

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

**Minutes**  
**April 25, 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 Pastor Doug Morley – Greater Impact Church - Greensboro

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

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

Mr. Goldman stated that this is being brought back to discussion per the Commissioners request from last week's meeting. Mr. Goldman asked for questions and concerns from the Commissioners to discuss. The Board would like to adopt the recommended percentage by the Pension Board for a phase in of 1%/ year until 7% is reached, for current employees. New employees will begin at 7%. Commissioner Porter made a motion to adopt the Pension Boards recommendation. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three Commissioner unanimously voted to adopt the recommended change to the County Pension. Mr. Goldman stated this will take effect at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023).

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

- Department of Recreation & Parks - [Memorandum of Agreement \(MOA\) – Choptank Community Health – Summer Camp Health Services](#)
- Department of Recreation & Parks – [Maryland Department of Natural Resources Chesapeake and Coastal Service - Waterway Improvement Fund Grant Agreement Modification #1 – Choptank Marina Dredging](#)
- Caroline County Department of Finance – FY2023 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Contingency Purchases Approval
- Caroline County Office of Law – Deed of Dedication

**County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman:** Mr. Goldman stated the County had an issue with Verizon and our 911 center. The County's lines are down by 50%. Mr. Goldman stated this is affecting the entire Eastern Shore (Counties that have not transitioned to the next generation systems). Mr. Goldman stated that the contractor has framed the dais in the Courthouse Hearing Room and is looking for some feedback on the set-up for the monitors for the room. Mr. Goldman stated he spoke with Mr. Barroll to discuss the Solar Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT). Mr. Goldman stated that the solar company had their legal representation offer a cash incentive to speed up the approval of the PILOT and have the Commissioners sign it by the

next meeting. The Commissioners stated they need proof that the PILOT numbers are legitimate and confirmed before they decide. Mr. Goldman stated this would be \$1.16M a year, for 30 years as the floor; it can surpass that but never fall below. Commissioner Porter discussed providing training for lithium battery firefighting. Commissioner Porter asked Ms. Leager to reach out to the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MIFRI) to ask about the current training for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

**County Commissioners Open Discussion:** Commissioner Bartz asked if we could Sheriff Baker and State's Attorney Sloan Franklin to come in to discuss the possible increased theft in the North portion of the County. Commissioner Porter stated all three Commissioners attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Goldsboro VFC this past Sunday. He stated it was a nice event. In addition, Commissioner Porter stated he attended a function in Dorchester County for the Shore Regional Medical Facility. He stated that they are trying to establish incentives to have doctors and nurses live and practice medicine in Caroline County. Commissioner Porter also mentioned that a Caroline County resident donated \$18M to Shore Regional Health to be used on the Eastern Shore. Commissioner Breeding asked about the status of the archeological dig in North County Park. Ms. Beechey stated they have completed their search and they did not find anything of importance. Ms. Beechey stated that the project is moving forward. Ms. Beechey also provided an update on Jonestown Community Park. She stated that it is still in the works and the water mitigation stage is underway. Commissioner Bartz asked about the Ganey's Wharf House and Ms. Beechey stated she spoke with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about making it a campground. Ms. Beechey stated there are a few options to consider, and she is open to suggestions.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

**Closed Session: Section (1) General Provisions Art. 3-305(b): "To perform a performance review of certain employees."**



Kaleigh Leager  
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners