

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

Minutes
April 7, 2020

Present: President Larry C. Porter; Vice President Daniel J. Franklin; Commissioner Wilbur Levensgood, Jr.; via conference call.

The meeting began at 9:00 AM via conference call.

Situation Report and EOC Response Update Regarding COVID-19:

Caroline County Health Department Update: Scott LeRoy, Health Officer, briefed the Commissioners on several updates regarding COVID-19. He stated that Shore Health is moving forward with plans for a surge facility. We have 12 positive cases of COVID-19 in Caroline County, with 1 patient requiring hospitalization. The Regional Testing Site at Chesapeake College is continuing to test patients from Caroline and surrounding Counties. The return time from the laboratories has improved and we are beginning to see test results in a timelier manner.

Department of Emergency Services & Emergency Operations Center: Anna Sierra, Director of Emergency Services, gave a brief update on the operations of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Unified Command. Ms. Sierra stated that the statewide numbers are continuing to grow. They are working on developing comprehensive long-term care plans for our nursing home facilities and assisting with developing care plans for those patients that do not require hospitalization. The EOC has continued to hand out Personal Protective Equipment to first responders and long-term care facilities. A large amount of Personal Protective Equipment has been ordered from a private seller and is expected to arrive towards the end of April. The Department of Emergency Services has been working on a surge plan to prepare for an increase in call volume. They have developed a Matrix to define how DES will respond to the increased demand for service. As of now, Emergency Services call volume remains down in Caroline County and throughout the state. There has also been a decrease in the number of patients in the Emergency Rooms. The local hospitals are preparing for a surge, however, are maintaining with normal staffing at this time.

Public Information Update: Sara Visintainer, Public Information Officer, stated that the Joint Information Center (JIC) is going to be changing the notification tempo to the public by only posting new confirmed cases once at day at 10 am. There will be a positive post made every Friday to highlight community businesses and local volunteers. The CDC is now recommending the use of face covers for all individuals, this information will be posted on all social media platforms. Ms. Visintainer highlighted the Liaison section and all of the incredible work that they have been doing to keep all of our local businesses and organizations informed.

Caroline County Public Schools Update: Dr. Patty Saelens, Superintendent of Schools, explained that the CCPS food distribution team has been working hard and handing out meals Monday through Thursday. They are serving approximately 1000 students each day as well as

some of our senior citizen population. CCPS has now broken up the main food distribution site into several locations and teams. Food service workers are being screened each day. Device distribution concluded yesterday. Online learning for students began this week. They are working on a plan for a virtual Board of Education meeting. There are teams of employees in each school from 8:30 am until 4 pm each day. Administration is looking into senior graduation and scholarship requirements to ensure that our graduating seniors do not miss out on any opportunities.

Margaret Roe, Director of Finance: The Operating budget is balanced. The budget will be prepared for Commissioners approval at next weeks meeting. There will be no property tax or income tax increase. Administration is working on a procedure to conduct a public hearing to adopt the budget. There is no change to the tax differential. Discussing regarding the purchase of a take home vehicle for the Department of Emergency Services Communications Manager. Staff will research the price of an SUV.

Consent Agenda: The following items were approved by unanimous consent:

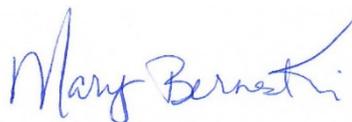
- Minutes of the March 31, 2020 County Commissioners Meeting.

County Administrators Report: Mr. Goldman presented a fund balance request from Chesapeake College for an IT project. Mr. Goldman explained that the College is not asking for any funds, however, they must have permission of the Counties to use their funds. This request was unanimously approved. Mr. Goldman briefed the Commissioner's on the use of Emergency purchasing. The medical services provider for the Detention Center has filed bankruptcy. This resulted in the County contracting services with a new provider, Wellpath, Inc. The Sheriff's building construction is running on time and on budget. Contractors continue to work while practicing social distancing. It is recommended that the tax sale be delayed until possibly November. A date will be decided and discussed at the next Commissioner's meeting.

Open Discussion Period:

Commissioner Franklin commended the County employees on all of their hard work. He would also like to have a discussion on how the County can help small businesses during this time. Commissioner Levengood also thanked the County Employees and expressed his concern for the local farmers. Commissioner Porter stated that he has been receiving phone calls from Fire Company Chiefs and President's who are expressing their concern over lost fundraising potential. He has asked that those companies that have reached out prepare a spreadsheet of lost income for the Commissioners to review.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.



Mary Berneski
Paralegal