

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

WORK SESSION
March 8, 2022

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

Debbie Bowden, Director of Economic Development – Rural Maryland Economic

Development Fund - Discussion: Ms. Bowden stated that the Governor submitted a supplemental budget of \$50M, \$10M each for Economic Development. The program will go through the Department of Commerce then to MSRC. Ms. Bowden asked the Commissioners for their suggestions on what projects they would like to use this funding on, if the County sees any of those funds. Commissioner Levensgood stated that the County has infrastructure but no businesses. Commissioner Franklin said that if it can't go to the private sector, how can the County pay for a study to see if a hotel would work in Federalsburg? He stated that he doesn't understand the stipulations on the funding because Counties need private sector businesses to make the County thrive. Ms. Bowden stated that this could be used as match money because it is flowing through Caroline County. Commissioner Levensgood asked if the County could possibly build a building at the techpark and then lease it? Ms. Bowden stated that the County could use the funds for that, and it seems like what they are pushing for. Commissioner Porter asked Ms. Bowden for the status of the incubator project. Ms. Bowden stated that it is not funded but Mr. Mike Thielke is looking for other avenues. Commissioner Porter said if we have money coming, we better grab it because we don't want other Counties using it.

Sue Simmons, Director of Recreation and Parks – Reorganization & Class Specification -

Discussion: Ms. Simmons mentioned that this conversation is basically a succession plan. We have a Deputy Director that was brought on to eventually replace the Director; the transfer for information takes time. With the reorganization, the FY23 Proposed Salary & Fringe Cost is \$1,108,740.00; that is an increase of \$173,000 from FY22. \$19,000 of that is fixed cost increase. Commissioner Franklin stated that when someone is on their way out the door, the Commissioners usually don't have an appetite for change from that outgoing Director. Deputy Director, Jamie Beechey stated that this plan was her idea. Commissioner Franklin stated there was a discussion to possibly combine the Public Works and Recreation and Park maintenance departments. Commissioner Porter asked if the Department was going to be maintaining the same amount of park space, but adding additional staff? Ms. Simmons stated that was correct. She also stated that the issue is, we (Recreation & Parks) currently do not have adequate staff to maintain the current footprint.

Commissioners Open Discussion: There was no discussion.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Kaleigh E. Leager

Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to The County Commissioners