

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

Minutes
February 16, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM.

COVID-19 Response and Recovery Update:

Laura Patrick, Health Officer. Ms. Patrick provided an update on the COVID response. Testing for this week has changed due to a significant decrease in requests. Tuesday testing will be at the HAPS building and wellness center school testing will be on Wednesday at Greensboro and Federalsburg Elementary. Vaccinations were cancelled last week due to the weather so the Health Department will be administering approximately 1000 doses this week. We have received to date approximately 2900 doses and administered approximately 2779. 12.1% of the population of Caroline County has received their first doses. The Commissioners thanked all who are working in the call centers and vaccination clinics.

Heather Guerieri, Compass Hospice. Ms. Guerieri presented the Commissioners with a slideshow of some of the accomplishments of Compass over the past year. She stated that Compass Regional Hospice has changed its name to Compass, which encapsulates all three of their service lines – hospice care, supportive care and grief services. She stated that Compass served a total number of 619 patients last year with 183 of those being in Caroline County. They were able to complete renovations to the Centreville Hospice House. They will begin their Capital Campaign later this year to raise funds for the construction of the new Caroline facility.

Workshop: Discussion of Enterprise Equity Leasing Program

Mr. Goldman advised that he has met with each County department that would be affected by the change to Enterprise Equity Leasing program for vehicle replacement. All Department Heads, as well as the Sheriff, are in favor of moving the County's light vehicle replacement into this program. Mr. Goldman stated that both the overall savings and predictability of long-term costs make this an excellent tool for the County to finish updating the fleet. Mr. Goldman presented three scenarios for entering into this program:

Scenario 1) Year 1, 17 vehicle replacement plan.

- Commissioner Franklin made a motion to proceed with the 17 vehicle plan. No second to that motion was received.

Scenario 2) Year 1, 11 vehicle replacement plan.

- Commissioner Porter made a motion to proceed with the 11 vehicle plan. No second to that motion was received.

Scenario 3) Year 1, 6 vehicle replacement plan.

- No motion was received.

Ryan White, Director of Public Works. Mr. White presented the Commissioners with a memo outlining the following Capital project requests:

- 1) Hot mix Asphalt heated holding box on a trailer -- \$55,000
Skid Steer with required attachments and trailer --\$130,000

After some discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Franklin to purchase the hot mix asphalt heated holding box and the skid steer, while renting the asphalt roller for larger jobs that require that machinery. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Porter. Commissioner Levensgood opposed.

Consent Agenda: The following items were approved by unanimous consent:

- Minutes, February 9, 2021 County Commissioners Meeting

County Administrators Report:

Mr. Goldman clarified with the Commissioners that outside counsel will not be present at the Commissioners Meetings unless specifically requested and that they will remain on stand-by mode until needed.

Open Discussion Period:

Commissioner Levensgood stated that he has been busy reviewing all of the upcoming legislative bills. He congratulated Ms. Price on her appointment to the District Court bench and stated that he was excited and very proud her. He concluded that it was an excellent choice for the next Judge and wished her well.

Commissioner Franklin stated that he has been receiving a lot of feedback from the Law Enforcement Community on State Bill 627 which is a repeal of Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights. He stated he opposes the bill. Commissioner Franklin congratulated Ms. Price on her appointment to the bench and stated that she will be sorely missed.

Commissioner Porter stated that he received an email from Jok Walsh about the Goldsborough House. Mr. Walsh wants to ensure that the County preserves the property due to its Historical status. Commissioner Porter stated that he was on a zoom call with local leaders last week and they spoke about the School Resource Officer Bill. Commissioner Porter stated that he opposes that bill and we will continue to have the SRO's in our schools if the bill passes. Commissioner Porter addressed Mr. Price and stated that he is proud of her and the work that she has done for Caroline County. He stated that he will always work to support her in her new position.

In response, Ms. Price addressed the Commissioners. She stated that today is a bittersweet day and it has been an honor to serve as the County Attorney for the past eight years. She had enjoyed working through the challenges and has always been impressed with the Elected Officials in Caroline County. In closing, she stated that she will always work hard to be the best Judge that she can be.

No public comment was received.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Mary Berneski

Mary Berneski
Paralegal