

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

WORK SESSION
January 25, 2022

Present: President, Larry C. Porter; President, Daniel J. Franklin; Vice President, Wilbur Levensgood; Commissioner; Jeremy Goldman, County Administrator; and Kaleigh Leager; Executive Assistant

Topic 1: Ed Thomas, Co-Chairman - Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force
Proclamation: Mr. Thomas read the proclamation, proclaiming that the month of January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Caroline County.

Topic 2: Debbie Bowden, Director of Economic Development & David Harper, Jr., VP for Workforce and Academic Programs, Chesapeake College Discussion–Aquaculture Education: Mr. Harper stated that with the arrival of Aquacon in Federalsburg, there will be 150 job openings; eventually reaching 500. Mr. Harper stated that Chesapeake College would like to partner with the County and Aquacon to provide job related training. Mr. Harper mentioned the three things needed for job training: curriculum, certification, and skill sets. Commissioner Franklin asked what the fiscal impact to the taxpayer will be for the development and implementation of this program? Mr. Harper stated he needs to have the conversation with Aquacon before a cost can be estimated but the College will be looking for grant monies. Commissioner Porter stated that he is concerned about the increase demand for affordable, good housing. Commissioner Porter stated that Aquacon may need to kick in with housing funds if these jobs are being trained specifically for them.

Topic 3: Sue Simmons, Director of Recreation & Parks - Discussion-Choptank Marina Slip Rental Policy Changes 2022 Boating Season: – Ms. Simmons stated that there are some proposed changes to the requirements to rent a boat slip this year. Currently, the County provides, discounts we provide to work boats and commercial fisherman. The County has been requiring certificate of insurance, registration, and descriptions of the boat for existing slip renters. Ms. Simmons said the change will require existing and new customers to provide those documents as well as have an inspection of their boat from a member of her staff to determine if the boat is seaworthy. This way, the County is not solely financially responsible if damage were to occur to the marina or neighboring craft. Commissioner Franklin stated he had problem with the short notice of this change. Commissioner Porter stated that he opposed the requirement of the boat having to be inspected before the owner is allowed to rent a slip. Mr. Goldman stated that he believes to alleviate all issues and to protect the County and other slip renters, we should continue to require proof of insurance and follow the Maryland Department of Natural Resources guidelines for a safe/seaworthy vessel. Ms. Simmons and the Commissioners agreed.

Topic 4: Daniel Fox, Director of Finance - ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Budget Conversation:

Choptank & Comcast Broad Band Assistance: County Administrator Goldman mentioned he would like to see \$2,000,000.00 of the County’s ARPA funding to go towards this project. The Commissioners decided to allocate \$2,200,000.00.

Judy Center: The Judy Center Project Shortage is \$1,061,869. Commissioner Franklin expressed his dissatisfaction in planning for this project that resulted in such a large funding shortage. Commissioner Franklin also mentioned the County just paid \$18,000,000.00 to build Greensboro Elementary School. Commissioner Porter stated that he is amazed that this project has gotten this far without realizing the price of the project is significantly more than projected. Commissioners Porter and Franklin mentioned that if the County had a project and miscalculated the cost, there would be no one to bail them out. The Commissioners requested that Mr. Fox provide them with the numbers that were used to calculate the projected costs of the project.

Double Hills EOC/Training Center: Mr. Fox stated the estimated cost was around \$1,000,000.00. Mr. Goldman stated this building would be utilized as the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) when needed, would be used for training, would also possibly house a second/back-up 911 center. The purpose of this building is to move out of the first floor of the HAPS Building. The current 911 center would still be on the second floor and will remain there.

Caroline County Commissioners		
ARPA/ Surplus Work Session		
	Latest Update	Notes
Detention Center Upgrades	1,500,000	Total Project Cost \$6,839,991
Economic Development Enhancement	500,000	
Choptank Health Federalsburg Health Center Project	750,000	
Choptank & Comcast Broad Band Assistance	2,200,000	
Double Hills EOC/ Training Center	1,000,000	Total Project Cost \$1,000,000
Judy Center		Total Project Shortage \$1,061,869
TOTAL	5,950,000	
Available Funding	6,488,724	
Remaining Funding	538,724	

Commissioners Open Discussion:

Commissioner Levensgood mentioned some of the “ridiculous” bills that have been introduced at the state level so far. There are a lot of bills focused on strict environmental regulations, that MACo believes will have a good chance of passing. Commissioner Levensgood mentioned that the Executive Assistant, Kaleigh Leager and himself have been attending a lot of calls through the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) and the Rural Maryland Council (RMC).

Commissioners Franklin and Porter did not have discussion items.

At 11:43 AM, Commissioner Franklin made a motion to enter the Closed Session, Commissioner Levengood seconded, all three Commissioners voted to enter the Closed Session.

Commissioner Porter read the following Closing Statement for the Closed Session: “This closed session will be used to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. Under Authority of the General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b): (8)”

There being no further discussion, the Commissioners went into Closed Session.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kaleigh E. Leager".

Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to The County Commissioners