

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

**Minutes**  
**February 23, 2020**

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

The meeting began at 9:00 AM.

**COVID-19 Response Update:** Laura Patrick, Health Officer, stated that currently Caroline County's positivity rate is 4.49% which is great news for our residents that we are trending downwards. Currently the county has two residents in the hospital, and the total COVID-19 deaths are at 19. Ms. Patrick explained that there have been several shipment delays regarding the vaccines. However, the amazing team has been great working on distribution of the vaccine despite the winter weather we have had over the past several weeks. Ms. Patrick stated that starting March 10<sup>th</sup> the Caroline County Health Department will have an extra full-time nurse on staff to help with testing and vaccinations. Currently, due to the decrease in the need for testing, the County has cut back, but still offers testing every Tuesday.

She stated that there has been 3,200 first doses and 2,300, 2<sup>nd</sup> doses with a total of 12.9% of Caroline County residents being vaccinated. She explained that these numbers include doses given by Choptank Community Health and Walmart in Denton.

The Commissioners commended their staff and the volunteers who worked through the winter weather during this past week. They stated that they continue to feel thankful for how dedicated everyone is to helping vaccinate the community. Ms. Visintainer stated that they are holding 100 doses back to insure they can fill next week clinics. Currently estimating that they will give 500 first doses this week and 350 second doses.

Commissioner Levensgood stated that he is very excited for the chance for the County to receive the Johnson and Johnson vaccine which only requires one dose. He stated that it will be a lot easier to reach certain populations in the community. Ms. Visintainer stated that the county would work with regional partners in pushing the allocation out if the county did receive this vaccination.

Commissioner Porter stated that there have been several residents that have reached out to him stating how wonderful the Call Center staff have been in navigating apportionments and questions regarding covid-19 and the vaccine process. Ms. Visintainer stated that she wanted to formally thank the Caroline County Public Library staff that has been so wonderful stepping in and taking over the Call Center for the county.

Dr. Patty Saelens, Superintendent of Schools, stated that they are working on transitioning to have all the students back into in-school learning. She stated that students are still staggered between working from home and working in school, however all students are currently in the classroom at least three times a week. Ms. Saelens stated that due to the County working so hard in getting the school staff vaccinated so quickly the number of cases have significantly gone down in the school system which has allowed for students to return to the classroom so quickly. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Saelens and the entire Board of Educations for being a part of the team during the covid-19 response as well as the vaccination process.

**Capital Budget Memo:** Margaret Roe, Director and Deputy Director, Danny Fox, stated that the Commissioners were sent the Capital Budget Memo ,

Ms. Roe asked if the Board had any questions regarding the upcoming budget. Commissioner Porter stated that CURWIN is added 1,7million to the budget which a 3% increase to our total budget and the county was lied to about the disparity grant to go down this year, however the new formula did not kick in to help with counties.

**Consent agenda: the following items were approved by unanimous consent**

- Minutes: February 16, 2021
- Grant Agreement, MIEMMS Emergency Medical Dispatch Training for the 911 Center
- Professional Services Agreement, Robert Merriken, Legal Services to the Board of License Commissioners
- Professional Services Agreement, Shore Strategies for the completion of the 2022 Caroline Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan
- MOU with the Caroline County Historical Society for the Medford House
- Letter of Support, Regional National Fish and Wildlife Federation Grant for storm water and flooding design funding for two County based projects

**County Administrator's Report**

- Mr. Goldman stated a complaint was made regarding a private road in Caroline County. Mr. Goldman asked how he would like the County to respond to his complaint. Commissioner Franklin stated that he visited the road and stated that there is no easy fix unfortunately, however the neighbors who live on the road could come together and form an agreement to fix the major issues. The Commissioners stated that they would like Mr. Goldman to respond and explain the restrictions and regulations the county is under which prohibits them from fixing the private road for the resident, however the county can recommend how and who may be able to fix his issues.
- Mr. Goldman stated that the Public Works team has been working very hard due to the weather the county has received recently, and he wanted to publicly thank them for all their hard work and effort in keeping the roads and sidewalks clear.

**Commissioner Open Discussion Period:**

- Commissioner Levensgood stated that he will continue to try and make Caroline County voices heard as the President of the Maryland Associations of Counties regarding the CURWIN bill.
- Commissioner Franklin stated that he wants to extend his thanks to the Public Works department on a job well done, during this winter weather.
- Commissioner Porter stated that he plans on moving to meet in the Courthouse starting Tuesday March 2, 2021. Meetings will remain virtual; however, the Commissioners and selected department heads will only be allowed to attend in person.

there being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

  
Jennifer M. Farina  
Administrative Coordinator