

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
Health and Public Services (HAPS) Building
403 S. 7th Street, Room 111
Denton, MD 21629

Minutes
April 18, 2023

Present: President J. Travis Breeding; Vice President Larry C. Porter, Commissioner N. Franklin Bartz, III.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

Commissioners Meeting Convenes, Invocation by Rev. Don Reynolds

Public Comment: No public comment.

Jeremy Goldman, County Administrator – Caroline County Pension System Discussion:

Mr. Goldman introduced Mr. Fox, Director of Finance, to discuss the cost and impact of changing the County's pension plan. The Commissioners discussed the newly passed legislation that will allow Counties to include Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) into the Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPST). The legislation enabled Counties to participate, not force them. However, this will likely make Caroline County uncompetitive. The current pension plan provides public safety employees with 25 years of service, a 40% retirement and employees with 30 years of service, a 48% retirement. General County employees are not eligible to collect retirement until after 30 years of service at 48% retirement. The proposed plan would allow all County employees to retire at 50% after 25 years and at 60% after 30 years of employment.

Stewart Barroll, County Attorney & Jeremy Goldman, County Administrator - Solar Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Discussion:

Mr. Goldman and Mr. Barroll introduced a legal representative of NextEra for (Cherrywood I), Mr. Coppersmith. The Commissioners discussed the 35-year term of the possible PILOT and specifics of a possible agreement. Commissioner Bartz requested a 20-year term, versus a 35-year term. Commissioner Breeding recommended a 30-year term with penalty for early withdraw. Commissioner Breeding wants assurances that there are safety nets in place.

Consent Agenda: All three Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda.

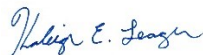
- Minutes – February 21, 2023 & March 21st, 2021 – Open & Closed
- Caroline County Department of Emergency Services – [DrFirst Software Agreement](#)
- Caroline County Department of Public Works – [Homeowner Drop-Off \(HODO\) Fees](#)
- Caroline County Department of Public Works – [Purchase Order #2023-437 & Contract – American Paving Fabrics, Inc. – Paving, Resurfacing, and Chip Seal](#)

County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman had nothing to report.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Bartz stated that on Sunday, he attended a Social Services purse bingo. Commissioner Porter stated he attended two Little League opening day games, one in Denton and one in Ridgely. He stated the fields look great and everyone in the County did a great job. Commissioner Porter asked Mr. Goldman about the transmission calls from municipalities through our 911 center. Mr. Goldman stated that there is a screening tool being created to help resolve some of the unnecessary 911 center traffic. Commissioner Breeding stated the Board received a request for a letter of support from Choptank Community Health. The Commissioners agreed to sign it. Commissioner Breeding also mentioned that he met with the Town of Denton (TOD) about possible building a baseball field on Sharp Road. Commissioner Breeding mentioned there is a need to possibly schedule a joint meeting with the Denton Town Council to discuss the transfer of land. Mr. Goldman stated he and Mr. Barroll would like to draft a working memorandum of understanding so there is an item to discuss. Commissioner Breeding stated that the TOD wanted to subdivide property to the County. In closing, Commissioner Breeding stated that during the last Planning Commission meeting, there was a request for a text amendment to allow for retail sales in an industrial zoned area. Commissioner Porter stated that if you are in the West Denton area, check out what Mr. Bowers has done with the two warehouses. Commissioner Porter stated that he has done an incredible job of cleaning it up and rehabbing it.

Public Comment: Mark Sheridan, Director of DES stated that he does not receive a County Pension as a contractual employee, but he thanks the Commissioners for entertaining the change to the pension that will benefit not only his employees, but all merit employees with the County.

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



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners