

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

Minutes
June 20, 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 Convened, Invocation by Pastor George Simmons – St. Paul United Methodist Church - Greensboro

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Proposed Lobbying Services Discussion – Jonathan Carpenter, Greenwill Consulting: Mr. Iven V. Lanier, CEO of Greenwill Consulting Group introduced himself and the partners of the lobbying firm. Mr. Carpenter stated he was born and raised in Caroline County. Mr. Carpenter and his fellow associates discussed their focus with the Commissioners, such as grant writing and management, and capital budget requests.

Proposed Lobbying Services Discussion – Bruce Bereano, Office of Bruce C. Bereano: Mr. Bereano introduced himself to the Commissioners stating he was from the Bronx, New York. Mr. Bereano stated that he has 52 years of experience lobbying in Annapolis and was a professor at the University of Maryland. 7/24/365. Mr. Bereano stated that he has the experience, relationships, and experience needed to be effective.

Proposed Lobbying Services Discussion – Steven Wise, Schwartz, Metz, Wise & Kauffman, P.A. Attorneys: Mr. Wise stated he was born and raised in Denton. Mr. Wise stated that he has worked in Annapolis for 25 years, lobbying on behalf of many private sector clients with many good relationships with legislators.

Caroline County State Highway Roads Update – Ken Fender, District 2 Engineer, Maryland State Highway Administration: Mr. Fender introduced himself and Mr. Baker. Mr. Fender provided an update on the Oil City traffic light. Mr. Fender stated that SHA is planning to have a working signal at that intersection in by the summer of 2024. Mr. Fender discussed the 404/328 (River Road) intersection. He stated that the latest obstacle is finding out the possibility of relocating utilities. Mr. Fender discussed the possibility of installing an interactive redlight lengthener to assist in traffic flow at the intersection. The Commissioners discussed Central Avenue in Ridgley with Mr. Fender and Mr. Baker.

Caroline County United Way Presentation – Tolbert Rowe & Susan McCandless, Vice President: Ms. McCandless provided background on United Way and its presence within

Caroline County. Ms. McCandless discussed the prior need to restructure the Board in to represent the diversity of the County. She discussed the main concern of the Board; fundraising.

Caroline County 4-H Park Board Presentation & Update – Lori Bishop & Charlotte

Brown, 4-H Park Board Members: Ms. Bishop and Ms. Brown updated the Commissioners on projects that are occurring at the 4-H Park. The Commissioners discussed the farmland at the 4-H Park and the possible option of removing farming lease for the public to bid to bid on. The Commissioners discussed possible future projects.

Mid Shore Regional Technology & Business Park Legal Review Discussion – Debbie

Bowden, Director of Economic Development and Tourism: Ms. Bowden introduced Ms. Rebecca Gay and Mr. Chip McLeod to discuss the legal aspects of the Ridgley Tech Park and the repayment of funds granted by the Federal and State governments.

Third & Final Reading - Legislative Bill #2023-001, Chapter 175 – Zoning – Trucking or Service Business Definition - Stewart Barroll, County Attorney:

Commissioner Porter made a motion to convene legislative session. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to convene legislative session. Mr. Barroll read the fair summary of the bill and stated that it was advertised on our website and the newspaper. Commissioner Porter made a motion to adopt Legislative Bill #2023-001. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt and enact Legislative Bill #2023-001. With no further discussion, Commissioner Porter made a motion to adjourn the legislative session. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to adjourn the legislative session.

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

- Minutes – May 23, 2023 & June 6, 2023 – Open
- [Resolution #2023-010 – Amendment to Caroline County Personnel Rules and Regulations, Retirement, Health, and Other Benefits Chapter](#)
- [Resolution #2023-011 – Temporary Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems \(BESS\)](#)
- [Resolution #2023-012 – The July 2023 Restatement of the Caroline County Employees Pension Plan](#)
- [Resolution #2023-013 – Amendment to Caroline County Personnel Rules and Regulations – Class Specifications for Caroline County Department of Emergency Services](#)
- [Resolution #2023-014 – Declaration of Local State of Emergency and Executive Order – Battery Energy Storage System \(BESS\)](#)
- Board of Zoning Appeals Reappointment – B. Butler
- Board of Zoning Appeals Reappointment – K. Hardy
- Caroline County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board Reappointment Letter of Support – F. Morrison
- Caroline County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board Reappointment Letter of Support – R. McKnight
- Caroline County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board Reappointment

Letter of Support – M. Feldman

- Caroline County 4-H Park Advisory Board Appointment – D. Good
- [Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board Local Workforce Development Area – Memorandum of Understanding – 2023-2025](#)
- Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Plan
- Caroline County Department of Emergency Services – [Department of Emergency Services \(DES\) and Goldsboro Volunteer Fire Company \(VFC\) Shelter Storage Memorandum of Understanding](#)
- Caroline County Office of Finance – FY2023 Audit Engagement Letter
- Caroline County Department of Public Works – [Purchase Order #2023-500 & Contract – Taylor and Messick, Inc. - \\$48,747.00](#)
- Caroline County Department of Public Works – [Purchase Order #2023-541 & Contract – Taylor and Messick, Inc. - \\$48,747.00](#)
- Caroline County Department of Emergency Services – [Bound Tree Medical Supplies Contract](#)
- Caroline County Department of Corrections – [Purchase Order #2023-517 & Contract – Correct Pharmacy SVC, Inc. - \\$50,000.00](#)
- Caroline County Department of Corrections – [Purchase Order #2024-007 & Contract Amendment – Aramark – Food Services - \\$270,000.00](#)
- Caroline County Office of Finance – Community Development and Block Grant Semi-Annual Reports – [Greensboro Judy Center](#) & [Benedictine School Ring Road](#)
- Caroline County Office of Information Technology – [Purchase Order #2023-536 & Contract Renewal – SHI International Corp. - \\$67,882.50](#)

Action Items: Mr. White presented the Commissioners with a list of roads that need addressing and asked for direction on how to proceed. Commissioner Breeding recused himself. Commissioner Porter made a motion to reallocate \$1.5M of ARPA from Corrections Facility Rehabilitation project to transforming dirt roads to tar & chip, through an RFP. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. Commissioner Porter and Bartz voted unanimously to reallocate the ARPA funding. Commissioner Breeding stated he found paving services a lot cheaper than what Ewing proposed. The Commissioners directed Mr. Goldman and the Office of Finance/Department of Public Works to put Church Lane and Central Avenue out to RFP for bid. Mr. Fox discussed his recommendation to pay off the County's Enterprise leases to reduce the debt of the County. Commissioner Porter made a motion to approve \$941,000 be spent to payoff the County's Enterprise leases. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the payoff of the Enterprise leases.

- Caroline County Department of Public Works – Tar & Chipping of County Dirt Roads
- Caroline County Department of Public Works – [Purchase Order #2023-537 & Contract - Church Lane & Central Avenue Paving – Ewing Contractors, Inc. - \\$1,155,888.00](#)
- Caroline County Office of Finance – Payoff of County Enterprise Leases

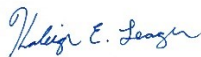
County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman stated that he had a frustrating phone call on Friday with MES regarding the Regional Landfill, which he had to him hanging up. Mr. Goldman stated that he has a meeting on the 30th with the other County Administrators to discuss the Regional Landfill. Mr. Goldman wants to make a deal with the other Counties to possibly operate without MES. Commissioner Breeding requested an environmental impact study with a detailed cost analysis. Commissioner Porter wants to have the information and another public hearing before a final decision is made. Mr. Goldman stated that the Commissioners Hearing Room in the courthouse is being completed.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Porter suggested that there be a discussion at the next meeting regarding the lobbyist decision. Commissioner Bartz had nothing to share. Commissioner Breeding stated that he met with Mr. Getchell and Mr. Lister from the Town of Denton to discuss the possibility of having a baseball/softball field and a multipurpose field located on Sharp Road in Denton. Commissioner Breeding stated that at the last Planning Commission meeting, there was a discussion regarding building setbacks in the County. Per Commissioner Breeding, the Planning Commission agrees that the current setbacks are excessive and that they should be changed to 10ft. In addition, the Planning Commission discussed the need for a property maintenance code. Commissioner Breeding vaguely discussed a settlement regarding pending litigation.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Closed Session: “To consult with staff about pending litigation.” Under Section (8) of the General Provisions Art.: 3-305(b)



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners