

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday, February 5, 2019

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened at 9:02 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq., President, County Commissioner
Bobby Rucci, Vice President, County Commissioner
Gilbert O. Bowling, III, County Commissioner
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed., County Commissioner
Mark Belton, County Administrator
Danielle Mitchell, Acting County Attorney
Carol A. DeSoto, Acting Clerk to the Commissioners

Open Session

Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance

Proclamation 2019-03 Red Dress Sunday

The Commissioners proclaimed February 10, 2019, as Red Dress Sunday in Charles County for awareness of women's heart disease. Proclamation 2019-03 was received by Ms. Jehnell Linkins and Ms. Carmella Watkins, Southern Maryland Chain Chapter, The Links, Inc.

Proclamation 2019-04 Financial Empowerment Day

The Commissioners proclaimed February 9, 2019, as Financial Empowerment Day in Charles County to help residents with free financial resources. Proclamation 2019-04 was received by members of Southern Maryland Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope (CASH) Coalition.

Commissioners' Comments

The Commissioners welcomed Mark Belton, County Administrator.

Approval of the Minutes of January 29, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of January 29, 2019.

Notice of the Preliminary Agenda of February 12, 2019

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Acting Clerk, announced the tentative agenda for February 12, 2019.

Approval Items

There were no approval items.

Closed Session

At 9:30 a.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to go into closed session pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss one (1) employment issue and to discuss appointments to seven (7) Commissioner Appointed Boards: Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Committee, Commission for Veterans Affairs, Library Board of Trustees, Homeowners Association Dispute Review Board, and

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Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Board. The Reason for closing is to keep employment records confidential and to protect applicants' confidential applications in order to preserve the ability to attract applicants.

3-305(b)(1) Personnel

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Danielle Mitchell, and Carol DeSoto.

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Acting County Attorney, reviewed an employment issue at a Charles County Agency.

3-305(b)(1) Personnel

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Danielle Mitchell, and Carol DeSoto.

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Acting Clerk, provided an overview of applicants for vacancies for the following Commissioner-appointed boards:

1. Planning Commission - a consensus was reached related to the appointment to this board; and to continue the process to further evaluate applicants.
2. Board of Appeals - a consensus was reached to continue the process to further evaluate applicants.
3. Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Committee – a consensus was reached related to the appointment to this committee.
4. Commission for Veterans Affairs – a consensus was reached related to the appointment to this commission.
5. Library Board of Trustees- a consensus was reached related to the appointments to this board.
6. Homeowners Association Dispute Review Board- a consensus was reached related to a member no longer meeting membership requirements for this board; and a consensus was reached related to the appointments to this board.
7. Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Board - a consensus was reached related to the appointment to this board.

The Commissioners' official action, on these appointments, was taken in open session on this day, February 5, 2019, as reflected in Action on Boards, Commissions and Committees of these minutes.

At 10:21 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end closed session.

The Commissioners returned to open session at 10:50 a.m.

Briefing and Request for Approval: Deer Management at Maryland Airport, Indian Head, Letter of Acknowledgement

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Acting County Attorney explained that a letter of support was being requested as part of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Deer Cooperator permit which would allow lethal deer removal outside of the regular hunting season for public safety. She stated that the Charles County Sheriff's Office reviewed the Deer Management Plan and had no concerns with the plan as provided. Mr. Bob Finson, permit applicant, reiterated the need for this letter as part of the State's permit process.

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A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to instruct the County Attorney's Office to send a letter of support of the Deer Cooperator Permit Application for the Maryland Airport.

