

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY**  
Greensboro Community Hall  
13781 Greensboro Road  
Greensboro, MD

**Minutes**  
**May 3, 2022**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Invocation by Reverend George Simmons.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Daniel Fox, Director of Finance, presented a PowerPoint presentation of the budgetary processes and information.

**Public Hearing on Operating and Capital Budgets (Commissioner Franklin made a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Levensgood seconded. All three Commissioners voted to open the public hearing.)**

Commission President Larry Porter introduced himself and the fellow Commissioners, as well as the County Attorney, Stewart Barroll, County Administrator, Jeremy Goldman and the Executive Assistant, Kaleigh Leager. Commissioner Porter stated that the purpose of this hearing is receive public testimony and comment on the proposed FY23 Caroline County Capital and Operating Budgets. This meeting/hearing was advertised in the Star Democrat newspaper as well as on the Caroline County website.

The following testimony was received:

**Dr. Clifford Coppersmith – Chesapeake College:** Dr. Coppersmith thanked the Commissioners for their work and the Count staff for their help and leadership.

**Caroll Visintainer– Caroline County Public Library Board of Trustees:** Ms. Visintainer stated that she was thankful for the support and good faith of the Commissioners in addition to their commitment to our community. Currently, there are renovations to the central branch; last done in 1995.

**Bob Chapel – Caroline County Resident:** Mr. Chapel thanked the Commissioners for their tenure of service. Mr. Chapel stated that the budget is fat again. He also stated that there is a tax increase, even though the County does not advertise it as such. Mr. Chapel stated that the State considers it a tax increase and that is why the County must advertise it as such. Mr. Chapel stated

that Caroline County Tourism is a complete waste of money; no one comes to Caroline County to have fun. The \$103,000 allocated to Tourism would have better use elsewhere. Mr. Chapel also stated there are 9 organizations that are non-profits that are all getting cash from the taxpayers. Mr. Chapel concluded with asking the Commissioners to reconsider.

***Commissioner Franklin made a motion to close the public hearing on the FY2023 capital and operating budgets. Commissioner Levengood seconded. All three Commissioners voted to close the 1<sup>st</sup> public hearing.***

Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Levengood stated that it has been a long process and it usually is. Commissioner Levengood stated that the Constant yield tax rate has stayed the same, but State assessments is change and that is not the County’s decision. Commissioner Franklin stated that when he became a commissioner, the budget was around \$44M, and it is now around \$60M. Commissioner Franklin also stated that our staff does a great job and contrary to popular belief, the County doesn’t frivolously give out money; funds are allocated to organizations that make the community better. Commissioner Porter gave his thanks to the staff, department heads and allied agencies. The County has committed to increase public safety funding by \$2M.

**Constant Yield Tax Rate Public Hearing: Commissioner Levengood made a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Franklin seconded. All three Commissioners voted to open the public hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate.**

Mr. Daniel Fox, Director of Finance read the following information:

	<b>FY2023 Tax Rate</b>
Unincorporated Areas	\$0.98
Denton	\$0.92
Federalsburg	\$0.90
Goldsboro	\$0.98
Greensboro	\$0.92
Henderson	\$0.98
Hillsboro	\$0.98
Marydel	\$0.98
Preston	\$0.97
Ridgely	\$0.93
Templeville	\$0.98

Mr. Fox stated that if Caroline County maintains the current tax rate of \$.98 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 3%, resulting in \$543,908 in additional property tax revenue. Mr. Fox also mentioned the current \$.98 rate has remained the same since 2016.

**Bob Chapel – Caroline County Resident:** Mr. Chapel stated that it is a tax increase as the County will be receiving additional revenues; 3% increase. Mr. Chapel stated that if there wasn’t a tax increase, taxpayers would be paying 3% less on their property tax bills next year.

Mr. Chapel stated that he didn't mention giving the library some capital funding during the capital budget hearing but asked that the Commissioners do so.

***Commissioner Franklin made a motion approve the constant yield tax rate during the May 17, 2022, Commissioners Meeting @ 9:00am at the Commissioners Hearing Room #106, 109 Market Street, Denton, MD 21629. Commissioner Levengood seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to have the Constant Yield Tax Rate approved at the next meeting.***

***Commissioner Levengood made a motion to close the public hearing on Constant Yield Tax Rate. Commissioner Franklin seconded. All three Commissioners voted to close the public 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing.***

***Municipal Tax Differential Public Hearing: Commissioner Levengood made a motion to open the public hearing on the Municipal Tax Differential. Commissioner Franklin seconded. All three Commissioners voted to open the public hearing.***

Caroline County FY 2023 Differential by Formula			
Towns	Assessable Base <sup>1</sup>	Differential Rate	Taxpayer Differential
Denton	\$ 407,114,760	0.060	244,268.86
Federalsburg	\$ 154,206,070	0.080	123,364.86
Greensboro	\$ 109,087,039	0.060	65,452.22
Hillsboro	\$ 10,299,269	0.000	0.00
Marydel	\$ 6,994,957	0.000	0.00
Preston	\$ 69,735,751	0.010	6,973.58
Ridgely	\$ 125,546,416	0.050	62,773.21
Goldsboro	\$ 13,138,748	0.000	0.00
Henderson	\$ 4,777,352	0.000	0.00
Templeville	\$ 1,400,300	0.000	0.00
	<u>\$ 902,300,662</u>		<u>502,832.72</u>

Commissioner Porter stated that there were no speakers signed up to speak during this public hearing.

Commissioner Levengood stated he is good with the listed Municipal Tax Differential Rates.

***Commissioner Levengood made a motion approve the Municipal Tax Differential Rates during the June 7, 2022, Commissioners Meeting @ 6:00pm at the Commissioners Hearing Room #106, 109 Market Street, Denton, MD 21629. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to have the Municipal Tax Differential Rate approved at the June 7, 2022, meeting.***

***Commissioner Levengood made a motion to close the public hearing on the Municipal Tax Differential Rates. Commissioner Franklin seconded. All three Commissioners voted to close the 3<sup>rd</sup> public hearing.***

**Regular County Commissioners Meeting:**

**National Prayer Week Proclamation:** Rev. Parsons read the proclamation for National Prayers Week.

**Correctional Officers Appreciation Week Proclamation:** Commissioner Porter read the proclamation for Correctional Officers Appreciation Week.

**Consent Agenda:** (Commissioner Franklin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Levengood seconded. All three Commissioners voted to approve the Consent Agenda)

- Caroline County Public Library Board Reappointment – T. Davila
- Caroline County Department of Social Services - Board of Directors Reappointments
  - J. Webster
  - W. Cole
  - J. Porter
  - J. Reedy
  - L. Jackson
- [Resolution #2022-004 – CDBG Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Plan](#)
- [Resolution #2022-005 – Tourism Manager Class Specification](#)
- [Purchase Order #2022-00000311 – Unity Landscape and Design, Inc.](#)
- [Purchase Order #220414-01 – Gunther’s Electric, Inc.](#)
- [Purchase Order #2022-00000321 – Ecotone Acquisition Corporation](#)
- [Purchase Order #2022-00000307 – Sustainable Science, LLC.](#)
- [North County Regional Park Contract - Watershed and Choptank Tributary Improvements – Ecotone, LLC.](#)
- 2019 Bond Transfer – Capital Improvement Fund to Caroline County Board of Education

**County Administrator’s Report:** Mr. Goldman stated that Director Fox found information on the LOSAP fund numbers and asked the actuarial team to begin the process. It costs the County about \$5,000 to have the work done to provide a few funding options.

**Commissioners Open Discussion Period:** Commissioner Franklin stated that he is getting busy and had multiple events on multiple days. He was thankful that the weather was nice and was very happy to see a good turnout at every event he attended. Commissioner Levengood wanted to ensure the Board is good with Chesapeake College proposed budget as he is the proxy vote for Thursday night’s meeting. He also mentioned he has been busy in the Fire Department with car wrecks. Commissioner Porter stated that he attended the unveiling of the Thomas Carney marker, and everything went very well. Commissioner Porter thanked the staff who helped pull it together. Commissioner Levengood also mentioned it is Teacher Appreciation Week and wants the Board to send a thank you letter to the Board of Education.

Commissioner Franklin made a motion to convene the meeting. Commissioner Levengood seconded. All three Commissioners voted to convene the meeting.

With no more discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

*Kaleigh E. Leager*

Kaleigh Leager  
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners