

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

Minutes
July 7, 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.

Sue Simmons, Director of Parks and Recreation; Stacy Seward, Program Services Division Supervisor and Mark Lasocha, Parks and Capital Projects Supervisor: Designation of July as Parks and Recreation Month. Ms. Simmons read a proclamation declaring July as Parks and Recreation Month. Ms. Steward and Mr. Lasocha provided a brief report to the Commissioners on the accomplishments of their Department during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Situation Report and EOC Response Update Regarding COVID-19:

Roger Harrell, Interim Acting Health Officer: Mr. Harrell advised that Caroline County has tested 83 individuals since last week with all of those results coming back negative. Mr. Harrell stated that approximately 9.4% of the population of Caroline County has been tested for COVID-19, with a target of testing 10% of the population. He thanked Choptank Health and for their partnership and support. He advised that the Health Department is offering tests to all citizens, regardless of whether they are symptomatic.

Debbie Bowden, Director of Economic Development: Ms. Bowden advised that round two of the Small Business Recovery Grant program opened last Monday. The Economic Development team received 40 applications which are still being processed. She advised that more agricultural-based businesses have applied during this round, with each applicant requesting an average of \$10,000. The application period will remain open until Monday, July 13, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. Staff will be following up with local businesses that received funds during the first round to inquire as to how the funds were able to help their businesses.

Milton Nagel, Assistant Superintendent, Caroline County Public Schools: Approval of FY2021 Board of Education Budget. Milton Nagel presented the Commissioners with the Fiscal Year 2021 Board of Education Budget. Mr. Nagel stated although the budget has been set by the Board of Education, the County Commissioners must approve it annually as well. He stated that the budget summary reflects a significant increase in State Aid. Mr. Nagel thanked the Commissioners for their continued support, especially during these unprecedented times. The Commissioners thanked the Board of Education for their partnership. On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the Commissioners unanimously approved the FY2021 Board of Education Budget.

At 9:36 a.m., on a motion by Commissioner Franklin, and seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the Commissioners unanimously voted to convene in Legislative session for the following purpose:

Introduction of Legislative Bills:

- Emergency Legislative Bill #2020-1, Chapter 21 – Law Enforcement – Mutual Aid Agreements – Reorganization and;
- Emergency Legislative Bill #2020-2, Chapter 21 – Law Enforcement – Mutual Aid Agreements – Town of Easton

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.

- Commissioner Franklin made a motion to introduce Legislative Bill #2020-1 and establish the hearing date of July 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Levensgood and passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Levensgood made a motion to introduce Legislative Bill #2020-2 and establish the hearing date of July 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Franklin and passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Franklin made a motion to designate August 4, 2020 as an additional Legislative Day. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Levensgood and passed unanimously.

On a motion by Commissioner Levensgood, and seconded by Commissioner Franklin, the Commissioners voted unanimously to reconvene in regular session at 9:48 am.

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

- Professional Services Agreement, Second Addendum, Tetra Tech, Inc. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Levengood and seconded by Commissioner Franklin. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

- Open Session Minutes of June 30, 2020
- Community Development Block Grant Semi Annual Report, St. Martin's Ministries
- Community Development Block Grant Semi Annual Report, Benedictine Group Homes
- Community Development Block Grant Semi Annual Report, St. Martin's Ministries/Continuum of Care

County Administrators Report: Mr. Goldman reported on an air conditioner failure at the Preston EMS station. The necessary repairs will be approximately \$7,000. He also reported that the County has purchased several touchless walk-through thermometer systems. He stated that the final purchase amount of these systems exceeded the \$40,000 that customarily would require a contract under the County's procurement laws. The total purchase amount was the combination of two separate purchases and was done so because it was determined after the initial purchase that additional units were needed for County operations and to have a sufficient number of spare units. Mr. Goldman stated that he was making the Commissioners aware of this purchase due to a previous request from the Commissioners to be informed of large purchases.

Open Discussion Period: Commissioner Porter noted that he attended a walkthrough retirement ceremony for Ms. Patti Willis at Shore Regional Hospital. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for Ms. Willis' partnership and efforts to improve healthcare access in Caroline county.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Mary Berneski
Paralegal

