

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

Minutes
October 20, 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.

Presentation of FY2021-FY2026 Consolidated Transportation Program: Greg Slater, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT): Mr. Slater stated that The Maryland Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office (MHSO) administers a highway safety grant program in which federal funds provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), along with state funds, are provided to state agencies, local governments, and other organizations to implement traffic safety related programs. Many of these programs are developed and implemented through collaborative efforts between state, local, federal, and private-sector partners with the goal of helping to save lives and preventing injuries on Maryland roads.

He informed the Board of the Caroline County crash trends over the past 5 years:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	AVG .	%
Fatal Crashes	6	7	8	10	5	7	1.5
Injury Crashes	156	164	169	158	161	162	33.6
Property Damage Crashes	260	301	300	352	349	312	64.9
Total Crashes	422	472	477	520	515	481	100.0
Total of All Fatalities	6	9	8	11	5	8	
Total Number Injured	244	266	244	252	235	248	

Mr. Slater went on to stated that the State wide travel trend is low due to the current pandemic, however they remain secure on funding for the safety of the roads in Maryland and will continue to provide funds for maintenance for roads.

Commissioner Porter provided Mr. Slater with the official Caroline County CTP Priorities letter which lists the main concerns and priorities for roads in Caroline County.

Priority A: Complete Safety Improvements at MD 404 and MD 328/River Road

State Highway Administration staff has made excellent progress in addressing safety improvements the Commissioners requested during last year's discussions during the CTP tour. The Commissioners request that SHA continue to work on the remaining items, many of which are already underway or in the planning stage:

- Create turn lanes on MD 328 and River Road;
- Change the timing of the light so that traffic on MD 328 and River Road do not go at the same time;
- Reduce the speed limit on MD 328 between MD 404 and Business 404/Meeting House Road to 35mph.

Priority B: Widen MD 404 to Four Lanes from Harmony Road to MD 16 East

The work done to dualize MD 404 has resulted in a reduction in accidents, congestion and greatly increased user satisfaction. We remain grateful for the previous investment in the project, and while we know it is a significant undertaking, the Commissioners request that the State begin the work on the final phase of the project to dualize MD 404 from Harmony Road to MD 16 East. Specifically, the County requests that SHA start preliminary planning, fund design, engineering, as well as any necessary property or right-of-way acquisition.

Priority C: Re-designate Auction Road back to Original State Route MD 621

Maryland State Roads Commission built MD 621 in several phases. These phases started in 1938, followed by two other phases in 1954 and 1959. The reason for the continued construction of this highway was to connect Federalsburg Highway (MD 313) to Harmony Road (MD 16). In 1991 Maryland State Highway re- designated MD 612 to Auction Road.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Slater and the MDOT team for updating the Board and stated that they are looking forward to continuing their partnership to provide safe structures and traveling for their residents.

Workshop Proposed AquaCon Project, Federalsburg: Bob Rauch and Ryan Showalter, AquaCon Representatives, provided the Commissioners with a brief overview of the Aquacon projected in Federalsburg. Mr. Showalter stated that the salmon industry is in high demand due to the amount of farmed frozen fish that is shipped out to grocery stores around the area. He went on to state that fish farming is a rising market place that would be beneficial to have in Caroline County. He explained that once production is up and moving it takes about a year to grow salmon, and then it's an average of 3 million fish per year. The piece of property located in the Federalsburg provides AquaCon with 25 acres to farm in a building, with all water being recirculated and treated.

Mr. Showalter stated that AquaCon and the Town of Federalsburg is asking Caroline County to authorize the zoning to allow this project to continue in the town limits of Federalsburg. The Town of Federalsburg Zoning has approved as well as the Caroline County Zoning and Appeals Board. He stated that the second request is to approve the request to amend the comprehensive water and sewer plan to allow the town to hook into the County's.

The Commissioners stated that they are looking forward to working with the Town of Federalsburg to bring AquaCon to the community. They stated a public hearing will be held during their November 10th Commissioners meeting for the proposed Amendment to the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan & Maps, Federalsburg Annexation of Land for Industrial Park.

COVID-19 Response & Recovery Update: Roger Harrell, Interim Acting Health Officer briefed the Board on the recent COVID-19 updates in Caroline County. Currently Caroline County is moving upwards regarding their infections rate, however he informed them that the County is still moving in a positive direction. Mr. Harrell stated that the Caroline County Health Department has started their Drive-Thru Flu Clinic, which he recommends to all. He emphasized the importance of everyone receiving their flu shot this year. He also stated that residents in Caroline County should continue to practice social distancing, handwashing, and wearing their masks out in public to help decrease the spread of COVID-19 as well as the flu in Caroline County.

Debbie Bowden, Director, Caroline County Economic Development, addressed the Board and updated them on the current standing of the Small Business Relief Grant in Caroline County. Ms. Bowden explained that there are currently 33 applications with 11 approvals. She stated that the final round of grants are open until November 30th and as of today, October 20, 2020 Caroline County has provided over \$173,500 in grant funding back to the local business.

Economic Development Week In Caroline County: Ms. Bowden thanked the Commissioners for signing and providing such positive and supportive feedback to her Economic Development team. She stated that Caroline County will continue to provide support to their local business as they are the backbone to the County. She stated that economic growth leads to business retention and she remains confident that through this pandemic Caroline County will remain to be economically strong.

Discussion of Tax Sale Auction Contract: Cathie Moore, Comptroller, provided the Commissioners with a full briefing on all of the local auctioneer companies she met with to discuss holding the tax office sale online. Ms. Moore stated that with approval from the Board she would like to move forward with using Trice Auctions. On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levengood, the board approved Trice Auctions to hold the online Tax Sale for FY2019. Ms. Moore stated that the Tax sale would begin on November 30th and close on December 7th.

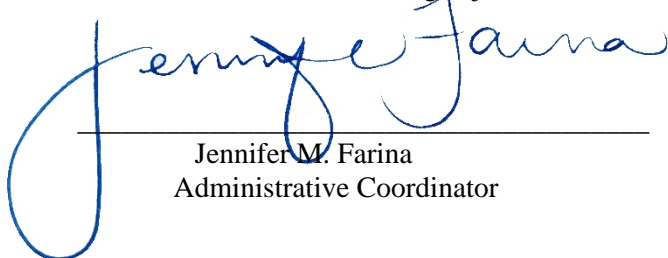
Consent Agenda: the following items were approved by unanimous consent:

- [Resolution #2020-020, Amendment to Caroline County Personnel Rules and Regulations, Class Specifications for Caroline County Office of Finance and Department of Emergency Services](#)
- [MOU Between Maryland Department of Environment and Caroline County, Maryland for Two Stormwater Designs and Hillsboro Assessment and Concepts](#)
- [MOU for Public Recreation Programming at the Community Civic League of Federalsburg, MD](#)
- [MOU for Public Recreation Programing at the Greater Impact Church of Greensboro, MD](#)
- [Grant Award Acceptance Form for Police Body Camera Digital Video Project in the Amount of \\$75,930.00](#)
- [P.O #2021-0140, and Accompanying Contract to Dynamic General Contracting, LLC for Roof Construction of the Caroline County Courthouse & The Information and Technology Building, \\$94,633.25](#)
- [P.O #2021-0151, Tyler Technologies, Inc., for Standard Software Maintenance Renewal for CAD & Records Management for the 9-1-1 Center & Sheriff's Office, \\$ 73,214.39](#)
- [P.O #2021-0156, and Lease to Watts Landing Properties LLC. for Warehouse Space, \\$16,276.65](#)
- [P.O #2021-0157 and Accompanying Contract to Myers Voice & Data, Inc. for 9-1-1 Communications and Recordings, \\$ 49,386.70](#)
- [P.O #2021-0162 and Accompanying Contract to Dell Marketing L.P. for Annual Replacement of Desktop and Laptop Computers, \\$53,999.97.](#)
- 1st Quarter of FY 2021 Contingency Expenditures in the Amount of \$36,569.91
- [2019 Bond Reimbursement to the Board of Education for the Greensboro Elementary Project, \\$157,816.87.](#)
- [P.O #2021-0164 and Accompanying Lease to Tator Properties LLC, for Department of Human Recourse Rent, \\$ 9,000.](#)
- [FY2021 Community Partnership Agreement Between the State of Maryland and the Caroline County Human Services Council](#)
- Employment Contract, Department of Emergency Services- Public Safety Dispatcher I (Beebe)

County Administrators Report:

- Mr. Goldman informed the Board that the purchase to buy several trailers had been canceled due to the provider not being able to deliver the units in a timely manner. This purchase was to provide storage in the case of the County having to administer a mas vaccination.
- He informed the Commissioners that the Sheriffs Office building is nearing its completion date which should be before the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Mr. Goldman explained that the rent and utility assistance programs for Caroline County are up and running. More information can be found on the Caroline County COVID-19 website, www.carolinecovid19.org .

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 11:38



Jennifer M. Farina
Administrative Coordinator

Please note: Documents to be discussed during the Commissioners meeting are hyperlinked on the agenda where possible. Click the blue underlined text to access documents or more information on the agenda item listed

Meetings are conducted in Open Session unless otherwise indicated. All or part of County Commissioners' meetings can be held in closed session under the authority of the state open meetings law by vote of the Commissioners. Breaks are at the call of the President. Please note that times listed on the agenda are only estimates, and that the order of agenda items may change as time dictates or allows.