

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

Minutes
June 23, 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.

Situation Report and EOC Response Update Regarding COVID-19:

Roger Harrell, Interim Acting Health Officer: Mr. Harrell advised that Caroline County has confirmed an additional 11 cases of COVID-19 since last week. The Health Department has received 285 negative test results. Mr. Harrell stated that approximately 7.4% of the population of Caroline County have been tested for COVID-19, with a target of testing 10% of the population. He thanked Choptank Health and Caroline County EMS for their partnership and support during the Community Point of Testing event that occurred over the weekend.

Dr. Patty Saelens, Superintendent of Public Schools: Dr. Saelens advised that Caroline County Public Schools have transitioned into their summer schedule. They are continuing to meet and work on the development of the fall recovery plan. Summer learning and high school credit recovery programs will be starting soon and will be conducted virtually.

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. Ms. Sierra stated that they have downgraded to enhanced level allowing EOC workers to perform their job duties from their own offices. Ms. Sierra advised that they are targeting moving to a steady state which will disband the EOC. Ms. Sierra spoke about the Community Point of Testing event that was held and thanked the Health Department for their support during the event.

Debbie Bowden, Director of Economic Development: Ms. Bowden advised that round one of the Small Business Recovery Grant program has closed. The Economic Development team received 76 applications, with 58 of those being approved. They will be distributing checks to local businesses today. Round two of the program will be launched June 29. Staff will be following up with local businesses to determine any expected future needs.

Randy Bounds, Sheriff and Sara Visintainer, Chief of Staff: Sheriff Bounds and Ms. Visintainer discussed the need for the Law Enforcement Chapter Reorganization and Mutual Aid Agreement with Town of Easton.

Ms. Visintainer explained that State law authorizes local governments and police departments to enter into mutual aid agreements, but they must do so through the regular routine for legislative enactment. The County has a current mutual aid agreement with Caroline County municipalities,

which is authorized by Chapter 29 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Caroline County. However, the Chapter is not organized in such a way that additional agreements can be authorized and incorporated into that section easily.

The Sheriff has identified the need for an additional mutual aid agreement with the Town of Easton and Easton Police Department. The Sheriff's Office utilized the SWAT team and negotiator of the Easton Police Department during two separate instances earlier this year, because Caroline County does not have those specialized resource as part of its department. The attorneys assigned to both entities recommended establishing a formal mutual aid agreement to cover resource sharing in the future.

In order to accommodate the new agreement, Ms. Visintainer suggested two pieces of legislation. The first repeals the existing language of Chapter 29 and reorganizes and reenacts the language. The second bill would add the authorization for the law enforcement mutual aid agreement with the Town of Easton.

Following discussion, the Commissioners indicated their support for the legislation and staff was directed to schedule the bills to be presented for introduction on the July 7, 2020 agenda.

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

- Town of Preston CARES funding Subrecipient Agreement. Motion to accept by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood. Motion approved by unanimous consent.
- Resolution #2020-015, Hazard Pay Policy – COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Motion to accept by Commissioner Levensgood, seconded by Commissioner Franklin. Motion approved by unanimous consent.
- Professional Services Agreement, MacLeod Law Group. Motion to accept by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood. Motion approved by unanimous consent.
- Discussion – Continuation of CARES Act funding for Senior Feeding. Motion to continue to provide meals to the senior population as long as the CARES Act funding is available was made by Commissioner Levensgood, seconded by Commissioner Franklin. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

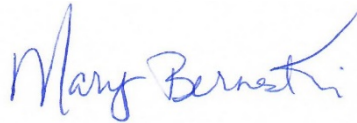
Consent Agenda: The following items were approved by unanimous consent:

- Open Session Minutes of June 16, 2020
- FY2020/2021 MALPF Easement Applications
- Right of Way Easement Agreement, Spiering Estates
- Appointment letter, Board of Library Trustees (Leonard)
- Renewal of Professional Services Agreement, Board of Zoning Appeals Attorney (Merriken)
- Employment Contract, Chief of Staff (Visintainer)

County Administrators Report: Mr. Goldman reported on an equipment failure at the DCT building that resulted in necessary repairs. He also confirmed that the County Commissioners will be moving to their customary summer schedule for meeting beginning July 7, 2020.

Open Discussion Period: Commissioner Levensgood thanked the employees and citizens of Caroline County for their hard work during the Pandemic.

There being no further business, the meeting Adjourned 10:03 AM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Berneski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mary Berneski
Paralegal