

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY

Health and Public Services (HAPS) Building

403 S. 7th Street Room 111

Denton, MD 21629

Minutes

September 20, 2022

Present: President Larry C. Porter; Vice President Daniel J. Franklin, Commissioner Wilbur Levensgood, Jr.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

Invocation by George Simmons – Pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church – Greensboro

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Daniel Fox, Director of Finance - 2nd Public Hearing - CDBG Grant- Greensboro Judy Center and Benedictine Campus Ring Road: Commissioner Franklin made a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Levensgood seconded. All three Commissioners voted to open the public hearing. Mr. Fox was joined by the Executive Director of the Benedictine Foundation, Mr. Scott Evans. Mr. Evans stated that the ring road project is important first step for future renovations. Currently, they are reviewing the bids and hope to award the bid by end of the week. This project has a 2–3-month completion time. Mr. Fox was then joined by Theresa French from the Caroline County Board of Education. Ms. French stated that the Judy Center is nearing completion. They are waiting on a gear box that is due to ship tomorrow. The Board of Education is hopeful that construction will be completed by October 1st, and moving into the building by October 15th, with a grand opening sometime in November. No comments received for the Benedictine project or the Judy Center project. Commissioner Levensgood made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to close the public hearing.

Stewart Barroll, County Attorney - Legislative Bill #2022-004 – Chapter 166 Taxation– §166-7 Exemptions from County Transfer Tax - Repeal and Reenactment: Commissioner Franklin made a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Levensgood seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to open the public hearing. Mr. Barroll stated that during the 1st reading and introduction of this bill occurred during the September 13th meeting with the notice of public hearing being advertised on Sunday, September 18th in the Star Democrat. This bill is as act to repeal §166-7 of Chapter 166 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Caroline County and reenact the same with amendments changing the text of Subsection B to conform to the language of the enabling statute, §13-408 of the Tax Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (the “Tax-Property Article”), and changing the text of Subsection C to conform to the definition of “first-time Maryland home buyer” in §13-203 of the Tax-Property Article. FOR the purposes of: (1) providing that the County transfer tax does not apply to the first \$25,000.00 of the consideration payable on an instrument of writing conveying owner-occupied residential property if the grantee intends use the property as the grantee’s principal residence by actually occupying the residence for at least 7 months of a 12-month period; (2) providing that the

County transfer tax does not apply to the first \$75,000.00 of the consideration payable on an instrument of writing conveying improved residential real property to a first-time Maryland home buyer; and (3) providing that to qualify for these exemptions the instrument of writing must contain a statement under oath by the grantees attesting to these facts. There was no public comment. Commissioner Levensgood made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to close the public hearing.

Stewart Barroll, County Attorney - 2nd Reading & Public Hearing: Legislative Bill #2022-005 – Chapter 49 Personnel, Article III – Volunteer Firefighter Length of Service Award Program Trust: Commissioner Franklin made a motion to open the public hearing.

Commissioner Levensgood seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to open the public hearing. Mr. Barroll stated that during the 1st reading and introduction of this bill occurred during the September 13th meeting with the notice of public hearing being advertised on Sunday, September 18th in the Star Democrat. Mr. Barroll stated that this bill is an act to repeal §166-7 of Chapter 166 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Caroline County and reenact the same with amendments changing the text of Subsection B to conform to the language of the enabling statute, §13-408 of the Tax Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (the “Tax-Property Article”), and changing the text of Subsection C to conform to the definition of “first-time Maryland home buyer” in §13-203 of the Tax-Property Article. FOR the purposes of: (1) providing that the County transfer tax does not apply to the first \$25,000.00 of the consideration payable on an instrument of writing conveying owner-occupied residential property if the grantee intends use the property as the grantee’s principal residence by actually occupying the residence for at least 7 months of a 12-month period; (2) providing that the County transfer tax does not apply to the first \$75,000.00 of the consideration payable on an instrument of writing conveying improved residential real property to a first-time Maryland home buyer; and (3) providing that to qualify for these exemptions the instrument of writing must contain a statement under oath by the grantees attesting to these facts. Mr. Goldman stated this is for the investment only. Commissioner Franklin stated this for an initial investment. Written public comment was received from Mr. Phil Starkey, President of the Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Starkey agrees with forming the board but is requesting a title change to “LOSAP Fiscal Board” and for a LOSAP Committee member be added to the Fiscal Board. Mr. Goldman stated that putting a committee member on the fiscal board will “muddy waters” and highly suggests not doing this. Mr. Goldman does agree with a title change, as does Commissioner Porter and Franklin. Commissioner Porter suggests that we provide all information to the LOSAP Committee so they can have the information at their meetings. Mr. Barroll suggested changing the name to the “LOSAP Trust Board” instead of the “LOSAP Fiscal Board” to keep continuity. With no further public comment, Commissioner Levensgood made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to close the public hearing.

