

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

Minutes
September 29, 2020

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

The meeting began at 9:00 AM. The Commissioners called for public comment and staff reported none had been submitted.

Discussion of 2020 Caroline County Property Tax Sale: Cathie Moore, Comptroller, stated that due to COVID-19 the 2020 Tax Sale was postponed to May, which was later pushed back to October. She stated that with no major improvements in the economy, she feels the best option is to cancel the FY2020 Tax Sale and roll the sale into the 2021 Sale next year. She informed the Board that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the neighboring counties cancelling their 2020 tax sales as well.

The Commissioners expressed that it is not in the County's best interest to cancel the 2020 tax sale, however they would allow the sale to be held online. All three Commissioners stated that they understand that COVID-19 had made it hard for some residents to pay their bills, however the 2020 Tax bills were sent out in July 2019 and overdue by January 1, 2020, which is before the impact of COVID-19.

Ms. Moore stated that she and her team would be in touch at a later date to discuss the date and time of the 2020 Tax Sale. Ms. Moore explained that she would also like to change the date of tax sales in the future to the second week in May each year. She stated that holding the sale in June creates a workflow issue with her office due to budget and fiscal year close out responsibilities. The Commissioners agreed to change the timing of future tax sales in general and stated they would revisit the 2021 tax at a later date, since that tax sale would be impacted by COVID-19.

On motion by Commissioner Levensgood, seconded by Commissioner Franklin the Commissioners unanimously voted to move forward with the 2020 Tax Sale, at a date and method to be determined after research by staff, and to move all future tax sales to the second week of May.

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Update: Roger Harrell, Acting Health Officer, stated that the recent COVID-19 outbreaks in the County have cleared and the positivity rate has decreased to line up with the State of Maryland. He stated that the Health Department is gearing up for flu season. Starting in October you can receive a flu shot for \$20.00 at the Health Department. Mr. Harrell stated that its important to emphasize the importance of a flu shot this year, so less members of the public end up in the hospital.

Commissioner Franklin asked if the extra precautions and PPE that is required to wear in public, would help lessen the spread of the flu as its doing for COVID-19, and Mr. Harrell suggestions

that it should help with flu season, if people are taking the proper precautions and continuing to wash their hands and wear their masks.

Debbie Bowden, Director, Economic Development, briefed the Board on the third round of Small Business Relief Grants for Caroline County. She stated that many businesses have reached out to apply for a second time, because the need is still there for extra relief. She explained that her team is working hard to properly vet all applicants to ensure the funding is going to those in need. The date to apply for the third round of grants closes on November 30th.

Ms. Bowden also discussed the upcoming project Aquacon, which would bring a salmon farm to several different locations around the Mid-Shore, including Federalsburg. She stated that the Federalsburg Planning Commission was scheduled to meet later in the week on details regarding the location of the project. Ms. Bowden explained that she would give a more detailed presentation on the project at a later date.

Consent Agenda: the following items were approved by unanimous consent .

- P.O #2021-0083, to the Caroline County Board of Education for Contracted Services for Delivery of Senior Meals from June-August, CARES, \$124,112.55
- P.O #2021-0114, to the Caroline County Health Department for COVID-19 Response, CARES Reimbursement, \$52,823.96
- Letter of Support to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the Hospice House Project-Water and Sewer Connection Grant
- State Aid for Police Protection (SAPP) Assurance and Anti-Lobbying
- CARES Town Subrecipient Agreement for Funding of the Town of Hillsboro COVID-19 Expenses

President Porter recused himself from voting on the following item due to a business relationship with the entity that manages the Dayspring properties.

Action Agenda

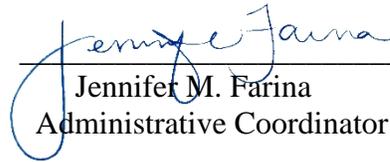
- Day Spring Townhomes I&II Engagement Letters for Fiscal Year 2020 Audit on motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood was approved.

County Administrators Report:

- Mr. Goldman stated that he would like direction regarding the landfill project. The Board stated that they would like to work with Queen Anne's County towards a funding projection, as well as make the changes as public as possible for those living near the landfill.
- He informed the Board that he recently made an emergency purchases using CARES funding to buy trailers for Emergency Services in order to be able to effectively carry out mass inoculation plans.
- He stated that the IT Department has requested additional equipment, servers and devices to help support employees working remotely. Mr. Goldman stated that the County is preparing for a second wave of the COVID-19 virus, which would move more employees back to remote working only.

- Commissioners Open Discussion:
- Commissioner Levensgood stated that he had been busy attending meetings and working on his farms. He stated that if you can, please continue to go out and support the local fire departments with their weekly dinner specials.
- Commissioner Franklin stated that he had been busy at work.
- Commissioner Porter stated that he would like to be taken off of the Caroline County Social Services Board, due to his recent commitment to the For All Seasons Board. Mr. Goldman stated that he could be the County representative.

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



Jennifer M. Farina
Administrative Coordinator