

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners

Tuesday November 5, 2019

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened at 12:02 p.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
Wesley Adams, County Attorney
Carol A. DeSoto, Acting Clerk to the Commissioners

Charles County Economic Development 2019 Fall Meeting

Bond Sale: Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds of 2019

Electronic bids were received via PARITY®

Open Session

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

Closed Session

At 12:03 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to move into close session where all or a portion of this session may be closed pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(1)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to seek legal advice on one (1) negotiation agreement (1) Personnel Issue. The reason for closing is to keep legal, approaches and strategies confidential and to keep personnel information confidential.

Summary Closed Session Items

At 12:08 p.m. the Commissioners went into closed session.

3-305(b)(7) Legal Advice: Update on an Agreement

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, and Korey Blake, Joel Smith

**Mr. Korey Blake and Mr. Joel Smith stepped out of closed session at 12:14 p.m. and returned at 1:10 p.m.*

Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, provided advice on how to procedurally continue with proposed changes on a potential agreement and his recommendations on some of the language in the agreement.

Mr. Korey Blake and Mr. Joel Smith provided input on the agreement. This agreement will be brought back after further review by both parties.

**Break 12:43 p.m. – 12:51 p.m.*

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3-305(b)(1)(7) Personnel: Staffing

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Alexis Blackwell, and Crystal Hunt.

Commissioner Stewart queried staff related to personnel staffing.

At 12:53 p.m. Ms. Carol DeSoto, Acting Clerk, was asked to step out of closed session. Ms. Crystal Hunt, Chief of Staff, continued taking the minutes. Ms. DeSoto returned to close session at 1:10 p.m.

At 1:28 p.m. Commissioner Coates left session

At 1:30 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Rucci and Collins present, voting in favor to end close session. **Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

The Commissioners returned to open session at 1:36 p.m. **Commissioner Coates and Mark Belton were not present.*

Bond Announcement and Request for Approval: Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds 2019

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, and Ms. Cheryl O'Donnell Guth, Bond Counsel with McGuire Woods, LLP discussed the bids received for fifty-eight million dollars (\$58,000,000.00) of bonds proposed for sale by the County. Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. bid of two point two six eight two percent (2.2682%) was the lowest bid.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Rucci, Bowling, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the Charles County Consolidated Public Improvement Bond issuance with the newly numbered Resolution 2019-16 as presented. **Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

Recognition: Citation-United States Marine Corp Birthday

The Commissioners recognized members who served in the United States Marine Corp. Members of the Charles County Commission for Veterans Affairs received the citation recognizing the United States Marine Corp's two hundred and forty fourth (244th) birthday and honoring their service.

Recognition: Proclamation 2019-44 Veterans Day

The Commissioners proclaimed November 11, 2019 as Veterans Day in Charles County. Proclamation 2019-44 was received by members of Charles County Commission for Veterans Affairs and Charles County Government Employees who served in the military.

Commissioners' Comments

There were no comments.

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Approval of the Minutes of October 29, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners Bowling, Rucci, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of October 29, 2019, **Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

Notice of Tentative Agenda of November 19, 2019

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Acting Clerk, announced the tentative agenda for November 19, 2019.

Approval Items

These items have been rescheduled for November 19, 2019, the next scheduled session for the Board of County Commissioners.

Budget Work Session: Preliminary Board of Education Capital Budget Review and Request for Approval: Letter of Support to Interagency Committee for School Construction

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, and Mr. Steve Andritz, Director Planning and Construction, Charles County Public Schools, reviewed the preliminary Board of Education's Capital Budget request for State funded projects in Fiscal Year 2021. Ms. Ellin explained the projects that the County supports and are in the current County's FY2020-FY2024 approved Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). State funding for the La Plata High School Renovation, Security Enhancements and Circulation Upgrades project planning request is not being supported at this time since it is not included in the County's FY2020-FY2024 approved Capital Improvement Plan. Once you commit to State planning you commit to starting the project within two (2) years. Ms. Ellin furthered reviewed the letter of support needed to be sent to the Interagency Committee on School Construction by November 27, 2019.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Rucci, Stewart, Bowling and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the letter of support to the Interagency Committee on School Construction as presented. **Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

Commissioner Stewart stipulated that she does not agree with the Board of Education's request for building a new elementary school. She feels that a new middle school should be the priority. She requested that this be made clear to Dr. Hill and the Board of Education.

Commissioners' New Business

There was no new business discussed.

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Ms. Carol DeSoto, Acting Clerk, announced that following session the Commissioners were scheduled to attend Governor Hogan's presentation of the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Award at the Velocity Center in Indian Head, Maryland and the dedication of the Julie and Bill Dotson Imaging Center at the University of Maryland Charles regional Medical Center Pavilion in La Plata, Maryland.

At 2:03 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Rucci, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to adjourn.

**Commissioner Coates was 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: November 5, 2019

Time: 12:03 p.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Rucci

Seconded By: Commissioner Coates

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.

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(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 particular 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)(7) Legal Advice: Negotiations

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep legal approaches confidential

3-305 (b)(1)(7) Personnel Issue

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep personnel information confidential



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President