

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY**  
Health and Public Services (HAPS) Building  
403 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Room 111  
Denton, MD 21629

**Minutes**  
**October 18, 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 Paul Merritt – Pastor of Denton Church of the Nazarene

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Daniel Fox, Director of Finance – Caroline County 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Report:** Mr. Fox presented the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter budgetary report and stated that everything is really falling in line with this time of the year. Mr. Fox stated that those that are above the 25% are from upfront costs. Mr. Fox stated that the County is well under our 25% mark, and he has no concerns. Mr. Goldman asked if the State is still consistent with their guidelines so far. Mr. Fox stated that everything is the same thus far. Commissioner Franklin tipped his hat to Ms. Seward for doing such a good job with writing the grant for the PAB/ACC funding. Commissioner Porter asked when the County makes our MOE payment? Mr. Fox stated that the County makes a monthly payment over the 12 months, at the first of every month. Mr. Fox stated that the County has a very strict verification process; any check to be issued, first requires an approval by the department. Then, the accounts clerk confirms and reviews, the Department Head reviews, and then a 3<sup>rd</sup> person reviews and cuts the check(s). Mr. Fox stated that the County then uploads a virtual example of the check to the bank, and it then goes through double check with the bank for verification before it can be cashed.

**Sherry Bratton, Director of Human Resources – Department of Corrections & Animal Control Class Specification Discussion:** Ms. Bratton was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Nicole Jackson, Deputy Warden presented the class specifications on Ms. Bratton's behalf. Ms. Jackson stated that these are housekeeping items and administrative cleanup. The Commissioners asked if this discussion could be moved to a later date.

**Sherry Bratton, Director of Human Resources – Employer Health Insurance Rates Discussion:** Ms. Hubbard presented the updated health insurance rates to the Commissioners. Ms. Hubbard stated she needs a decision if the additional \$31,800 will be come out of the employees' pockets or have the County absorb this from contingency. Commissioner Franklin stated that he wants the County to absorb it as the County hasn't increased the employee share in the last 6 years. He also stated that inflation is bad enough and we don't pay the most, so let's make it easier on the employees. Ms. Hubbard stated that there is also a change to the retiree

benefits. Commissioner Franklin made a motion for the County to absorb the costs. Commissioner Levensgood seconded. All three Commissioners voted for the County to absorb the costs. Ms. Hubbard stated that the retirement increases just barely fit into the budgeted amount. This increase comes out of OPEB (Other Employment Benefits). Ms. Hubbard thanked the Commissioners for their time.

**Caroline County Board of Education CIP – Bill Mengle:** Mr. Mengle was asked to answer a few questions by the Commissioners. Mr. Mengle stated that the roof replacement on Ridgley Elementary is completed. While that project is completed, there are several roofs that need replacement. Mr. Mengle stated that Federalsburg Elementary School’s roof needs to be replaced. While this is unexpected, it is necessary as it is failing significantly. Mr. Mengle stated that Colonel Middle was due to be done but it can wait another year, since Federalsburg Elementary’s roof is failing. Mr. Mengle stated that \$284,164 would be the Commissioners portion of the request.

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

- Minutes – October 11, 2022 – Open
- [Caroline County Board of Education - FY24 Public School Construction Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\)](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding - Cecil College EMS Program and Commissioners of Caroline County for an EMS Precepting Site](#)
- [Caroline County Community Rating System Annual Recertification](#)
- [Approval of the ARPA funds for the Board of Education - Greensboro Judy Center](#)
- [Approval of the Bond transfer to the Board of Education - Greensboro Elementary School](#)

**County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman:** Mr. Goldman stated that the 25-mph sign will be installed tomorrow if Miss Utility clears it. Mr. Goldman stated that Ms. Grunden gave update on Pealiquor Road and Hannah Henry Way. Ms. Grunden is working with the State for solutions. Mr. White stated that most of Pealiquor Road is going to go from 14ft to 18ft and some portions will be 20ft. Mr. White also stated that Hannah Henry Way needs to be fixed up. Mr. White stated that Ms. Grunden is working on engineering solutions for drainage issues. Commissioner Levensgood and Porter thanked Mr. White for taking care of fixing the roads in that Community. Commissioner Porter requested an update on the Police Accountability Board (PAB/ACC). Mr. Goldman stated that a letter of statement will be sent to the Commissioners for review, that was drafted by Mr. Barroll. Mr. Goldman closed by stating that the CPCN hearing for Waypost Solar was last night. Mr. Goldman stated that Mr. Barroll represented the County very well.

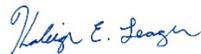
**County Commissioners Open Discussion:** Commissioner Levensgood stated that last Wednesday night, Commissioner Porter and himself met with the fire chiefs to discuss the lack of information available with the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). Commissioner Franklin stated he has a meeting for MSRC. In addition, he stated that the Planning Commission meeting

was canceled due to the lack of a quorum. Regarding the Waypost project, Commissioner Franklin stated that what was originally submitted does not match what was on the agenda for the Planning Commission. Mr. Barroll stated that Waypost testified they didn't have energy storage in their plans in front of a judge last night. Mr. Barroll stated that Waypost agreed on the record in front of a judge, that if they did add a battery storage, they would need to come in front of the Director of Planning and Codes and abide by the rules and regulations of the County. Commissioner Franklin stated that on the October Planning Commission packet, the response from McCallister on page 2, item #4, a BESS will not be constructed until 2027. Commissioner Franklin stated that he attended an FOP meeting and didn't get called any names. Mr. John Bartlett and Ms. Berneski made a great presentation about the PAB/ACC. Commissioner Porter stated that the Judge that was hearing the Waypost cases did not know the County's issues and concerns or any information regarding the safety concerns with BESS.

**Public Comment:** There was no 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