

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
109 Market Street, Room 106
DENTON, MD 21629

Minutes
May 17, 2022

Present: President Larry C. Porter; Vice President Daniel J. Franklin, Commissioner Wilbur Levensgood, Jr.

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

Convocation by Reverend Don Reynolds.

There was no public comment.

Mark Sheridan, Director of Emergency Services - EMS Week Proclamation: Mark Sheridan, stated that May 15-21st is EMS week in Caroline County. Commissioner Levensgood thanked EMS for their hard work. Commissioner Franklin thanked the entire DES/EMS division. Commissioner Porter stressed his thanks to the men and women that server our County.

Stewart Barroll, County Attorney - 2nd Reading and Public Hearing - Legislative Bill #2022-003 – Chapter 175 – Zoning Map 61 – Repeal and Reenactment: Commissioner Levensgood made a motion to enter the public hearing. Commissioner Franklin seconded. All three Commissioners voted to enter the public hearing. Mr. Barroll stated that this bill was on the request of Marshy Hope Properties LLC.; a zoning mistake was discovered, staff investigated and agreed that there was in fact a mistake. The Planning Commissioner greed that this needs to be rezoned as a correction. Ryan Showalter, Esq. spoke on behalf of Marshy Hope Properties, LLC. thanking the Commissioners and staff for working with his client to correct the mistake so they can expand operations. There was no additional comment. Commissioner Franklin made a motion to bring the bill before the Commissioners on June 21st and to end the public hearing. Commissioner Levensgood seconded. All three Commissioners voted to have this bill placed on the June 21st consent agenda and to close the public hearing.

Daniel Fox, Director of Finance – FY2023 Capital and Operating Budget Discussion: Commissioner Levensgood asked if we are going to put anything for LOSAP in the budget? Mr. Fox stated that he and Mr. Goldman the recommended to wait for FY2022 to close before a decision is made on how much to allocate. Mr. Fox also stated that he is still waiting for the final numbers to determine the best plan to complete full investment of the LOSAP fund. Mr. Fox stated there is an increase of payments in the budget, but nothing yet for the investment plan. Commissioner Porter stated that the Commissioners received an email from the Fiber Arts folks regarding a funding request in the amount of \$5,000.00. Commissioner Franklin and Mr. Fox stated that the Town of Denton owns the property that the email was referencing. The Commissioners agreed that the Fiber Arts folks should contact the Town of Denton for funding as of today as the County’s budget process is almost finalized and there isn’t enough information

to decide this late in the process. Mr. Fox stated that he was looking for direction to draft the resolutions to complete the budget for FY2023. All three Commissioners stated they were fine with the numbers and to prepare resolutions to be adopted during June 7th meeting.

Sherry Bratton: Ms. Bratton stated that she provided the updated versions to the Commissioners via email and asked if the Commissioners preferred her to bring these back when all the other resolutions were ready for approval. The Commissioners agreed.

Consent Agenda: (All three Commissioners voted unanimously): Commissioner Franklin made a motion to pass the 2-1-22 closed session minutes with his mentioned amendments. Commissioner Levengood seconded. All Three Commissioners voted to approve the consent agenda with the amended minutes. Commissioner Levengood made a motion to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda. Commissioner Franklin seconded. All three Commissioners voted to pass the consent agenda.

- Minutes – Open & Closed Sessions – February 1, 2022, March 1, 2022, April 19, 2022, May 3, 2022 & May 10, 2022
- Caroline County Recreation & Parks Advisory Board Reappointment – R. Harper
- [Resolution #2022-006 – FY2023 Tax Rates](#)
- [Resolution #2022-007 – Department of Recreation & Parks - Program Specialist II](#)
- McKinsey & Co. Opioid Litigation Retention Agreement
- [Purchase Order #2022-00000345 – SHI – Microsoft Enterprise Agreement Subscription](#)
- Medical Director Employment Contract – J. Uribe, MD.

County Administrators Report – Jeremy Goldman: Mr. Goldman had nothing to report.

County Commissioners Open Discussion: Commissioner Levengood stated that he attended Curtis Andrew's 50th Business Anniversary. Commissioner Levengood stated that we (the County) purchased a roll off truck and is still in possession of the 20-year-old truck. Commissioner Levengood wants to know why the County still owns it? Commissioner Levengood made a motion to sell the older roll off truck. Commissioner Franklin stated that he believed there is a process for disposing of County equipment. Mr. White (Director of Public Works) logged in via Zoom to discuss the reasoning. Mr. White stated that they use the older roll off when the newer one is out for service or repairs. It is cheaper to keep the older truck than to contract out services when the new truck is out of commission. Commissioner Levengood expressed his extreme disapproval of this decision and stated it needs to be sold. Commissioner Franklin stated that he believes that Mr. White is doing his job as hired to do and if he believes that this truck is needed, then the County should keep the truck. Mr. Levengood disagreed.

Commissioner Franklin stated that must meet with someone about a road's complaint. He stated that he is not expecting much as it was just resurfaced and is a low traffic road, so the chip has not had a great chance to settle into the tar properly yet. Commissioner Porter asked for the status of the Police Accountability Board (PAB) Resolution. Mr. Barroll stated that it is almost ready to be adopted. Commissioner Porter stated that this Board is going to cost the County money and that

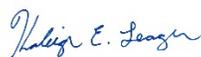
those funds will have to come out of the contingency fund for the remainder of FY2022. FY2023 has \$50,000.00 allocated for the PAB. Commissioner Porter stated that he did research on the number of municipal officers in relation to County deputies; 31 municipal officers and 40 sheriff deputies. Commissioner Porter stated that he has no proof to back this assumption but believes that interactions with citizens occur more often with municipal officers more so than with sheriffs' deputies. Commissioner Levensgood stated it is another unfunded mandate. Mr. Barroll stated that the training curriculum is supposedly coming mid to late June, right before implementation date is due (7/1/22). Commissioner Franklin explained the issues that the police training commission impose and are facing. Administrator Goldman stated that he was on a call with other County Administrators through MACo and stated that they (the other Counties) will adopt the resolution before the timeline but are waiting to implement the board until after the training information is provided. Commissioner Franklin stated that the board is supposed to be implemented by July 1. Commissioner Franklin asked Mr. Barroll if they are we supposed to implement a board without training if a complaint comes in the day after the board is supposed to be formed? Mr. Barroll stated we cannot put untrained people in charge of appointing the charging committee or to make decisions as impactful as this board is tasked with. The Commissioners agreed that they are not willing to proceed with any hearings unless they have a board of trained members who will be making decisions that affect a person's livelihood.

Commissioner Porter stated that he met with residents who live close to Hannah Henry way outside of Ridgely where there is a blighted and abandoned property. Mr. Fox stated the tax lien was purchased last year over the counter and the property owners are deceased, leaving no will or estate. Mr. Fox also mentioned there was 7 years of back taxes owed. Commissioner Porter stated at some point the County is going to need to have a housing authority. There are funds that the State sends us that we return because we do not have a housing authority. Commissioner Levensgood stated he plowed that street and knows where this property is. Mr. Barroll stated that it is a national problem and there is drafted legislation that has some movement regarding "heired property"; possible ability to condemn the property via emanate domain. Mr. Fox stated that someone has started the foreclosure process, but unsure of how far along it is in the process. Commissioner Porter stated that the ditches need to be cleaned out, and that is something that can be done by the County. Mr. Goldman stated the County just did something like this not too long ago where the County forgave the debt to allow it to be sold when the back taxes owed are more than the value of the property. He stated that it is a time-consuming process.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Franklin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Levensgood seconded. All three Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



Kaleigh Leager
Executive Assistant to the County Commissioners