

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

Minutes
May 23, 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 Paul Merrit – Church of the Nazarene – Denton

Commissioner Breeding read the following reporting out statement: “During the May 16th Commissioners Meeting, the Commissioners held a closed session under sections (1) and (8) to discuss an appointee and to receive an update on possible litigation. Commissioners Breeding, Porter, and Bartz were in attendance as well as County Administrator, Jeremy Goldman, County Attorney, Stewart Barroll, Paralegal Mary Berneski, and Executive Assistant, Kaleigh Leager. The Commissioners directed Mr. Goldman and Mr. Barroll to schedule a meeting with the appointee.”

Public Comment: No public comment.

National Treatment Court Month (Sponsored by Commissioner Bartz) – Hon. Heather L. Price, Judge of Caroline County Circuit Court: Judge Price provided information about what problem solving court is and its benefits. Nationally Certified and the model of best practices and standards for the State of Maryland. Judge Price introduced her fellow treatment court month partners. Also tends to mental health patients.

Emergency Medical Services Week Proclamation (Sponsored by Commissioner Porter) – Mark Sheridan, Director of Emergency Services: Commissioner Porter read the proclamation, proclaiming the week of May 21 – May 27 as emergency medical services week.

Public Hearing – Caroline County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan – Town of Ridgley Water Systems Upgrades – Leslie Grunden, Assistant Director of Planning: Commissioner Porter made a motion to convene the public hearing. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to convene the public hearing. Ms. Grunden explained why the Town of Ridgley is requesting an additional well, water treatment system, and water tower. Mr. Grunden stated that the Planning Commission has reviewed and approved the request and has suggested it’s adoption by the Commissioners. Ms. Grunden explained the amendment to the plan is required as the Town is seeking funds from the Maryland Department of the Environment. No oral or written comment was received. Commissioner Porter made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Commissioner Bartz

seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to adjourn the public hearing. Commissioner Porter made a motion to adopt the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan Amendment. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to adopt the amendment.

Introduction of Legislative Bill #2023-001, Chapter 175 – Amendment of the Caroline County Zoning Code Regarding Trucking or Service Business:

Larry, Frank, Travis. Ms. Freeman gave a briefing of the purpose of this bill. Mr. Barroll read a fair summary of the Bill. Commissioner Breeding stated he has an issue with 3,000sqf. He believes that should be unlimited. Ms. Freeman stated that a text amendment would have to be made in so many places in our code it would be extremely complicated. Ms. Freeman also stated she limited it to 3,000sqf to prevent a site plan approval requirement. Larry, Frank, Travis

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

- Minutes – May 2, 2023 2nd Public Hearing for FY24 & May 9, 2023 - Open
- [Resolution #2023-08 - Caroline County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan – Town of Ridgley Water System Upgrades](#)
- Caroline County Department of Human Resources - Employee Grievance Review Panel Appointment – T. Hill-Coursey
- Caroline County Department of Economic Development & Tourism – Economic Development Advisory Board Appointments – R. Masten & C. Stewart
- Caroline County Office of Finance - 2019 Bond Transfer - \$740,659.80
- Caroline County Office of Finance - Investment Policy Statement
- Caroline County Department of Public Works – [Purchase Order #2023-482 & Contract – R.L. Ewing Contractors, Inc. - \\$1,100,000](#)
- Caroline County Department of Public Works – [Caroline County and State of Maryland Department of Agriculture – 2024 Noxious Weed Agreement](#)
- Caroline County Department of Corrections – [Purchase Order #2024-01 & Contract – Wellpath - \\$1,011,834](#)

Action Item: Commissioner Breeding stated that he is ok with allowing a personal day off before 6 months, but only if it is unpaid; 2 unpaid personal days within the probation period. The Commissioners requested a few changes, including that personal time off start to be accrued at 6 months. Commissioner Breeding wants to remove any holiday that is not a federal holiday.

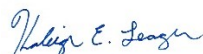
- [Resolution #2023-09 – Amendment to Caroline County Personnel Rules and Regulations, Leave Chapter](#)

County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman stated that he had a productive conversation with Choptank Electric and Fiber regarding the complaint received about roadwork being unmarked. Mr. Goldman stated that Choptank immediately reached out to their contractors about road signs. Mr. Goldman stated he has not sent a letter to Delmarva Community Services at that time. Mr. Goldman stated that Mr. Fender has been contacted from

Mr. White about redlight cameras at River Road and 404. Mr. Fender wants to come into a commissioner's meeting to discuss projects and reintroduce himself. Mr. Goldman stated that the County's 9-1-1 phone systems are still down. Mr. Goldman explained that the actual issue has been completely fixed; however, we required the vendor to do testing differently than they have done before, unveiling a fail-over flaw. Mr. Goldman stated that if the A-side of the system fails, the B-side picks up. Mr. Goldman stated that the vendor ran that specific test, and it took 6 minutes for the relay versus a few seconds. Mr. Goldman stated the vendor made a fix to the firewall and was able to reduce the delay to 2 minutes. However, this is still unacceptable. Mr. Goldman stated that this issue is Statewide. Mr. Goldman stated that Caroline County is going to be the first site to be worked on to identify and provide a solution. Mr. Goldman stated that Motorola is developing a software solution. The Commissioners are very upset that this wasn't caught and that Motorola or whoever is responsible should compensate the County for the costs incurred. Mr. Goldman wanted to publicly thank Talbot County for helping us. Mr. Goldman stated that he would have the vendor do an after-event presentation to the Board. Mr. Goldman stated that the 9-1-1 Center is transitioning back today.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Bartz stated that he attended the Federalsburg Bicentennial Parade. He stated that he was able to take a tour of Men for Change's new building. Commissioner Bartz stated that Upper Shore Aging (USA) has been in touch with Men for Change about possibly moving their operation upstairs. In addition, Commissioner Bartz stated that he attended the Calvary Baptist Church men's breakfast. Commissioner Porter stated that he and his wife went to Charleston to watch his Daughter-in-Law graduate with her Doctorate. Commissioner Porter stated that he wants to discuss the Commissioners proposition to hire a lobbyist. Commissioner Porter stated that he stated he wants a lobbyist solely for the purpose of a focused program for specific bills that Ms. Leager identifies as either harmful or helpful to the County, so she can direct that person to assist in either passing or killing the bill. Commissioner Porter discussed a blighted piece of property as you enter the Town of Denton off 404. Commissioner Porter stated that Denton is the Seat of the County, and such an eyesore should not be the first thing someone sees when coming into Denton. Commissioner Porter stated that the County needs a property maintenance code. Commissioner Porter asked about any updates on the Wood Farm litigation. Mr. Barroll stated that his office is waiting for a response from Wood Farm. Commissioner Breeding stated the baseball team he is assisting with coaching, is playing a team from Garrett County, in Frederick and if they win, they go to finals for Saturday. Commissioner Breeding stated he has some phone calls to return on his ride to the game. Commissioner Breeding also mentioned that the County tragically lost a Denton resident (Centreville Police Officer) in a tragic accident yesterday.

Public Comment: No public comment.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners