

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

**Minutes**  
**March 26, 2019**

Present: President, Larry C. Porter; Vice President, Daniel J. Franklin, Commissioner, Wilbur Levensgood, Jr.; Jeremy Goldman, County Administrator; Heather Price, County Attorney; Sara Visintainer, Chief of Staff; and Jennifer Farina, Administrative Coordinator

President Porter called for **Public Comment** and there was none.

**Presentation of Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership:** Jim Bass, Coastal Resilience Specialist, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, introduced himself to the Commissioners and explained that the Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership (ESCAP) promotes learning and collaboration among Eastern Shore communities to prepare for changes in weather patterns, flooding, and other environmental conditions. Mr. Bass stated that the ESCAP is a venue for partners to provide support, education, technical assistance, and resources to help communities build resilience. Mr. Bass went on to state that they have also come up with prediction for the changes that will occur on the eastern shore that are weather related. Sea level is expected to rise 1.5-2.0 feet by 2050, temperatures are due to increase with warmer nights and longer heat waves. He explained that these changes will increase emergency response times and disrupt public services, and the heat waves will put added stress on HVAC and building systems as well as wear on roadways.

Mr. Bass thanked the Commissioners for their time and stated that the ESCAP's would like their continued collaboration when they formalize their new regional plan.

**Update on Medford House at Choptank Village:** JOK Walsh, Historical Society, Caroline County, stated that the Medford House is currently located on property owned by the Caroline County Department of Recreation and Parks. Mr. Walsh stated that the Medford house would be located at the Choptank Village location outside of Preston, until July 2019. He went on to thank Sue Simmons and the Recreation and Parks Staff for helping find grants that cover the cost to move the structure on the property.

**Discussion of Program Specialist II Position:** Jamie Beechey, Deputy Director, Recreation and Parks, stated that the Department has been struggling to employ an experienced recreation professional that has the capability to do tasks far beyond entry level work. She went on to state that the candidate should be able to think strategically with program/event development in order to support cost recovery methodology, ensuring less burden to the taxpayer. In the two most recent hiring of the department struggled to find an entry level candidate that would remain in Caroline County or that was capable of self-starting practices. By enhancing job requirements and a modest salary bump, the department should be able to attract suitable candidates. The department can cover both salary and fringe with no additional cost to the county.

The Commissioners agreed to allow Recreation and Parks to change the Program Specialist Position from a I to a II, to allow for higher level candidates to apply.

**Discussion of Recreation and Parks Capital Budget:** Sue Simmons, Director, Recreation and Parks, stated that she would like to request the redirect of capital savings from the acquisition of the  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton crew cab pickup for Parks Division to the purchase of an equipment trailer with 14,000 lb. capacity. The crew cab purchase resulted in a \$5,200 savings. Staff recommendation is to invest \$4,500 in a heavy

equipment trailer to transport rental equipment (skid steer) from job to job without impacting DPW operations. The crew cab purchase did not result in the elimination of vehicle 1426 (1/2-ton single cab Chevy truck) from the Department fleet. The total cost of the trailer is \$4,500.00 and would be covered from the savings of the pickup. On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the Commissioners voted to redirect the capital savings from the pickup purchase to cover the trailer for Recreation and Parks.

Ms. Simmons stated that her second request was for her Department to retain Chevy pickup previously assigned to Parks Division for Administrative and Program Service Division Use. On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the Commissioners voted to allow Recreation and Parks to retain the Chevy Pickup.

**FY2020 Capital Budget Discussion:** The Commissioners went through each capital request from all of the different departments and agencies. The total amount of request are \$7,750,384, and the total funds available are \$7,143,000. The Commissioners stated that the budget would continue to be workshopped during upcoming Commissioners Meetings and Work Session.

On motion by Commissioner Franklin, Seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the Commissioners unanimously moved into **Legislative Session for the First Reading and Introduction of Legislative Bill # 2019-2, Chapter 152 – Roads, Bridges, and Rights-of-Way – Modifications from Specification and Design Standards for County Roads:** Ms. Visintainer stated that this bill is an act concerning specification and design standards for County roads; for the purpose of providing a process to allow modifications from the specifications and design standards for County roads under certain circumstances. She stated that the public hearing would be advertised for April 23, 2019 at 7:15 p.m. On motion by Commissioner Levensgood, seconded by Commissioners Franklin, the Commissioners approved Legislative Session for the First Reading and Introduction of Legislative Bill # 2019-2, Chapter 152 – Roads, Bridges, and Rights-of-Way – Modifications from Specification and Design Standards for County Roads to be introduced and have its public hearing held on April 23, 2019 at 7:15 p.m.

On motion by Commissioner Levensgood, seconded by Commissioner Franklin, the Commissioners moved out of Legislative Session and into open session.

2019 Legislative Session update: Sara Visintainer, Chief of Staff, updated the Commissioners on current bills that have passed in both the Senate and House. She stated that House Bill 190 which discussing septic legislative would be passed as well as the next generation 9-1-1 Bill. She stated that the personal property tax bill for solar was withdrawn.

**Consent Agenda: the following items were approved by unanimous vote**

- FY2020 BARM Grant Application for Body Armor Funding to the Caroline County Sheriff's Office
- Transfer of Local Housing Bond Allocation to Department of Housing and Community Development
- Employment Agreement Amendment (Bowden)
- P.O #2019-0436 and Accompanying Contract with Harper and Sons, for Construction of New Public Safety Building for \$3,981,900.00

**County Administrators Report:**

- Mr. Goldman stated that the County will be replacing the 911 phone systems, with the total cost being picked up by the 911 Board.
- He stated that the Town of Denton has requested additional fiber to be added to the existing MOU they currently have with the County, so they can run more fiber to the Board of Education.
- The appraisal price was finalized for the Steamboat wharf at \$3,250.00 and the Tech Park in Ridgely came in at \$1,950.00
- He informed the Commissioners that bids went out for the replacement of the HAPS building roof, which was damaged during a hail storm.
- He stated that he received plans from GMB to fix a drainage issue on Tuckahoe Road.

**Commissioners Open Discussion:**

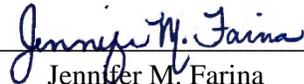
Commissioner Porter stated that he and Commissioner Levengood attend the funeral for former Governor Harry Hughes. He stated that Governor Hughes would be missed and was an asset to the community of Caroline County, which he called home.

Mr. Porter also stated that he would like to request to leave the Local Management Board (LMB) and have Mr. Goldman added as the designee.

Commissioner Porter called for public comment and Susy Stahlian, Choptank Villages, stated that she is a resident at Choptank Villages, and she and a number of neighbors have concerned about the new Choptank Nature Park that is being considered. She stated that she has looked at site plans and spoken to Sue Simmons from Recreation and Parks. She explained that the plans need to show the accurate wetlands that are located in the area, and meetings should be held so the community understand what will be happening in their neighborhood.

Mr. Robert Sayer, Greensboro Resident, stated that he has worked on filming events and meetings for a local podcasting company and he hopes to test his streaming and do a recording of the County Commissioners Meeting. The Commissioners stated that they would have their legal counsel discuss what the Commissioners could legally do, however Commissioner Franklin stated that he was not interested in podcasting meetings.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

  
Jennifer M. Farina  
Administrative Coordinator