

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened at 9:05 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 2019-09 National Developmental Disabilities Month

The Commissioners proclaimed March 2019 as National Developmental Disabilities Month. Proclamation 2019-09 was received by members of the Spring Dell Center.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Collins recognized the success of the International Trade Seminary sponsored by the Department of Economic Development. It was held on March 14, 2019 with over fifty attendees.

Approval of the Minutes of March 12, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of March 12, 2019.

Notice of Tentative Agenda of March 26, 2019

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Acting Clerk, announced the tentative agenda for March 26, 2019.

Approval Items

Water and Sewer Projects No Longer Needed

Mr. Jake Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, reviewed a list of ten (10) projects in the Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Program that are currently funded, but are no longer needed at this time and can be closed. Once these projects are closed, staff will review all expenses recorded against these capital projects to determine whether they should be expensed or recorded as an asset. These projects are:

Water Projects

- *6106 White Plains South Water Line Improvement* can be closed since the residents have not moved forward with the petition process.
- *6107 Bensville Water Tower Number eight (8)* can be closed since we are moving forward with the Billingsley Road Waterline Extension (Project 6054) which will provide the redundancy and adequate water pressure at this time.
- *6108 Chapel Point Water Tower (Relocated)* can be closed since the project is not moving forward at this time.

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- *6110 Waldorf Fire House Water Tower Replacement* can be closed since it was determined that only two (2) new towers are necessary to meet the demand in the foreseeable future.
- *6115 Private Water System Interconnection* can be closed since this program is being discontinued and funding is not being utilized.
- *6123 Chapel Point/Bel Alton Water System and Tank* can be closed at this time and can be pushed out beyond the current five (5) year budget cycle.

Sewer Projects

- *7058 College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Wastewater Treatment Plant* can be closed since coordination and lack of urgency have prevented movement on the replacement of this treatment plant at this time. Efforts will continue to define a more unilateral plant replacement and future funding in FY2021-FY2025 Capital Improvement Program may be requested.
- *7104 Piney Branch Sewer Replacement (Upper Reaches)* can be closed since sewer modelling determined adequate capacity to accommodate the ultimate buildout flows.
- *7124 In-Line Sewer Equalization Study* can be closed since this project is no longer needed due to the construction of the Mattawoman Wastewater Treatment Flow Equalization project.
- *7125 Southwind's Pump Station Outfall Gravity Sewer* can be closed since it is not needed at this time since it was piggy backing on the Billingsley School Sewer project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve closing the projects as presented.

Draft letter of Support -Winstead Packing Plant Grant Application

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Acting Clerk, explained that this letter would support the grant application, through the Maryland Historical Trust, to fund the Winstead Tobacco Packing Plant's Market Feasibility Study to identify the best use of the historic Hughesville Barn. Ms. Desoto also mentioned that the Hughesville Business and Civic Alliance, Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), and Charles County Business Development Manger were in support of this grant application.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to send the letter of support.

Letters of Support Maryland Veterans Museum Grant Applications

Mr. Larry Abell, Maryland Veterans Museum Board Member, explained that the museum was applying for three (3) grants through the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium. These grants would support the development of the Middle East Gallery; seek matching funds from the W3R Maryland to link the Revolutionary War Trail through Charles County to the National Trail; and for the development of an Outdoor Pavilion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commission Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present voting in favor to send the three (3) letters of support.

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Update: 2019 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session

Ms. Daniëlle Mitchell, Acting County Attorney, informed the Commissioners that the first four (4) bills of the Charles County Legislative Package have moved into the Senate. House Bill 388 moved with the recommended amendment sent by the Commissioners.

1. House Bill 389 Charles County-Alcoholic Beverages- Resort Complex License

2. House Bill 388 Charles County-Alcoholic Beverages- View of Licensed Premises

3. House Bill 438 Charles County- Alcoholic Beverages- Golf Course Privilege

4. House Bill 400 Charles County- Alcoholic Beverages-Exemption from Off-Sale License Quota

5. Senate Bill 634 Electric Cooperatives-Powers- Conducting or Communications Facilities

Ms. Mitchell informed the Commissioners that this bill moved to the finance committee with amendments to ensure there was no cost to the customers and is expected to move to the House. She continued her review of the following:

6. House Bill 527 Public Health-Cottage Food Products-Definition and Sale

Ms. Mitchell reviewed the Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) amendments included with their letter of support. These included requiring labels on cottage food sold in a retail store to include: the phone number and email address of the business and the date the food product was made. They must also submit documentation of successfully completing a food safety course and must submit the documentation yearly.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present voting in favor to send a letter of support of this Bill.

7. Senate Bill 973 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Membership and Funding

Ms. Mitchell explained that there has been no formal action to withdraw it and it is still moving forward through the process. But has not crossed over to the House. St. Mary's County is in support of this Bill.

8. Senate Bill 845 Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project- Requirements and Funding

Ms. Mitchell advised that there was no information on this bill since the hearing held on March 13, 2019. Commissioner President Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq. testified in support of the bill.

9. House Bill 1051 Charles County- Landlord Tenant- Repossession for Failure to Pay Rent- Procedures

Ms. Mitchell explained that this bill has had no movement and has also not been formally withdrawn.

