

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY
Greensboro VFC Community Hall, 13781 Greensboro, Maryland

MINUTES
May 14, 2019

Present: President, Larry C. Porter; Daniel J. Franklin, Vice President; Wilbur Levensgood Jr., Member; County Administrator, Jeremy Goldman; and Jennifer Farina, Administrative Coordinator

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, President Porter called for public comment; and there was none.

Special Presentation: National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week Proclamation: Captain James Henning, Caroline County Sheriff's Office, presented the Commissioners with the 2019 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week Proclamation.

Budget Overview, Daniel Fox, Office of Finance: Mr. Fox gave a brief presentation on the overall Operating and Capital FY2020 proposed budgets and process. Mr. Fox explained that both internal and outside agencies play a role in finalizing the budget. He also stated that over \$15.1 million dollars of the budget is mandated to State agencies such as the Board of Education and State departments. He stated that there was no proposed increase in the property tax rate this year for Caroline County residents. Employees would be receiving a pay raise of 3% or \$2,000, whichever is higher, while maintaining existing benefits. One of the additional major budget initiatives was funding four additional school resource officers, so every school campus would have a dedicated law enforcement presence. Mr. Fox stated that the Commissioners were able to balance this year's budget while still being committed to public safety and all Caroline County employees.

Budget Hearing: Proposed FY2019 Capital and Operating Budgets

President Porter welcomed everyone to the final budget hearing for the Operating and Capital Budgets for the fiscal year 2020. The following is a summary of testimony received:

Dr. Coppersmith, Chesapeake College, thanked the Commissioners for their continued support for the College, and announced that David Harper would be the new Vice President of Academics for the College.

Cody Rzucidlo, Caroline Fraternal Order of Polic, thanked the Commissioners for all they do for their community. He stated that he and the FOP and well as all members of the Caroline County Sheriff's Office extend their thanks for the investment and dedication the Board has made to public safety in the FY2020 budget. Mr. Rzucidlo stated that Caroline County is fortunate to have such great leadership.

Ann Schuler, Denton Resident, thanked the Commissioners for funding Upper Shore Aging in the FY2020 budget. She stated that Caroline County treats their elderly population with excellent care and attention and is proud to be a Caroline County resident.

Dr. Patty Saelens, Superintendent, thanked the Commissioners for having such a strong and committed partnership with the Board of Education. She stated that she knows a majority of their budget is mandated to the Board of Education, however she is grateful for the working relationship both have in order to do what's best for the safety of Caroline County's students and community.

Milton Nagel, Assistant Superintendent, stated that it is always a pleasure working with the Board and all of the staff and employees in Caroline County. He thanked the Commissioners for their commitment to public safety and allowing funding for School Resource Officers, as well as funding for the construction of the new Greensboro Elementary School, which will be the first new school to be built in Caroline County for the past 40 years.

Jessica Mims, Big Brothers Big Sisters, stated that she is grateful for the support the Commissioners gave to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Eastern Shore. She stated that she has been apart of the non-profit since 2005 and she looks forward to working with the Commissioners in the future to help the youth of Caroline County.

Bob Chapel, Ridgely Resident, stated that he follows the budget process closes each year. He explained that this year funding has gone up with the County receiving a little over an extra \$5 million in additional revenue over the FY 19 budget. Mr. Chapel suggested that the Commissioners save more of the money instead of allocating to non-profits and spending more in general. He explained that he believes the Commissioners do a good job, however he feels non-profits don't need to be funded by the County.

Sue Simmons, Recreation and Parks, Ms. Simmons stated that demands of services are growing each year. She stated that she thanks the Board for their support to Recreation and Parks when the Department wasn't sure they would receive their grant funding. Ms. Simmons explained that the Recreation and Parks team are looking forward to the future projects in Caroline County.

President Porter stated that if anyone who would like to speak that had not signed out to testify, to please come to the podium. With no further comment from the audience the Commissioners gave their remarks regarding the proposed budget.

Commissioner Franklin stated that he wanted to thank all the County staff, with emphasis on the Office Finance and the Tax Office. He explained that every year the budget process in an adventure that is not easy to navigate, however with the help of the exceptional budget staff of Caroline County, the Commissioners are able to tackle the task. Mr. Franklin explained that the FY2020 budget reflects the Board's continued commitment to public safety, as well as the strong partnership with the Board of Education to enhance the safety of all public school students. Budgeting for SROs in all schools was top priority for him, as well and allocating funds for the new elementary school. He stated that as his fifth budget, he feels it never gets easier, however the devoted partnership with each county department and outside agencies continues to grow stronger.

Commissioner Levensgood, stated that he is grateful the Board was able to fund the new elementary school as well as new SROs. He stated that public safety will allows be a top priority for him as a Caroline County Commissioner. Commissioner Levensgood also expressed his gratitude for the Finance and Tax Office staff, and all the employees who help make the budget process run smoothly each year.