Briefing and Request for Approval: Forming a Rural Land Use Designations Task Force

Commissioner Bowling commented on how important he felt this proposed task force was for the rural and economic landscape of the County. He felt, in respect to the concerns raised by some of the Commissioners, that it was important to have a more open discussion about this task force as part of the Commissioners goals and objectives. He recommended that this discussion moved to the February 26, 2019 meeting at which time the Commissioners would discuss their goals and objectives. He also requested that this proposal be brought back for a final vote at the March 5, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Stewart expressed concerns and opposition to this task force because she felt that the mission and goals of this task force were like that of the Planning Commission and the Southern Maryland Conservation Resource and Development Board and may conflict with their process. She does not feel that this task force is needed. She also expressed concerns about this task force having an open forum and on the record meetings.

Ms. Sandra Fitzgerald, Associate County Attorney, opined that this task force was not in conflict with the Planning Commission, referencing "Article XXVII, Amendments §297-447 Text Amendments" of the Charles County Comprehensive Plan, which outlines that text amendments may be initiated by any of the following: The County Commissioners, the Planning Commission, an agency of the County Government or any person.

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Acting County Attorney, clarified that this task force would be considered a public body and would have to adhere to the Open Meetings Act.

It was agreed that this discussion be continued at the February 26, 2019 work session on the Commissioners' goals and objectives. Commissioner Collins requested that the County Attorney be present for this discussion.

Department Briefing: Economic Development

Mr. Darrell Brown, Director, Department of Economic Development, provided an overview of Economic Development's mission, services and proactive approach to the five (5) year strategic plan. Mr. Brown explained that the department had three (3) functional program areas: to enhance the product; to execute effectively and to tell the story. Mr. Taylor Yewell, Redevelopment Manager, Department of Economic Development, spoke specifically about projects that would enhance Charles County, such as the Waldorf Station, Waldorf Urban Redevelopment Corridor; Maryland Airport; Indian Head and Benedict projects. He also expressed the need for the County to review the zoning around these project areas.

Ms. Lucretia Freeman-Buster, Business Development Chief, Department of Economic Development Department, reviewed the department's programs that help effectively execute its mission. These programs include, Business Retention & Expansion; Lead Generation; Minority Business Enterprise Program; Small and Local Business Enterprise Program; Loan Fund Update; Craft Beverages and the New Zoning Text Amendment related to Craft Beverages.

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Ms. Marcia Keeth, Deputy Director, Department of Economic Development, concluded the briefing with an overview of the various marketing tools developed and used including, monthly e-news, tool kits, lead generation tools, advertising, biweekly blogs, news releases and events. She also shared a brief video of the commercial used by Economic Development to help tell the economic development story. A tool kit hand-out was given to each Commissioner.

Commissioner Collins expressed the need for staff to measure and monitor the movement in the economy from where we are now and where we are at each year from now. He specifically addressed the movement related to the commercial tax indicators that indicated that Charles County was at fourteen-point two percent (14.2%) and the need to be at least eighteen percent (18%).

Department Briefing: Community Services

Ms. Dina Barelay, Director, Ms. Rita Wood, Chief of Housing Authority, and Ms. Lisa Furlow, Chief of Aging and Human Services, Department of Community Services, outlined the services the County provides that support the residents of Charles County across multi generations. It was explained that these services are provided in partnership with community partners in the public, private, non-profit and faith-based sectors. These initiatives and programs include the Housing Authority, Aging & Human Service Programs, The Charles County Advocacy Council for Children, Youth and Families Programs and the Administration of the Historic Bel Alton High School Multi-Service Center and the proposed Medical Respite Program. It was noted that the Housing Choice Voucher program wait list has been reduced from over three thousand (3000) to about three hundred (300) people and expects to re-open the wait list again in 2019.

Commissioner Collins stressed the need for affordable housing and actual measures in accomplishing this. He invited Ms. Wood to participate in these future discussions he is working to establish related to affordable housing.

Mr. Mark Belton, County Administrator, suggested that one or two of the next department briefings be postponed helping get the agenda back on track time wise.

It was agreed to have the briefing from the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, but to reschedule the Department Briefing from Planning and Growth Management until another time.

Department Briefing: Recreation, Parks, and Tourism

Ms. Eileen Minnick, Director, Mr. Sam Drury, Chief of Recreation, Mr. John Snow, Chief of Parks and Grounds, and Ms. Kellie Hinkle, Chief of Tourism, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, provided an overview of the department and the programs offered. Mr. Drury spoke about the recreation programs offered which include aquatics, community center programs, indoor/outdoor sports, enrichment and leisure programs, birthday parties, recreation and competitive gymnastics, therapeutic programs, and summer camps. These programs are both fees based but also include a variety of free programs. Mr. Snow provided an overview of the Parks and Grounds that the County manages and maintains and the various locations through out the County. Ms. Hinkle reviewed tourism marketing and advertising; the economic impact of tourism; and some of the initiatives currently being used. She reviewed the branding project "Legends, Lore and Room to Explore." Ms. Minnick concluded the briefing mentioning the many partnerships that the Department of Recreation, Parks, and

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Tourism have established to keep expanding services for residents in the County. She noted how important media and advertising have been to the success of getting the information out to the public.

Department Briefing: Planning and Growth Management

To be rescheduled

Action on Boards, Committees, and Commissions

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to reappoint Wayne Magoon to the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Rucci, Coates, Bowling and Collins, voting in favor to appoint Wayne Magoon as the chairperson for the Planning Commission. Commissioner Stewart was opposed. The motion passed four to one (4-1).

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconding by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to appoint Shawn Wandell Jacks to the Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Committee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to appoint Tanya Barnett to the Commission for Veterans Affairs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling, and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to reappoint Danielle Staudt and appoint Vesselina Stoytcheva and Samantha Johnson to the Library Board of trustees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to reappoint Alan Harper and Tanya Butler and to appoint Donald Poole and Charity Rentzel to the Homeowners Association Dispute Review Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to appoint Timothy Wells to the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Board.

Commissioners' New Business

No new business.

Departmental Tours: Department of Economic Development; Department of Community Services; Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; and Department of Planning and Growth Management

Commissioners Collins, Bowling and Coates toured the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism and Department of Community Services. The Tour of the Department of Planning and Growth Management will be rescheduled. * *Commissioners Rucci and Stewart were not present for the tours.*

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At 3:10 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling and seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, and Collins, voting in favor to adjourn.
**Commissioners Rucci and Stewart were not present for the vote.*



Carol A. DeSoto, Acting Clerk



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

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FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

Location: Commissioners' Meeting Room

Date: February 5, 2019

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Coates

Seconded By: Commissioner Bowling

Vote to Close Session:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gilbert O. Bowling, III	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amanda Stewart, M.Ed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bobby Rucci	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION

General Provisions Article §3--305(b):

(1) To discuss:

(i) The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or

(ii) Any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

(2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business.

(3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

(4) To consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.

(5) To consider the investment of public funds.

(6) To consider the marketing of public securities.

(7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

(8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

(9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations.

(10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussions would constitute a risk to the public or public security, including:

(i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and

(ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.

FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

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- (11) To prepare, administer or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination.
- (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct.
- (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a proceeding or matter.
- (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiation strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

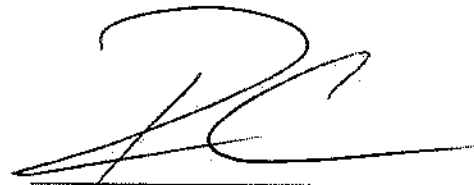
TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

3-305(b)(1) Personnel: Discuss Employment Issue at Charles County Agency

REASON FOR CLOSING: To protect the confidential information

3-305 (b) (1) Personnel: Discuss Appointments to seven (7) Commissioner Appointed Boards: Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, OPEB, Commission for Veterans Affairs, Library Board of Trustees, Homeowner Association Dispute Review Board, and Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board.

REASON FOR CLOSING: To protect applicants' confidential applications in order to preserve the ability to attract applicants.



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President