

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

Minutes
April 28, 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 615 people, with 86 of those being from Caroline County. The Health Department is continuing to reach out to the Business Community to answer questions and ensure compliance with the State orders.

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. They are working to coordinate messaging to the surrounding poultry workers community. They are working with Caroline County Public Schools (CCPS) to assess food needs of our senior citizens to ensure food security. Choptank Community Health continues to be the primary point of testing. The Logistics Team is working to ensure that Choptank has all the test kits that they need. Ms. Sierra stated that the EOC team has been working on interpretation of the CARES ACT and is working closely with the Finance Team to project what the County's needs will be as well as funding for recovery operations.

Public Information Update: Sara Visintainer, Public Information Officer, stated that they continuing to share information with the public. They have begun to reach out to our non-English speaking communities via different social media platforms.

Debbie Bowden: Ms. Bowden advised that the Senior Food Program is now in position to feed approximately 750 senior citizens daily. The Liaison Team continues to reach out the business community to answer questions. They have been working closely with Environmental Health to ensure business compliance.

Caroline County Public Schools Update: Dr. Patty Saelens, Superintendent of Schools, advised that they are continuing to expand the learning content for elementary and middle school age students to include more subjects of study. They are in the planning stages for graduation. Staff is finding creative ways to connect with students and families.

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

- Open and Closed Session minutes of the April 21, 2020 County Commissioners Meeting.

- Contract Addendum – Professional Services Contract, Murtech, Inc.
- Contract Addendum – Professional Services Contract, MCullough, P.E., P.W.S.
- Employment Contract – Director of Communications
- CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Acceptance

Debbie Bowden, Director of Economic Development: Ms. Bowden stated that they have developed guidelines for Small Business Assistance Lending due to hardships resulting from COVID-19. After discussion, staff was instructed to provide further information and clarify some requirements of lending.

County Administrators Report: Mr. Goldman advised that there was a small fire incident in the HAPS building on the evening of April 27, 2020. A soda machine malfunctioned, there was no damage. Mr. Goldman advised he is working on a plan to phase in restaffing of county offices. The online budget hearing process is being finalized.

Open Discussion Period:

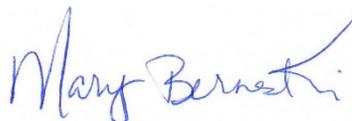
The Commissioners thanked all of the County employees and Allied Agencies who are working to keep the County up and running.

There being no further discussion, on a motion by Commissioner Franklin, and seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the meeting convened into closed session at 10:50 a.m. for the following purposes:

Discussion of the Development and Implementation of Public Safety Plans. To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff, and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.

and;

To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.



Mary Berneski
Paralegal