



CAROLINECOUNTY
you belong here
CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

LARRY C. PORTER, PRESIDENT
DANIEL J. FRANKLIN, VICE PRESIDENT
WILBUR LEVENGOOD, JR., COMMISSIONER
109 Market Street, Room 123
Denton, Maryland 21629

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 20, 2020

Caroline County Commissioners Announce Weekly Public Meetings to Be Conducted by Conference Call

The Caroline County Commissioners have announced changes to their public meeting schedule, as well as a plan to hold all meetings by conference call. The meeting modifications are in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Commissioners are strongly urging all residents to practice social distancing and to stay home whenever possible," said County Commission President Larry Porter. "The Commissioners need to lead by example, which means we will have to make some changes to the way we do business."

Beginning this coming Tuesday, March 24 and continuing until further notice:

- The Commissioners will meet every Tuesday at 9:00 AM. Evening meetings will not be held.
- All meetings will be held by conference call.
- Agendas will consist only of consent/action material that is time sensitive and/or directly related to essential functions.
- A weekly COVID-19 response update from the Emergency Operations Center's Unified Command will also be provided.
- All other public presentations or departmental updates will be postponed.

Conference Call Information:

- To participate in the conference call:
 - Please click this URL to join: <https://zoom.us/j/300062187>
 - Or join by phone: 888-475-4499 (Toll Free) or 877-853-5257 (Toll Free)
 - Webinar ID: 300 062 187
- The public will be allowed to listen in to the calls but will be muted in order to eliminate background noise.
- If possible under the circumstances, public comment will be permitted at the sole discretion of the President of the County Commissioners. Under Maryland Open Meetings law, the public doesn't have a right to speak, but only to observe the meetings.
- The Commissioners will take roll call by name and announce which staff are participating directly in the meeting.
- All speakers, including the Commissioners must announce their name each time before they speak. This means before asking a question or making a statement, the person must state their last name.
- Any document being voted on by the Commissioners will be linked on the agenda in advance wherever possible in order to facilitate public understanding of items that will be voted on or discussed.

"This is a new process for us and there is a bit of a learning curve for conducting public meetings this way," said Public Information Officer Sara Visintainer. "I'm sure there will be some technical glitches to start, but we ask that the public be patient with us." Visintainer noted that the Commissioners' priority is preserving a means of public access to their meetings while exercising social distancing measures.