

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

**Minutes**  
**January 26, 2021**

Present: President Larry C. Porter; Vice President Daniel J. Franklin; Commissioner Wilbur Levensgood, Jr.; via conference call.

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM.

**COVID-19 Response and Recovery Update:**

**Laura Patrick, Health Officer:** Ms. Patrick provided an update to the COVID numbers in Maryland and Caroline County. The total number of deaths across the state is 6,726 with 14 of those being Caroline County residents. The positivity rate in Maryland is 6.84%, with Caroline County being 10.57%. We have seen 105 new cases over the past two weeks. The total number of cases recorded in Caroline County since the beginning of the pandemic is 1771. The Health Department is continuing to do contact tracing. Last week the Health Department phone system crashed. The county was able to stand up a new system quickly that is working well. There will be vaccination clinics this week at 4H Park, Goldsboro firehouse, Federalsburg firehouse, Preston firehouse and Greensboro firehouse. Ms. Patrick thanked all of the staff members from the school system that have assisted in testing and vaccination clinics. The Health Department will continue to offer testing multiple times per week. The allocation of vaccinations to the Health Department from the State was decreased this week. Ms. Patrick advised she will continue to request additional doses from the State. Commissioner Franklin asked Ms. Patrick if the Walmart vaccination program is required to follow the suggested tiers of vaccinating. Ms. Patrick stated they are required to follow the tier system; however, persons do not have to be a Maryland resident to come to Maryland and receive a vaccine.

**Dr. Patty Saelens, Superintendent of Schools.** Dr. Saelens provided an update to Caroline County Public Schools. Dr. Saelens stated that staff is working on plans to return students to the schools. The students will be brought back in waves according to grade. The food distribution program will change slightly once children return to in person learning. Dr. Saelens stated that the school system is in need of bus drivers and substitute teachers. Mr. Nagel added that parents should be mindful of changes or delays in bussing due to staffing shortages.

**Anna Sierra, Director of Emergency Services.** Ms. Sierra stated that we are continuing to see slightly high numbers regarding emergency responses, but they are within normal ranges for this time of year. We have seen more COVID related calls for service. They are continuing to monitor and prepare for an uptick in call volume. Ms. Sierra advised that many county employees are assisting with the vaccination clinics.

**Debbie Bowden, Director of Economic Development:** Ms. Bowden briefed the Commissioners on a recognition certificate for Mr. Frank Adams and his years of service and contributions to Caroline County Economic Development and Advisory Board. The

Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Mr. Adams for his dedication to the community. Ms. Bowden recommended the following members to serve on the Economic Development Advisory Board: John Phillips (Sisk Fulfillment), Nick Wake (Tenchi), James Ransome (Awards Engraving), Donna Poole (Arcadia Assisted Living), Tracey Snyder (Director of the Caroline County Chamber of Commerce) and the Tourism Boards Director whom will be named at a later date. Ms. Bowden recommended the following members to the Tourism Board: Mila Hathaway (Deputy Director of Caroline County Council of Arts), Kevin Reichart (Mayor, Town of Greensboro), Audrey Clemens (Manager, Downtown Denton Main Street) and Angel Perez (Program Director, Caroline County YMCA). Motion was made by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood to appoint all recommended members.

**Anna Sierra, Director of Emergency Services.** Ms. Sierra provided the Commissioners with a recap on the operations of the Department of Emergency Services for 2020. Some highlighted areas include the implementation of a new logging recorder system, the purchase of a communications trailer, the implementation of Operative IQ inventory management system and the implementation of the Handtevy application system for pediatric patients. Ms. Sierra also stated they have gotten the Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted as well as created a template for hazard response plans with the public school system. Emergency Management has also implemented the Smart 911 public warning system and is working with the Health Department on the Opioid Substance Abuse Prevention Program. Ms. Sierra stated that despite the COVID pandemic, the Department of Emergency Services has been able to accomplish great things.

**Consent Agenda: The following items were approved by unanimous consent:**

- Minutes: Board of Education Joint Work Session - January 19, 2021
- Capital Request – Ambulance Purchase
- Transfer from the Capital Improvement Fund (39) – Bond Proceeds to the BOE for Greensboro Elementary School Expenses incurred thru January 21, 2021 in the amount of \$368,400.99.
- Resolution #2021-2, Disposal of Surplus County Equipment
- P.O # 2021-267, Renewal Contract to Tri Gas & Oil in the amount of \$57,300.00
- Engagement Agreement for Legal Services, MacLeod Law Group
- Personnel Grievance Panel New Appointment – Dennis Porter

**County Administrators Report:**

- Mr. Goldman advised the Commissioners that we will be extending the contract with Identity Force for credit monitoring. The extension of the contract will be in the amount of \$57,000.00.
- The County Attorney, Heather Price, has accepted appointment to the District Court bench. Mr. Goldman addressed the Commissioners regarding their intent on recruitment for a new County Attorney. The Commissioners agreed to use outside legal counsel while recruiting for the position with a targeted start date of the new County Attorney in the new fiscal year.
- Mr. Goldman advised that the Department of Human Resources has completed their move out of the Goldsborough House, and it is now ready to go into surplus. The Commissioners directed staff the determine the historical status of the property. Mr.

Goldman stated that he will follow up with the Commissioners once all relevant data is obtained.

- Mr. Goldman requested the Commissioners approve a special distribution of funds from the Healthcare reserves to the Volunteer Fire Companies equaling a total amount of \$68,300.00. The six primary companies will receive \$10,000.00 with the remaining two companies receiving their predetermined share. Motion was made by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Porter. Commissioner Levengood abstained due to his relationship with the Fire Company.

**Open Discussion Period:** The Commissioners reported that they all have been to the vaccination clinics and are pleased with the manner in which they are being run. Commissioner Porter advised that a great community member, Mr. Buddy Simpson has passed away. He stated that served on many committees throughout the County and was a mentor to many. The Commissioners agreed that they will continue to advocate at the State level against diverting COVID vaccine allocations from our Health Department to local pharmacy programs.

No public comment was received.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Mary Berneski  
Paralegal

