

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

Minutes
April 21, 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 updates regarding COVID-19. He stated that the Regional Testing Site has tested a total of 433 people, with 56 of those being from Caroline County. We currently have 45 positive cases. The Health Department will be reaching out to the Business Community to answer questions and ensure compliance with the State orders. Shore Health Systems is taking the lead on surge facility planning.

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. The EOC continues to track numbers of cases in the County. The Incident Action Plan is being updated weekly and the Situation Report updated daily. The Liaison Team continues to reach out to the Business Community. They are working on a community recovery plan with Contract staff and the EOC team. Logistics has been procuring equipment and supplies for our Emergency Responders and long-term health care facilities. The Finance section is tracking COVID-19 related costs. There has been a slight uptick in 911 call volume which is partially due to allergy and asthma season. National Telecommunicator week came to a close. The Emergency Dispatchers were appreciative for the recognition they received.

Caroline County Public Schools Update: Dr. Patty Saelens, Superintendent of Schools, advised that the State has extended the school closures until May 15, 2020. Staff is preparing paper packets of work to be mailed to students with no internet access. They have begun to expand the learning content for elementary age students to include more subjects of study. Waivers for graduation requirements for seniors are being prepared. They continue to distribute meals to approximately 1200 students and 250 seniors each day. Commissioner Levensgood and Jeremy Goldman will be following up with Upper Shore Aging for reimbursement for the senior meals that are being served.

Public Information Update: Sara Visintainer, Public Information Officer, stated that they continue with releasing weekly briefings. There is a lot of traffic to all of the social media websites which indicates that the information is getting out to the public. They will be focusing this week on communications to the non-English speaking communities.

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

- Open and Closed Session minutes of the April 14, 2020 County Commissioners Meeting.
- 3rd quarter Contingency Expenses

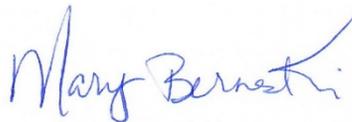
Debbie Bowden, Director of Economic Development: Ms. Bowden stated that the Liaison team continues to push out messaging. On a request from the Commissioners, she will be following up with the local banks to attempt to identify what help our local business community is seeking.

County Administrators Report: Mr. Goldman advised that we have received guidelines on the distribution of the CARES Act funding. The finance team will be working to identify reimbursable expenses that are covered by the act. A plan for recovery funding will be complete within the next few weeks. The Sheriff's Department building continues to run on time and on budget. Mr. Goldman proposed a monetary bonus for salaried employees that have continued to work during the closures. The Commissioners unanimously approved a \$1000 per month bonus.

Open Discussion Period:

Commission Levengood and Commissioner Franklin expressed their concern with Capital spending. The Commissioners thanked all of the County employees who are working to keep the County up and running.

There being no further discussion, on a motion by Commissioner Levengood, and seconded by Commissioner Franklin, the meeting convened into closed session at 10:15 a.m.



Mary Berneski
Paralegal