Angel Perez, Proclamation for Caroline Goes Purple: Mr. Perez was joined by Ms. Alison Harper and Ms. Cara Calloway and Ms. Brandi James with Mid Shore Behavioral Health. Mr. Perez thanked the Commissioners for their commitment to the community and this important initiative. Ms. Calloway read the proclamation, declaring that for the month of September, “Caroline Goes Purple”. Commissioner Levensgood made a motion to sign and implement it the

proclamation. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All three commissioners agreed to sign the proclamation.

Robin Cahall, Health Officer – COVID-19 Response Update: Ms. Cahall stated that as of 9/19/22 there were 2 active outbreaks in Caroline County. The positivity rate is 9.31% with a Case Rate of 11.55. Hospitalizations over the last 10 days were 28 people. The Community Transmission Level is low. 75% of Caroline County residents 18+ have received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine. A total of 8,966 booster doses are administered to Caroline County residents. Pharmacies are the main providers of vaccines. Ms. Cahall also stated that the Health Department continues to test twice a week with the mobile vaccination unit. Ms. Cahall also stated that the new booster protects against the different variants of COVID and is interchangeable with other manufacturers. Ms. Cahall also stated that flu vaccines are available, but monkeypox vaccines require prescreening and appointments. Ms. Cahall stated that the previous vaccine center located at 18 Denton Plaza will now be the behavioral health clinic. Mr. Goldman stated he wants to give Ms. Cahall's team kudos for their partnership with the State and Detention Center regarding a pharmaceutical requirement from the State. Mr. Goldman stated that a lot of folks who come into the Detention Center are chemically dependent on a substance(s). Commissioner Franklin shared his concern regarding the availability of monkeypox vaccines to all healthcare type workers, not just those who are deemed in the most need. The Commissioners asked Ms. Cahall if she has heard any news about any further plans for a regional treatment center. Commissioner Levensgood mentioned that there was discussion about building a facility but has not heard of anything since the meeting with the State. Ms. Cahall stated that she would investigate it and report back.

Consent Agenda/Action Items: (All three Commissioners voted unanimously to pass the consent agenda): Commissioner Franklin had a few questions regarding the PAB Grant. Ms. Mary Berneski, Paralegal stated that this grant will afford the County a contractual staff person, and some technology for the Board. Ms. Berneski also stated that a lot of her staff time has been utilized creating rules and procedures for the PAB. Commissioner Franklin asked how we (the County) can move forward with this when it creates sole liability against the County? Mr. Barroll stated that not complying with the State mandate may create unintended consequences by the State withholding funds and grants to the County.

- [Top 18 Ranked MALPF Applications for the FY2022/2023 Easement Acquisition Program](#)
- [CCDPW2022-04 Contract & Purchase Order #2023-132 - HAPS Parking Lot Reconstruction \(Bramble\)](#)
- [CCDPW2022-05 Contract & Purchase Order #2023-133 - Caroline County Circuit Courthouse Parking Lot Reconstruction \(Gateway\)](#)
- [Resolution #2022-018 – Minority Business Plan](#)
- [Police Accountability Board Grant Agreement 2022](#)

Action Items: Commissioner Porter abstained and recused himself from this vote. Commissioners Franklin and Levensgood voted unanimously to pass the action items.

- [Dayspring I Townhomes Engagement Letter](#)
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Dayspring II Townhomes Engagement Letter

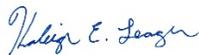
County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman stated that the Commissioner's office temporarily moved to the Health and Public Services (HAPS) Building and the Office of Finance has moved to the Commissioners Hearing Room for the length of the Courthouse, West Wing rehabilitation project. Mr. Goldman stated that himself and Mr. Barroll met with representatives from Compass Hospice. Compass' consultant is requesting to meet with a Commissioner to discuss their findings, but Compass Hospice can choose not to share proprietary data. Commissioner Porter once again applauded Compass' in home care and labeled it as incredibly affective. However, Commissioner Porter stated that he has an obligation to the County to find out where the money went that people donated specifically for an in-County facility. Commissioner Franklin requested that Mr. Goldman reach out to Compass and ask for a copy of the consultant's report and pause scheduling a zoom meeting as discussed during the meeting with their attorney, so the entire Board has a chance to review the data before a meeting is held.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Levensgood stated he now has fiber. In addition, he stated that he picked up his daughter, son-in-law, and grandson from the airport Thursday, and he is taking them back Sunday. His family celebrated his grandson's 1st birthday over the weekend. Commissioner Franklin stated he has fiber, but it isn't up and running yet. Mr. Goldman stated Caroline County is extremely far along with fiber installations compared to others around the State because the County invested in addition to the funding from the State. The County also took the time and effort to make great partnerships with folks and companies in the industry. Commissioner Porter stated that was stung by bees and hit with sheetrock in the head over the weekend.

Public Comment: The Commissioners received a letter from Mr. Frank Adams regarding the proposed AquaCon project in Federalsburg. Mr. Adams shared information regarding sturgeon spawning in the Marshy Hope River and the possible effects this project will have on the health of the river.

Commissioner Franklin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Levensgood seconded. All three Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners