

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

Minutes
June 6, 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 George Simmons – St. Paul United Methodist Church - Greensboro

Public Comment: Angel Perez, Founder and CEO Caroline Pride stated that he is disappointed that the Commissioners did not proclaim June as Pride Month in Caroline County. He stated that there are 6,000 members of the LGBTQIA+ community within Caroline County. Mr. Perez stated that he is looking for respect and equality from our community and leaders.

Public Hearing – Legislative Bill #2023-001, Chapter 175 – Zoning – Trucking or Service Business Definition – Stewart Barroll, County Attorney: Commissioner Bartz made a motion to convene the public hearing. Commissioner Porter seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to convene the public hearing. There was no public comment or written comment received. Mr. Barroll read a fair summary of the bill for the official second reading of the legislation. The third and final reading, with potential for amendment or enactment, will be held on June 20th, with an effective date of August 4th. Commissioner Porter made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to adjourn the public hearing.

Mid Shore Behavioral Health Presentation – Katie Dilley, Executive Director: Ms. Dilley and Ms. Simperts presented an update on Caroline County to the Commissioners. Ms. Dilley stated that she is looking for the approval of the Letter of Agreement between Mid Shore Behavioral Health and Caroline County. In addition, Ms. Dilley is looking for the approval of the service agreement. Ms. Dilley explained that Mid Shore Behavioral Health is not a provider, they are an oversight organization. Commissioner Bartz made a motion to approve the LOA and Services Agreement. Commissioner Porter seconded that motion. All three Commissioners voted to approve the Letter of Agreement and Services Agreement for FY24.

Solar & Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Workshop – Katheleen Freeman, Director of Planning & Codes: Ms. Freeman discussed the proposed changes (text amendment) to the solar regulations that were discussed by the Planning Commission. The Commissioners requested that the “TDR” have a change to address commercial/utility scale solar and wind energy generation.

Ms. Freeman discussed the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and NFPA 855. The Commissioners directed Mr. Goldman and Mr. Barroll, to find a method to shut down the BESS in Reliance, immediately.

Retiree Healthcare Discussion – Sherry Bratton, Director of Human Resources: Ms. Bratton discussed the proposed changes to the Retiree Healthcare Plan. The Commissioners directed Ms. Bratton to bring this back for approval on the June 20th meeting.

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

- Minutes – May 16, 2023 - Open & Closed
- Caroline County Economic Development & Tourism – Lease Extension
- Caroline County Office of Finance – [Purchase Order #2023-511 - Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Funds – Choptank Fiber - \\$2,200,000.00](#)
- [Caroline County Office of Finance - Purchase Order #2023-518 - Caroline County Multi-Law Enforcement Agency Police Accountability Board Software](#)

Action Item: All three Commissioners voted to unanimously to approve the action item.

- [Resolution #2023-009 – Amendment to Caroline County Personnel Rules and Regulations, Leave Chapter](#)

County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman asked Mr. White the status of the redlight camera on river road and 404. Mr. White stated that Mr. Fender from the State Highway Administration said this is unlikely to happen but will have Mr. Fender come into the June 20th meeting to discuss in depth with the Commissioners.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Porter mentioned the possible reduction of speed on the Choptank River from Denton to Greensboro; 6 knots. The Commissioners directed Ms. Leager to contact the Department of Natural Resources to express our objection to the proposed change. Commissioner Porter asked about the status of the hearing room in the Courthouse. Mr. Goldman stated that it is moving along. Mr. White stated that the carpet is in and is ready to be installed once the dais is completed. Commissioner Porter stated that today is D-Day and it is imperative that everyone should remember that day and the substantial loss of life in the name of freedom. Commissioner Bartz stated that the bridges in Caroline County are in dire need of repair. Mr. White stated that spring tar and chipping has been completed but are awaiting line striping. Mr. White stated that bridges are the responsibility of State Highway Administration; Smithville Bridge is supposed to be replaced this fall. Commissioner Bartz asked about the status of the costs associated with the 9-1-1 center being down. Mr. Goldman stated he has not received the numbers yet. Commissioner Bartz discussed pre-trial operations and ankle monitors within the Detention Center. Mr. Goldman stated he will have Warden Scott present at our next meeting to discuss this. Commissioner Porter asked about an update with Wood Farm, LLC. litigation. Mr. Goldman stated the County is meeting with their legal counsel next week. Commissioner Breeding stated that he has received complaints about tree trimming in this County. Commissioner Breeding wants to redirect \$250,000 out of ARPA for tree trimming. Mr. White said the contractor is about \$50,000/month. Commissioner Breeding

also stated that the 4-H Park Board wants to come in on June 20th to provide an update to the Board. Commissioner Breeding stated that Kent, Queen Anne's, and Caroline met to discuss the proposed Regional Detention Center project. Commissioner Breeding stated that all parties agreed that this proposed project makes financial sense and agreed to move forward with gathering information on how to execute the regional project. Commissioner Breeding wants a legal review update on the Tech Park and the Choptank Fiber project. Commissioner Breeding stated that a complaint was made regarding flooding of private property from the Tech Park. Commissioner Porter made a motion to use the MRDC funding to conduct a drainage study of the Tech Park. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to reallocate funding from the MRDC funds to conduct a drainage study.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners