

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

Minutes
November 2, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM.

Convocation and prayer by Pastor Doug Morley.

There was no public comment.

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Update - Robin Cahall, Health Officer, Caroline County Health Department: Ms. Cahall reported that Caroline County has had 66 new cases in the past week with an increase of 5 hospitalizations. The 7-day positivity rate is 8.43% which is a decrease of 7% and Maryland is at 3.06%, which is a decrease of 4.7%. The case rate in Caroline County is 28.2, a decrease of 16.5% and Maryland's case rate is 12.1, a decrease of 3.9%. Currently, Caroline County is still at a high transmission rate, but it is decreasing steadily. 61.2% of all eligible ages have a vaccination rate of 61.2% in Caroline County and in Maryland the percentage is 77.3%. Currently, Caroline County has received 300 doses. Ms. Cahall said she feels comfortable removing the mask mandate for the County but leaving it at "strongly recommended".

County Legislative Priorities Discussion – Kaleigh Leager, Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners: Ms. Leager stated that she would like to first discuss the future meeting schedule for 2022 County Commissioners meetings. Commissioner Levengood stated that he likes the schedule as is with the two meetings and two work sessions during the morning hours. Commissioner Porter stated that he feels it may still be beneficial to go to one evening meeting a month to be more open to the public. The Commissioners stated that starting in January they are fine with the 1st Tuesday of every month being an evening meeting, leaning towards the first Tuesday of the month. These meetings will be held at 6:00pm.

Ms. Leager then stated that the 2022 Legislative Session begins on Wednesday January 12, 2022, which is 71 days away. Legislators can pre-file bills and that cutoff date is due around the 20th of November. Ms. Leager stated that the County received 4 requests for support and two legislative asks. The asks were from Debby Bennett from Caroline County Public Libraries, Sue Simmons from Caroline County Recreation and Parks, Scott Warner from the Mid-Shore Regional Council, and the Judy Center in Greensboro.

The two legislative asks were from Sen. Hershey's office and the State's Attorney for Caroline County. Sen. Hershey inquired if the Commissioners wanted him to file the Sunday deer hunting

bill that was dropped last year but died because of time constraints. Commissioner Franklin stated that he wants the bill to include all game on every Sunday that falls within the permitted seasons, on private land, excluding migratory game birds (waterfowl and dove). Commissioner Levengood and Porter agreed.

State's Attorney Joe Riley presented to the Commissioners requesting that his salary be increased from 80% of the District Court Judges to 90%. The Commissioners agreed to a 5% increase raising the State's Attorney's salary from 80% of the District Court Judges salary to 85% of the District Court Judges salary. Commissioner Franklin asked if the other Commissioners if they wanted to keep the Sheriffs salary at 80% of the State's Attorney's salary. The Commissioners agreed to keep the Sheriff's salary at 80% of the State's Attorneys as the Sheriff would still receive a monetary increase, but not an overall percentage increase.

Third Reading and Potential Enactment - Legislative Bill #2021-003, Chapter 62 – Collector of Taxes – Stewart Barroll, County Attorney: All three Commissioners voted to go into a legislative session. Mr. Barroll read the bill for the third and final reading. All three Commissioners voted to enact the legislation. All three Commissioners voted to end the legislative session.

Consent Agenda: All three Commissioners voted to pass the Consent Agenda

- Memorandum of Understanding – John Mueller Harmony Community Park Donation
- Jonestown Community Park Development & Capital Renewal Application – Correction
- Henderson Community Park Development & Capital Renewal Application – Correction
- Community Rating System Annual Recertification
- Caroline County Department of Corrections – Inmate Telephone System Contractor – Contract
- Letter of Support Request – Stories of the Chesapeake Small Grant
- Tyler Technologies Purchase Order #2022-130 – Annual Standard Software Maintenance for CAD and Records Management
- Resolution #2021-023 – Disposal of Surplus County Equipment – Department of Public Works
- Resolution #2021-024 – Disposal of Surplus County Equipment – Sheriff's Department
- Resolution #2021-025 – Class Specifications - Office of Finance
- Minutes - October 12, 2021, October 19, 2021, October 26, 2021 – Open & Closed Session

County Administrator's Report: Mr. Goldman mentioned that he met with Chesapeake College to discuss their VOTECH Center. He stated that he was very impressed. They are opening classes for CNC operators. He also mentioned that their Marine Technologies lab was very impressive and has been able to

find each graduate a job upon graduation. They have a great HVAC program, welding program and CDL program. Commissioner Porter and Franklin stated that they were glad they are having success in their programs are glad to assist in funding if it continues to be successful. Commissioner Franklin stated that his wife does some work for the College but is compensated by a grant and receives no county funding.

Commissioner Open Discussion: Commissioner Levengood stated that he attended a fire with the Deputy Director of Finance, Danny Fox the other morning. He also stated that he was able to cut some soybeans yesterday and had to do some rewiring due to mouse damage. Commissioner Franklin stated they attended Denton's Mactoberfest. He also mentioned that Sam Grant did a wonderful job with the storm last week. Commissioner Porter read a citation for Ms. Flamer's 101st birthday. Commissioner Porter also stated that he was saddened to hear of the passing of a County retiree Mr. Bobby Boulderson. Commissioner Porter closed by sharing that he testified several times during the public meetings of the redistricting board on the injustice that Caroline County will be served if the current proposed maps are adopted.

There was no public comment.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Closed Session: To consult with consul to obtain legal advice and consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. Authority: General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) (8): All three Commissioners voted to go into a closed session.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to The County Commissioners