Commissioner Porter stated that he wanted to thank people like Mr. Chapel who attend Commissioner Meetings regularly, and who pay attention to the budget process and County projects. He stated that he understands Mr. Chapels frustrations and although they don't always agree, he appreciates the effort and time Mr. Chapel gives to his community by attending these forums. Mr. Porter stated that although the County did have extra funds this year, the money was spent on valuable resources such as the new elementary school, new Sheriff's Office, and public safety by adding school resource officers to all schools. He stated that as an elected official he feels it is always his job to do what is best for the safety of the children and community of Caroline County, and he feels the FY2020 budget reflects those efforts. As always, he extended his thanks to the Caroline County team of staff and employees who continue to work together each year to balance this budget as a family.

The Commissioners closed the hearing on the FY2020 Proposed Operating and Capital budgets.

Public Hearing: FY2020 Constant Yield Tax Rates

Cathie Moore, Comptroller, stated that the County Commissioners of Caroline County, Maryland, proposes to increase real property taxes. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2019 the estimated real property assessable base in the unincorporated areas of the county will increase by 1.5%, from \$1,725,793,186 to \$1,751,707,354. If Caroline County maintains the current tax rate of \$.98 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 1.5%, resulting in a \$253,959 increase in real property tax revenues. To fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate could be decreased to \$.9655, the constant yield tax rate. The same information for municipalities is shown on the attached chart.

Need to add Chart-

Commissioner Porter stated that no one signed up for the public hearing and asked if any members from the audience would like to speak. No one came forward. The Commissioners stated that the tax rate would be set on May 28, 2019 during their normal commissioners meeting at 6:00 PM at the County Commissioners Hearing Room, Courthouse, 109 Market Street, Room 123, Denton, Maryland

The Commissioners closed the hearing on the FY2020 Constant Yield Property Tax Rates.

Public Hearing: FY 2020 Municipal Real Property Tax Differential Rates

Commissioner Porter announced the proposed municipal property tax differential rates, which are also summarized in the chart above. He stated that no one signed up for comment, however he welcomed anyone in the audience to give testimony. No one came forward.

The Commissioners closed the hearing on the FY2020 Municipal Real Property Tax Differential rates.

The Commissioners convened their regular meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensood, the Commissioners moved into Legislative Session for the **Fourth Reading and Potential Enactment 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 specification and design standards for County roads under certain circumstances; by adding a new 152-8.B. to the Code of Public Local Laws of Caroline County, Maryland. She stated that a public hearing was held on this bill on April 23, 2019 and it was introduced on March 26, 2019. On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levensood the Commissioners unanimously voted to enact Legislative Bill #2019-2, Chapter 152 –Roads, Bridges, and Right-of Way—Modifications from Specification and Design Standards for County Roads, with an effective date of June 28, 2019.

Consent agenda: The following items were approved by unanimous consent.

- Resolution #2019-009, Amendment to Caroline County Personnel Rules and Regulations, Class Specifications for Caroline County Office of Human Resources

- Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement (CRA) Application for Child Support Enforcement Funds
- P.O. #2019-514 and Accompanying Contract to Communications Electronics, Inc. for Contracted Services in the Amount of \$89,545.96
- Standard Sealed Bid Form, Mack Contracting Inc. for the Benedictine's Homes
- Amended Professional Services Agreement for Medical Care Services to the Department of Corrections
- State of Maryland Department of Agriculture Agreement with Caroline County for the Control and Eradication of Noxious Weeds
- Agreement Schummer and Caroline County for the Detention Center Pump Station Upgrade
- Project Agreement Land and Water Conservation Fund Assistance, Marydel Community Park

Action agenda:

- Employment Agreement for Warden (Scott)

On motion by Commissioner Franklin, seconded by Commissioner Levengood, the Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the Employment Agreement with Charles Scott to serve as Warden of the Caroline County Detention Center. The Commissioners welcomed Mr. Scott to Caroline County and stated that they look forward to working with him in his new role as Warden.

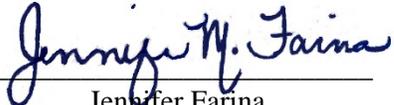
County Administrator's Report

- Mr. Goldman stated that he and Ms. Visintainer met with State Highway Administration to discuss issues with River Road flooding. He stated that stormwater drainage would be added to the design. They also spoke about the traffic lights and stated that timing would be changed during special school activity and rush hour to decrease the congested area. Mr. Goldman stated that SHA also stated they would add rumble strips to Route 404 and modify the flashing red lights that alert drivers.
- He stated that the tar chip project has started, and the Public Works team will evaluate if this is the route they want to take for all road resurfacing.
- Mr. Godman ended by explaining that the County is working with Beth Brewster to look for property that can be used in the future for the Farming for Hunger initiative.

Commissioners Open Discussion:

President Porter called for public comment and member from the Exquisite Basketball Team stated that they are a non-profit organization that allows youth from 8-18 years of age learn skills on and off the basketball court. They stated that they are volunteer based, and they hold fundraisers to provide funds for uniforms and rental fees for basketball courts. They stated that they have a \$400.00 shortage of funds to allow for uniforms to be purchased for the next tournament. They thanked the Commissioners and Caroline County for supporting Exquisite and hoped they could help them find funds for the next tournament in June. The Commissioners stated that they would work finding funds for tournament uniforms.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


 Jennifer Farina
 Administrative Coordinator