Operating Budget.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M



Jennifer M. Farina
Administrative Coordinator