10. Senate Bill 1030/House Bill 1413 Kirwan Blueprint Education Bill

Ms. Mitchell informed the Commissioners that the Senate Bill was proposing about half of what the House Delegation has proposed. Ms. Mitchell will continue to track these bills as they have potential implications for the County.

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11. Senate Bill 280/House Bill 166 Fight for fifteen (15) - Minimum Wage Increase

Ms. Mitchell advised the Commissioners that the Senate Bill would have a gradual increase until 2025 and 2028 for small businesses. The House Bill is different with state funding subsidizing. Ms. Mitchell will continue to track these bills.

Briefing: Charles County Public Library-La Plata Branch Site Analysis

Mr. Kenneth Wayne Thompson, Interim Executive Director, Charles County Public Library, reviewed the La Plata Branch Site Analysis report and the site selection considerations. He pointed out the two (2) site selections in the report that the Town of LaPlata supported, both were for facilities with thirty thousand (30,000) to thirty-five thousand (35,000) square feet. He mentioned that the Library could apply for State Grants to help fund construction if the site was thirty thousand (30,000) square feet or larger. The County's current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) only includes funds for a fifteen thousand (15,000) square foot facility. Commissioner Stewart was opposed to the two (2) sites proposed in the analysis because the County would need to purchase the land in addition to funding construction of the Library. She mentioned a third site that was not included in this analysis. Commissioner Collins stated that the priority would be to pick the site location and then have a more detailed discussion about the building.

The Commissioners requested that staff return to provide more information on the third site on county-owned land, and for representatives of the Town of La Plata to share input on the site options

Briefing and Request for Approval: Charles County Commission for Women Bylaws

Ms. Maxine Somerville, Chairperson and Ms. Sarita Spencer, Vice Chairperson, Charles County Commission for Women highlighted the Commission's achievements presented in its Annual Report. Ms. Somerville requested staff support and funding to support their work. She also reviewed the redline version of their proposed changes to their bylaws which include minor revisions to the text, adding associate commissioners to the group, and shortening the length of commissioner terms. The Commissioners will consider approval of the proposed changes to the bylaws after the County Attorney reviews them. They will discuss staffing and budget needs during the fiscal year 2020 process.

The Commissioners directed the County Attorney to review proposed revisions to the Commission for Women's by-laws.

Briefing: Charles County Watermen Association

Mr. Bill Kilinski, President, Mr. Bobby Boarman, Vice President, and Mr. Francis Warren, Treasury, Watermen's Association, provided an overview of harvests from Potomac River fisheries in Charles County, including blue crab, stripe bass, catfish, gizzard shad, eels, and oysters. They highlighted challenges and proposed possible solutions for improving oyster harvests, such as partnering on strategies to improve stormwater management. The organization represents the interest of commercial fishermen, seafood processors, wholesalers and ancillary businesses in the seafood industry. Commissioner Collins expressed the need for continued dialogue with the watermen to look into catfish farming industry; sources for oyster planting and the legislation impacting the watermen.

**Break 11:03 a.m.-11:14 a.m.*

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Budget Work Session: Enterprise Funds, Operating and Capital Budgets

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director and Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services began the discussion explaining that Enterprise Funds provides services for a fee that makes the entity self-supporting. They further reviewed the anticipated revenues, expenditures, and requests for funding from the County's Enterprise Funds in the fiscal year 2020 budget. These included the Landfill Operations Fund with a total budgeted amount of nine million, six hundred and seventeen thousand, five hundred dollars (\$9,617,500.00); Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund with a total operating budget of four million, seven hundred and sixty four thousand, seven hundred dollars (\$4,764,700.00); Inspection and Review Fund with a total operating budget of four million, one hundred and fifteen thousand, eight hundred dollars (\$4,115,800.00); Recreation Fund with a total proposed budget of two million, two hundred and ninety nine thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,299,500.00); Cable Franchise Operations proposed budget of three million, eight hundred and seventeen thousand dollars (\$3,817,000.00); Water and Sewer Fund proposed budget of thirty nine million, six hundred and sixty thousand, four hundred dollars (\$39,660,400.00), and the Water and Sewer five (5) year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

**Break 12:29 p.m. – 2:06 p.m.*

Joint Meeting with the Board of Education: School Allocations

Mr. John Mudd, Assistant Chief of Planning, and Mr. Ben Yeckley, Planner II, Department of Planning and Growth Management joined the Commissioners and the Charles County Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Hill to review the summary and analysis of the proposed school allocations for the annual 2019 cycle. They discussed the formula used to recommend school allocations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adopt the proposed school capacity allocations as presented.

**Break 2:46 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.*


Discussion: Public Safety Collaborative Summit

Representatives from Charles County local public safety groups, including the Department of Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, State's Attorney's Office, Volunteer Fire Association, Emergency Services Association, Department of Health, Board of Education, and the Town of La Plata, joined the Commissioners to discuss fiscal and community priorities. Some of the identified areas were a need for increased staffing; technology and infrastructure investments; and growing demand for emergency response and emergency room care.


Commissioners' New Business

There was no new business discussed.

At 4:03 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.



Carol A. DeSoto, Acting Clerk



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President