

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

WORK SESSION
September 28, 2021

Present: President, Larry C. Porter; President, Daniel J. Franklin; Vice President, Wilbur Levensgood; Commissioner; Jeremy Goldman, County Administrator; and Kaleigh Leager; Executive Assistant

Topic One: Status of the Departments

1. Department of Corrections: Warden Charles Scott

Warden Scott informed the Commissioners that the Department of Corrections is fully staffed. Caroline County is one of the few facilities in Maryland Corrections that are up to full staffing levels. Warden Scott thanked the County Commissioners for their continued support of the facility and his team. Currently, the only negative is the COVID situation within the Correctional Facility. Due to space issues, it is hard to keep everyone always distanced. However, the Department of Corrections is continuing to follow the CDC guidelines, provide rapid testing for incoming inmates, and regular testing for current inmates. The Department of Corrections has not stopped or slowed down any cleaning practices since COVID began in 2020. Warden Scott mentioned that they have been fortunate with the number of outbreaks. The Department of Corrections mental health professional left but is currently being replaced. In closing, Warden Scott stated that the maintenance of the building is doing decent with the age of the building. All the vehicles, minus one are in decent condition. Currently there are some employees out due to COVID related issues. The Department is looking into some grant options from the State; Capital Improvement Grants.

2. Sheriff's Department: Sheriff Randy Bounds

Sheriff Bounds stated that the Sheriff's Department is also fortunate enough to be fully staffed. Currently, 1/3 of their employees are military veterans. The Sheriff's Department has also had some people out due to COVID related issues. Sheriff Bounds also mentioned that the new facility has led to an increase in efficiency and effectiveness throughout the Sheriff's Department. Many trainings and meetings have been held in the Conference rooms and training rooms, not just by the Sheriff's Department, but by allied agencies. Currently, the Sheriff's Department is in the drafting process of an MOU to turn the Sheriff's Department Building into a Safe Station. In addition, there are 80 registered sex offenders in the County. The Mutual Aid Agreement that was set forth with the other Eastern Shore Law Enforcement Agencies are proving to be very helpful. Caroline County's own K9, Mattox is known across the Eastern Shore and has been vital in assisting allied agencies with tasks such as locating missing individuals. Currently, the CCSD (Caroline County Sheriff's Department) is joining the Maryland State Police (MSP) in an internet-crimes against children taskforce, relating to child pornography. In 2020 heroin overdoses in Caroline County reduced during COVID. Also, Caroline County leads the Shore in heroin arrests. Sheriff Bounds also mentioned that the Caroline

County Sheriff's Department is one of the most highly trained law enforcement agencies out of all the local agencies on the Shore. An upcoming concern is the Maryland Police Accountability Act; repealing the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights. There are many new requirements that are very costly and detrimental to smaller departments. In closing, Sheriff Bounds recognized the outstanding support he and the department receive from the Commissioners, the County Administrator, and the other Department Heads.

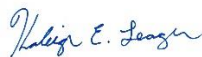
Topic Two: Continuation Of Operations Plan (COOP) Refresher/Discussion

County Administrator, Jeremy Goldman mentioned that currently the County is operating at a 'steady state' level but could technically be considered a "Level I". The County Administrator reminded the Commissioners that it is the Administrator's duty to activate or deactivate any level of COOP, but wants the Commissioners inputs. The Commissioners suggested that we continue providing the services to the public (testing facilities and mobile sites, vaccination facilities and mobile sites, information, etc.). The Commissioners mentioned that they were satisfied with the current level of operations.

Commissioners Open Discussion Period

Commissioner Levengood opened the conversation by sharing that his daughter gave birth to her first child, a boy, which also happens to be his first grandchild. His wife is currently in Montana with their daughter, son-in-law, and grandson. Commissioner Franklin mentioned that he and Commissioner Porter played in the Ridgley Fire Departments Gold Tournament over the weekend. Commissioner Porter ended the open discussion period by mentioning that the Commissioners submitted a letter to Governor Hogan asking him to reject the nominees submitted for the Accountability and Implementation Board stemming from the "Blueprint for Maryland's Future" until there is representation from all areas of the State.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to The County Commissioners