

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

Minutes
April 20, 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, Caroline County Health Officer stated that she would like to address and issue that occurred over the weekend regarding Caroline County Little League. She stated that the Health Department was notified over the weekend that a person who was in attendance during the opening day ceremony and parade had tested positive for COVID-19 and that person had been in close contact with several people. Due to the large scope of the event, Maryland Department of Health (MDH) was consulted and the decision was made by the State to temporarily stop all practices and games. Pausing all games would allow the Health Department to finalize and contact everyone through contact tracing. Ms. Patrick stated that the President of Little League worked well with the Health Department and understood why these actions needed to be taken. Ms. Patrick informed the Board that all practices and games should be able to resume by the end of the business day. Ms. Patrick stated that there were several negative and misconstrued statements circulated social media regarding the Health Departments decision to pause Little League activities. Ms. Patrick stated that the Health Department nurses, and staff have been working 24/7 since the start of COVID-19 in Caroline County to ensure County residents have education, testing, and vaccine readily available to them. The goal of the Caroline County Health Department remains to keep the health and safety of the community as the top priority. Ms. Patrick stated that she took an oath to save lives and she will encourage her staff to avoid the negativity that is spread throughout the community due to the cancelation of events.

Ms. Patrick stated that currently we have given 9,429 first doses and 7,116 2nd doses with 21.2% fully vaccinated in the county. she stated that although the Johnson and Johnson (JANSSEN) vaccine was still put on hold by the CDC, they are full distributing Moderna and the Caroline County Public School System is getting ready to host Pfizer clinics for students 16+.

Anna Sierra, Director, Caroline County Department of Emergency Services, congratulated Ms. Patrick and the entire health Department staff on all their hard work. She stated with the positivity rates dropping and the total amount of vaccinated moving up, the DES department will start evaluating the statue for the EOC, which remains partially active at this time.

Dr. Derek Simmons, Interim Superintendent of Schools, stated that he wanted to take a moment to express thanks to the Health Department and stated that the schools would not be in the current position of having in-person teaching, if it wasn't for the support and help for the Health Department. He stated that the major news he has to share is that the school will soon be providing vaccine clinics to students 16+. He stated that he would like to thank the partnership with Choptank Community Health which is hosting the Pfizer clinics. Dr. Simmons stated that they are hoping to start clinics at the end of April.

Sara Visintainer, Chief of Staff, stated that everyone at the table has the same goal, which is to keep county residents safe and healthy through these changing and difficult times. She stated that many people on social media forget that there is a real person behind the screen reading these comments. Ms. Visintainer stated the

Public Information Team is continuing to push out vaccination clinics on the Covid website (www.carolinecovid19.org) as well as the Caroline County Department of Emergency Services Facebook and the County Twitter. She stated that they are currently posting the direct links to register for the clinics online. She stated that the County would be moving to direct scheduling for 2nd dose shots. Ms. Visintainer stated that the PIO team will be shifting their focus over the next few weeks to promote the opening of the Caroline Vaccination Center located in Denton Plaza, Legion Road, Suite 18. Commissioner Porter asked for more direction to be provided to the public regarding social gatherings and events such as parades. Ms. Visintainer stated that they would work on providing such guidance at an upcoming meeting.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Kristy Mirando, Director, Victim Services, For All Seasons Inc. presented the Board with a proclamation proclaiming April 2021 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Caroline County. Ms. Mirando stated that sexual assault is an intolerable violent crime and a serious public health issue that affects million of individuals each year. She stated that with the help from the citizens in Caroline County, they can help create a safe space for all in life as well as online. Ms. Mirando encourage all residents to work together to educate each other about sexual violence and its prevention.

Discussion on the FY2022 Tax Differential: Cathie Moore, Comptroller, presented the Commissioners with a summary sheet which explains the formula the county uses regarding the funds that are given to the municipalities. The Commissioners stated that they would like to keep the formula the same as the past years which would be the following for each town:

Denton: 0.06
Federalsburg: 0.09
Greensboro: 0.06
Hillsboro:
Marydel:
Preston: 0.01
Ridgely: 0.06
Goldsboro:
Henderson:
Templeville:

Workshop: Class Specifications: Sherry Bratton, Director, Caroline County Office of Human Resources, stated that she has provided updated class specification for the following job descriptions, as requested by the Board.

- County Attorney
- Director of Emergency Services
- Grant Assistance:

The Commissioners reviewed each class specification and stated that they felt all reflected their changes. The Commissioners asked staff to have an updated resolution prepared during their next meeting in order to approve the updated class specifications.

Consent Agenda: was approved by unanimous consent:

- [P.O #2021-0378, Alban Tractor, LLC, New Compact Track Loader, \\$ 108,661.62](#)
- [P.O #2021-0356 and Contract to Atlantic Emergency Solutions for Road Rescue Ultra Media Ambulance \\$ 216,579.00](#)
- [Resolution #2021-04, Designation of Resident Agent, Mary Berneski](#)
- [Governors Office of Crime Control and Prevention LETS Grant Acceptance, Caroline County Sheriff's](#)

Office.

- [FY 2021 Letter of Agreement between Caroline County and State Highway Administration for Noxious Weeds](#)
- [Non-Disclosure Agreement with Comcast and Caroline County](#)
- [Upper Shore Workforce Opportunity Act 2021](#)
- Appointment to Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board (Thomas)
- Reappointment to the Caroline County Trades Board (Veil)

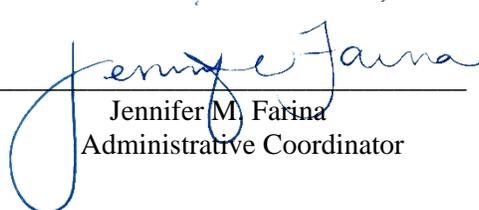
County Commissioners Open Discussion Period

Commissioner Levensgood stated that he was contacted by the Preston Lions club asking questions regarding the Preston carnival in May. He stated that they want to host the invite on a smaller scale with no food vendors. He stated that he would send more information to the regarding how they can plan that event when he received the direction.

Commissioner Franklin stated that all of them were able to attend the Choptank Cooperative Ribbon cutting for the first piece of broadband fiber to be established in the county. He stated that it was great the Governor was there to celebrate such a milestone in Caroline County.

Public Comment: The Commissioners received public comment from Vassiliki Lyras from Federalsburg. The commenter stated that they did not believe that the County should fund Chesapeake College, because Caroline County residents pay more to attend. They also asked about certain treatments for COVID-19, if the Health Department administers antibody tests prior to vaccination, and about any liability associated with the vaccine program. The commenter received a reply from County staff clarifying that Caroline County residents do not pay higher tuition to attend Chesapeake College and are considered residents, since the College is a regional entity. The Commentor was informed that: 1) any approved treatments for COVID-19 are accessed through a patient's healthcare provider. Some may only be offered in a hospital setting. The Health Department is not a direct primary care provider. 2) The Health Department does not administer antibody tests prior to vaccination. This is not a current FDA, CDC, or MDH requirement or recommendation. Anyone who has a question about if they should get the vaccine is advised to speak with their primary care provider first, as that is who is most familiar with their specific and individual medical history; and 3) Any questions regarding liability should be addressed to the Maryland Attorney General's Office. The Health Department is an entity of State government and therefore represented by the Attorney General's Office

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM



Jennifer M. Farina
Administrative Coordinator