

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

Minutes
April 6, 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: Dr. Simmons, Interim Superintendent of Schools, stated that he is honored to serve the county in his new capacity as Intern Superintendent. He stated today, Caroline County schools are excited to be welcoming back all the students to full in person attendance for 4 days a week. He stated that the school systems were able to meet all the CDC guidelines and they are continuing to appreciate all the support from the Commissioners and the Health Department during this time.

Laura Patrick, Health Officer, introduced the Board to Robin Cahall who has taken the position as Vaccine Coordinator for Caroline County. She stated that Ms. Cahall will be a wonderful addition. Ms. Patrick went on to state that there have been 6,420 fully vaccinated citizens in Caroline county, bringing the total percentage vaccinated to 25.7%. She stated that the vaccination team has had a busy week working with the FEMA unit to help administer J&J shots in the county. She stated that Caroline's positivity rate has slightly elevated due to the Easter holiday, however that is expected.

The commissioners stated that they remain extremely proud of the Health Department and the entire Caroline County Covid Response team as they continue to crush goals and advocate for the health and safety of their community. All three Commissioners stated that they are thrilled students are back in the classroom and they feel that is a huge accomplish for Caroline.

Anna Sierra, Director, Caroline County Department of Emergency Services, stated she has been busy with the FEMA teams however she does not have an update this week. She stated that the FEMA Mobile Unit is in the Town of Ridgley. She explained that it's a large operation and we thought it best to find a space that met its needs and keep it there for the entire week. She stated that Caroline is the first county for the FEMA unit to visit so there were normal kinks to workout. The FEMA team have been great to work.

Sara Visintainer, Chief of Staff, updated the Commissioners on all public information regarding vaccinations. She explained that the big challenge is filling the spot on the mobile unit because there are still a lot interested it just takes a lot of time to get people in the spots due to scheduling limitations. She stated that they are continuing to push information through the call center and pushing information out through the Equity team to get as many spots filled.

Commissioner franklin stated that it seems a lot of people are in the know regarding the vaccine and the overall awareness seems to be getting out there.

FY2022Budget Workshop Requested Operating & Capital: Margaret Roe, Director, Office of Finance, presented the Commissioners with the requested Operating and Capital FY2022 budgets. The Commissioners discussed the Capital Request and Operating Request, and then turned their attention to discuss entering the agreement with Enterprise regarding the county's vehicle fleet.

Commissioner Levensgood stated he still had concerns moving forward however he stated that if he fellow board members felt it was the best decision to make, he would agree to move forward.

On motion by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Levensgood, the Commissioners moved to entire an agreement with Enterprise for the FY202111 Vehicle lease.

Discussion of Goldsborough House Property Transition & Exeter House Transition in Federalsburg

The Commissioners stated that they received a request from Lynn Keckler who currently runs His Hope Ministries, which is a homeless shelter in Caroline County. Ms. Keckler stated that she would like the County to transfer the property deed of the Goldsborough House located on Gay Street in Denton, over to the Ministries, in order for them expand their services for local residents. Ms. Keckler explained that His Hope Ministries currently has programs running that provide support for those 18-24 regarding life skills, financial literacy, and educational opportunities. She stated that the location would be extremely beneficial in pushing out more resources. Ms. Keckler also explained that she has been in closed contact with JOK Walsh who runs the Caroline County Historical Society, and she has had productive conversation with him regarding keeping the building historical.

Mr. Goldman stated that in order to transfer the deed of the Goldsborough House from County ownership, the Board would need to advertise the disposal of the property stating the terms, as well as do a formal vote.

Commissioner Levensgood stated that he makes a motion that in accordance with Chapter 24, Section 3, of the County Code, we dispose of the property located at 103 Gay Street Denton , Maryland and that the property be transferred to His Hope Haven for a compensation amount of \$0 dollars, seconded by Commissioner Franklin, the Commissioners unanimously approved the deed transfer of the Goldsborough House from Caroline County to His Hope Ministries.

Commissioner Porter stated that the Federalsburg Historical Society would like to take over ownership of the Exeter house. The Commissioners stated that they feel the historical society is the best place for the house and they would like it to be incorporated into the museum property located in Federalsburg. The Commissioner stated that they have been in close contact with the Glime family who runs the Federalsburg Historical Society.

One motion by Commissioner Levensgood, seconded by Commissioner Franklin the commissioners unanimously motioned that in accordance with Chapter 24, Section 3, of the County Code, we dispose of the property located at 406 Old Denton Road Federalsburg, Maryland and that the property be transferred to the Federalsburg Historical Society for a compensation amount of \$0 dollars.

Discussion of River Road Design Proposal, Ryan White, Director, Caroline County Public Works, stated that he has provided the Board with a cost of \$43,000 which will allow for the project to go through the final review by MDE and get permitting starting. He stated this will allow the project to move forward with a solid construction cost to move forward in a few months. Mr. White stated that this project would still be moving forward with Lane Engineering.

Commissioners Franklin stated that he agrees with Mr. White's recommendations on how to move forward and he feels they should start to act now in order to have the changes underway. Commissioner Porter stated that he wants to make sure that the public understand that in extreme high winds, or crazy storms River Road could still experience flooding. However, with this project moving forward a majority of the time, the flooding will be alleviated

Mr. White stated that the current time frame to get this project rolling is 5-6 months.

Caroline County Noxious Weed Advisory Board: Ryan White, Director, Public Works, and Jim Caolo, Plant Protraction and Weed Management, Maryland Department of Agriculture, provided the Commissioners with background on the past Caroline County Weed Advisory Board committee which was ultimately eliminated over the years. Mr. Caolo stated that the Advisory Board provided oversight to the weed control in the county and agriculture business, and he believes it would be in the best interest of the County to reinstate the committee. Mr. Caolo stated that he has discussed with Mr. White and more productive plan which would allow the committee to be self-sufficient.

The Commissioners stated that they agree it would be a good idea to get the committee up and running, and Commissioner Franklin suggested that the committee be made of several agricultural producers in the county in both the norther and southern ends. Mr. Caolo stated that he would bring back a more detailed description of how the committee would like and what members would be needed upon the final implementation.

Consent Agenda: the following items were approved my unanimous consent

- Minutes: March 16, 2021, March 23, 2021
- P.O #2021-0321 and Accompanying Contract, Rex Landscaping LLC, Mowing County Properties, \$54,345.00
- Agricultural Lease Agreement for South County Regional Park (Wright)
- Letter of Support for the Caroline County Library -FY2023 State Library Capital Grant Application
- GOCCP Law Enforcement Training Scholarship (LETS) Grant Application

County Administrator's Report

- Mr. Goldman stated that the county is currently looking for a new location for the vaccination site due to Circuit Court needing the use of the 4-H Park. He stated that staff is currently looking to partner with Shore Health to use the medical pavilion in Denton, and there has also been discussion regarding the mattress warehouse store front, located in the Denton Plaza. Mr. Goldman stated that this was an emergency procurement and he would need permission from the Board to allow him to sign off on the lease of a building that they deem fit for the daily vaccine clinics. On motion by Commissioner Levensgood, seconded by Commissioner Franklin, the board unanimously moved to allow Mr. Goldman to sign off on the emergency procurement lease.

County Commissioners Open Discussion Period:

Commissioner Franklin stated that he continues to receive more positive feedback regarding the vaccination process in Caroline county from citizens that have made it through the processes. The Commissioners stated that they continue to remain impressed by the efficiency and effort that had gone into this process.

Commissioner Levensgood stated that he helped work another shrimp event for a local fire department.

Commissioner Porter attended the Child Abuse Prevention event for CASA of Caroline. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and we have also lit up the courthouse blue.

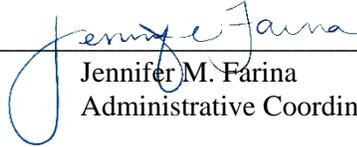
At 10:45 a.m. on motion by Commissioner Franklin, Seconded by Commissioner Levensgood the Commissioners unanimously moved into Closed Session to discuss the specific appointment or

employment of a county employee, under the 2014 Maryland Code, State Government 3-305 (b)(1)

At 10:55 a.m. on motion by Commissioner Levensgood, second by Commissioner Franklin the Commissioners moved back into open session to report out.

Presidents Report: Commissioner Porter stated that the Commissioners met in closed session to discuss the resignation of a specific county employee.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.


Jennifer M. Farina
Administrative Coordinator