

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

**Minutes**  
**July 21, 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.

At 9:03 a.m., on a motion by Commissioner Levensgood, and seconded by Commissioner Franklin, the Commissioners unanimously voted to convene in **Legislative Session** for the following purpose:

**Second Reading and Public Hearing:** Emergency Legislative Bill #2020-1, Chapter 21 – Law Enforcement – Mutual Aid Agreements – Reorganization. Ms. Visintainer read the summary of the Bill and briefly reviewed its purpose. She stated that the public hearing had been advertised in the newspaper as required and on the County website, with instructions regarding how to provide written testimony since the hearing was closed to the public due to COVID-19 safety restrictions. No comment was received. The Commissioners stated the hearing would remain open for additional comments until August 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

**Second Reading and Public Hearing:** Emergency Legislative Bill #2020-2, Chapter 21 – Law Enforcement – Mutual Aid Agreements – Town of Easton. Ms. Visintainer read the summary of the Bill and briefly reviewed its purpose. She stated that the public hearing had been advertised in the newspaper as required and on the County website, with instructions regarding how to provide written testimony since the hearing was closed to the public due to COVID-19 safety restrictions. No comment was received. The Commissioners stated the hearing would remain open for additional comments until August 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Levensgood, and seconded by Commissioner Franklin, the Commissioners voted unanimously to reconvene in **regular session** at 9:07 a.m.

**Caroline County Behavioral Health Data and Program Update and Request for Approval of FY2021 Core Service Agency Letter of Agreement:** Katie Dilley, Executive Director and Sherone Lewis, Behavioral Health Coordinator, Mid-Shore Behavioral Health provided an update on Caroline County Behavioral Health Data and provided the following snapshots of accomplishments: MSBH has obtained the Health Transitions Grant which serves the youth of the 5 counties on the Eastern Shore. This grant is managed by Corsica River. MSBH continues to provide Administrative support to the Caroline County Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (LDAAC). As part of Caroline Goes Purple campaign, in the September, MSBH staff supported various events throughout the month, including and the annual Fed Up! Rally. MSBH remains invested in being an integral part of the Caroline County Opioid Intervention Team (OIT) since the Governor's declared State of Emergency for the Opioid Epidemic in 2016. MSBH facilitates Caroline County Provider Meetings to identify gaps and opportunities with behavioral health providers. New funding has been obtained through the Crisis Response Grant.

The Commissioners expressed their interest in having two citizens of Caroline County on the Board. Ms. Dilley stated she will notify her Board of that request.

On a motion by Commissioner Franklin, and seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the Commissioners authorized the FY21 Core Service Agency Letter of Agreement.

**COVID-19 Response and Recovery Update:**

**Roger Harrell, Interim Acting Health Officer:** Mr. Harrell advised that Caroline County has tested 121 individuals since July 14, 2020. There will be no testing this week due to the forecasted excessive heat. Mr. Harrell stated that that approximately 12.3% of the population of Caroline County has been tested for COVID-19, with a positivity rate of 4%. He advised that the Health Department is enforcing face mask requirements as well as social distancing requirements in local businesses.

**Debbie Bowden, Director of Economic Development:** Ms. Bowden advised that round two of the Small Business Recovery Grant program is closing. The Economic Development team received 62 applications. Staff will prepare a report for the Commissioners before the next meeting with exact numbers.

**Ryan White, Director of Public Works.** Mr. White addressed the Commissioners requesting the release of budgeted FY21 capital funds to repair and/or replace the roofs at the Circuit Courthouse as well as the IT/Law Office. Commissioner Franklin made a motion to authorize the funds for the project, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood. The motion was passed unanimously. The Commissioners instructed Mr. White to move forward with the projects.

**Discussion of Circuit Rider Town Planner Position:** Katheleen Freeman, Director, Department of Planning and Codes, advised the Commissioners that she received notice from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development that they will no longer be funding the Town Circuit Rider grant funded position. She explained that the position serves the towns of Hillsboro, Goldsboro, Henderson, Templeville and Marydel. Ms. Freeman and the Commissioners discussed various possibilities regarding continued funding for the position. Sandy Cook, Mayor, Town of Henderson provided comment on the value of the position to the small towns and stated that there would be nobody to do the job if the position is not funded. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to table the discussion while staff prepares a plan to present to the Commissioners to fund the position.

**Workshop – Zoning Text Amendment, Special Event Venues:** Ms. Freeman advised that the Planning Commission reviewed and discussed proposed text amendments to Chapter 175 regarding Special Event Venues at their meeting on July 8, 2020. Ms. Freeman advised that there have been several citizen requests for such language in the code. The proposed language defines special event venues and establishes regulations and an approval process for such venues. The Planning Commission voted in favor of the recommendations and are requesting the Commissioners consider the introduction and public hearings. The Commissioners expressed their general support for the text amendment and instructed staff to prepare an ordinance for possible introduction at their August 4, 2020 meeting.

**Resolution #2020-017, Refunding by the Maryland Environmental Service of its Revenue Bonds (Mid-Shore II Regional Landfill Project), Series 2011:** Mr. Goldman presented Resolution #2020-017 and advised that due to favorable market conditions, Maryland Environmental Service, which manages the landfill on behalf of the four county partnership, is seeking to save money on the debt issued for the construction of the landfill. Each partner county authorized the original debt, because the landfill agreement binds the partner counties to guarantee the debt, so the County must also authorize the refunding. Commissioner Franklin made a motion to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Levensgood and passed unanimously.

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

- Town of Denton CARES Act Subrecipient Agreement
- Town of Ridgely CARES Act Subrecipient Agreement
- Town of Goldsboro CARES Act Subrecipient Agreement
- Resolution #2020-018, Amendment of the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget: Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding
- Emergency Management Performance Grant – COVID19 Supplemental

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

- Open Session Minutes of July 7, 2020
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Sheriff's Office, County and Board of Education for School Resource Officer Funding
- 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement
- P.O. # 2021-028 and Contract with JR Smith for Board of Education Support Services Building Conduit and Fiber Installation, \$126,400.00

**County Administrators Report:** Mr. Goldman stated that the tax sale notifications will be going out soon. The Commissioners delayed the tax sale due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also reported that the Sheriff's Office building construction is on budget and on time. Mr. Goldman reported on an issue with a municipality that did not calculate their tax rate correctly. He stated there was no error on the County's part, however, the municipality will be issuing refunds to its residents. He also asked the Commissioners for feedback about developing a rent/mortgage assistance program to be funded through the CARES Act. The Commissioners asked staff to build out a plan and present it to the Commissioners.

**Open Discussion Period:** Commissioner Franklin advised that there has been discussion at the Planning Commission level that there is interest in expanding the mining pit in Bridgetown. Commissioner Porter discussed an erosion issue on River Road. He stated that the homeowners have been in contact with Public Works and they will be working together to find a solution.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Mary Berneski  
Paralegal

