

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
Health and Public Services (HAPS) Building
403 S. 7th Street, Room 111
Denton, MD 21629

Minutes
March 21, 2023

Present: President J. Travis Breeding; Vice President Larry C. Porter, Commissioner N. Franklin Bartz, III.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

Commissioners Meeting Convenes, Invocation by Don Reynolds

Public Comment: No public comment.

Roy Geiser, Partner, UHY LLP – Caroline County FY23 Audit Presentation: Mr. Geiser presented the Board of Commissioners with the financial picture of the County. After the presentation, Mr. Geiser stated that the County is in good standing and there is no comments or concerns from an audit standpoint. Mr. Geiser closed by stating that the Office of Finance does a great job.

Robin Cahall, Health Officer – Health Department Update: Commissioner Porter made a motion to convene as the board of health. Commissioner Bartz seconded the motion. All three commissioners unanimously voted to convene as the Caroline County Board of Health. Ms. Cahall presented an update with the Commissioners on the status of the Health Department and their agencies in addition to the health status of the County. Commissioner Bartz made a motion to adjourn as the Caroline County Board of Health. Commissioner Porter seconded the motion. All three Commissioner unanimously voted to adjourn as the Caroline County Board of Health.

Katheleen Freeman, Director of Planning & Codes – Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) & Solar Energy Systems Draft Legislation Discussion: Ms. Freeman stated that she is aware the Board of Commissioners want to make changes to the County Code over safety concerns with BESS and Solar Energy Systems. Ms. Freeman stated that she suggests, with the review of the Office of Law, that the County adopt language that reflects the most current version of the NFPA 855 to reflect the date of issuance not the date of application for the code they need to follow. The Commissioners approved the draft legislation, with a few modifications, to be brought before the Planning Commission for review.

Consent Agenda: All three Commissioner voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

- Minutes –March 7, 2023 & March 14, 2023 – Open & Closed
- [Caroline County Sheriff's Office - FY24 Police Recruitment and Retention \(PRAR\) Initiative Grant Application - \\$50,000](#)
- Caroline County Department of Human Resources – Employment Contract – Paramedic – R. Bobitka

Action Items: Ms. Leslie Grunden, Planning & Codes, Mr. Ryan White, Department of Public Works, and Mr. Eric Buehl, Maryland Extension Watershed Specialist answered question from the Commissioners on specifics of the project. Per request from the Commissioners, this item was tabled until the 3/28/23 Commissioners Meeting.

- Caroline County Department of Planning & Codes – [Purchase Order #2023-333](#) & [Contract – Sustainable Science, LLC. - \\$77,550.00](#) & [Chesapeake Bay Trust Watershed Assistance Grant Program Agreement – \\$83,550 - Pealiquor Road Stormwater Management and Wetlands Project](#)

County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman stated that Queen Anne’s County (QAC) has officially been given the Eastern Prerelease Center from the State Board of Public Works. Mr. Goldman stated that there is interest to do a regional facility in that location. Mr. Goldman mentioned that there is about a 90-day window before a decision must be made. The Commissioners need to decide if this is truly something that the Board wants, as it is going to be laborious and very time consuming for senior staff in the Commissioner’s Office. Mr. Goldman stated that if this works, this could reduce the County’s Detention Centers operating costs by 35% (estimated). Mr. Goldman also stated that he received the final quote for the Commissioner’s dais; about \$36,000. Mr. Goldman stated that Ms. Leager will write a letter to Maryland Historical Trust on behalf of the Commissioners.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Bartz stated that he attended the Mid Shore Regional Council meeting with Sen. Van Hollen. Commissioner Bartz stated that Sen. Van Hollen will be looking into federal money for the hospital. Commissioner Porter and Commissioner Breeding had nothing to share.

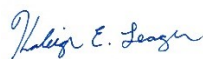
Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Closed Session: Section (8) General Provisions Art. 3-305(b): “To consult with staff about potential litigation.”

Daniel Fox, Director of Finance – FY24 Budget Workshop: Mr. Fox presented the County Capital Budget requests. Mr. Fox stated that there is \$9.8M in requests and just over \$4M in funding available. The Commissioners discussed the requests with Mr. Fox.

Commissioner Bartz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Porter seconded. All three Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners