

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY

Health and Public Services (HAPS) Building

403 S. 7th Street Room 111

Denton, MD 21629

Minutes

October 11, 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 Don Reynolds – Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church - Denton

Public Comment: Mr. Thomas Leonard and Mr. Jon Stoltzfus testified on the issue of traffic and safety on Hignutt and Mitchell Roads, in Denton. Both Mr. Stoltzfus and Mr. Leonard stated that there has been an increased amount of traffic detouring from 404 due to accidents, over the past few years. The issue lies with the amount of speeding and loss of control that the drivers display. For example, their mailboxes have been knocked down several times and they have had cars run off the road into their front yard. Mr. Stoltzfus is a law enforcement officer and said that he has had to park his squad car at the end of his driveway in hopes it will slow people down. Mr. Leonard concurred that the speeding and reckless driving is the main concern. Mr. Stoltzfus suggested closing the road to local traffic only, possibly paving it, and/or putting signs stating that it is a dirt road. Commissioner Franklin stated that that road will likely never be paved and that doing so, would likely exacerbate the issue. Mr. Goldman stated that we can post no reentry to 404, but we will have to ask the State as it is a State road. Commissioner Levensgood made a motion to make a posted sign to 25 mph on Mitchell Road. Commissioner Franklin seconded the motion. All three Commissioners voted to post the speed limit sign. Commissioner Porter mentioned that we should also post on Legion Road. Mr. Leonard stated that placing “No Thru Road” sign is a great idea.

Sarah Hutchison Focht, residing on Oakland Road in Ridgley came to testify about an incident that occurred involving her two dogs and a nearby neighbors goats: Allen & Sherry Knotts. Ms. Focht stated that the family dogs were shot and there are many unanswered questions. She stated they were shot 7 times, as the result of her dogs apparently attacking Mr. Knotts goats, after they left her yard. Mrs. Focht stated that the County’s Animal Control officers were unprofessional. Ms. Focht and her mother, LeeAnn Hutchison proposed a change to County law to prevent this from occurring again. Mrs. Hutchison stated that she wrote to the Star Democrat. Commissioner Porter asked how far away Mr. Knotts property was from hers. Commissioner Franklin stated that the direction the dogs went it is .76 miles. Mrs. Focht stated that the Caroline County Sheriffs’ Deputies were very professional.

Stewart Barroll, County Attorney – 3rd Reading & Potential Enactment - Legislative Bill #2022-4, Chapter 166 Taxation– §166-7 Exemptions from County Transfer Tax - Repeal

and Reenactment: Mr. Barroll stated that this 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. (Effective Date: November 25, 2022) Commissioner Levensgood made a motion to adopt the legislative bill. Commissioner Franklin seconded. All three Commissioners voted to adopt the legislative bill.

Stewart Barroll, County Attorney – 3rd Reading & Potential Enactment - Legislative Bill #2022-5, Chapter 49 Personnel, Article III – Volunteer Firefighter Length of Service

Award Program Trust: Mr. Barroll stated that this is an Act to create Chapter 49 Personnel, Article III, Volunteer Firefighter Length of Service Award Program Trust (the LOSAP Trust), of the Code of Public Local Laws of Caroline County, Maryland; for the purpose of creating a trust fund containing the money provided by the County Commissioners for the benefit of the LOSAP, to create the LOSAP Trust Board, determine its membership to consist of three members: the County Administrator, the Director of Finance, and the County Attorney; and to designate the person who determines the eligibility of Trust Board members for indemnification by the County to be fiduciary counsel selected by the County Commissioners. (Effective Date: November 25, 2022) Commissioner Levensgood made a motion to adopt the legislative bill. Commissioner Franklin seconded. All three Commissioners voted to adopt the legislative bill.

Consent Agenda/Action Items: (All three Commissioners voted unanimously to pass the consent agenda):

- [Resolution #2022-020 – Class Specification Resolution – IT Positions](#)
- [Contract Renewal & PO #2023-154 - Bay Country Cleaners, LLC. - \\$112,128.00](#)
- [Contract Renewal & PO #2023-153 - Choptank Cleaning Services & Property Management, LLC. - \\$69,956.40](#)
- [Caroline County Board of Education – Blueprint Implementation Coordinator – Appointment Letter](#)
- [Caroline County Sheriff’s Office – Child Support Administration Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement](#)

County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman stated there is a COVID outbreak in the Detention Center that he and the staff are working through. He mentioned that the Health Department is doing a great job helping. Mr. Goldman stated that Ms. Leager is going

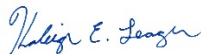
to the MACo Administrators Conference in Frederick in his place as he will be attending his last Leadership Maryland meeting in Howard County.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Levensgood stated that he attended some fire calls and the shrimp feast. Commissioner Franklin has no comment. Commissioner Porter stated that he contacted Mr. Goldman yesterday after receiving a comment about trucks hauling sand from Bridgetown coming through Greensboro and running redlights. Mr. Goldman stated that Capt. Henning is going to speak to the State about enforcement as well. Mr. White stated the trucks look like they are from a smaller company and possibly going to a jobsite. Commissioner Levensgood stated that he forgot to mention he went to the Board retreat for MACo and mentioned that the State is talking about how to expand battery storage throughout the State.

Public Comment:

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 10:14 a.m.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners