

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday, December 17, 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
Wes Adams, County Attorney
Susan C. Claggett, Clerk to the Commissioners
Carol A. DeSoto, Acting Clerk to the Commissioners, (Training)

Open Session

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

Recognition: New Employee Introductions, Employee Years of Service and Retirees for the Month of December

The Commissioners recognized new employees; those employees celebrating milestone years of service and retirees in the months of December 2019.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Bowling requested his comments from last week's minutes be struck regarding the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) Partnership letter, due to a perceived conflict of interest. He recused himself from all other discussions regarding the SMECO Partnership matters.

Notice of the Tentative Agenda of January 7, 2020

Ms. Susan Claggett, Clerk, announced the tentative agenda for January 7, 2020.

Commissioner Bowling left the Dais at 9:13 a.m.

Approval Items

Approval of Broadband Partnership Letter

Presenter: Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator and Acting Director of Planning and Growth Management.

Ms. Hall presented the final draft of the Broadband Partnership Letter for approval. She stated that all the requested edits from the Commissioners from last week's session, had been implemented into the present draft. Ms. Hall added that once the letter was signed by the Board of Commissioner, a copy of the letter would be forwarded to the County Administrator of Calvert County and the County Administrator for St. Mary's County both of who are considering sending a letter in support of the Charles County Board of Commissioners Broadband Partnership Letter to the Board of SMECO. Commissioner Stewart motioned to approve the Broadband Partnership Letter. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Coates, and passed.

Commissioner Bowling was not present for this vote.

Commissioner Bowling returned to the Dais at 9:17 a.m.

FY20 Budget Transfer - MWWTP Master Facility Plan Phase II #7293

Presenters: Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services.

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Mr. Dyer stated this is a request from the Public Works Utilities Department seeking additional funds of five hundred eighteen thousand dollars (\$518,000) to complete Phase II of the Mattawoman Waste Water Treatment Plant (MWWTP) Master Facility Plan. He added the presented budget transfer is an Enterprise Fund related to a Capital Improvement Project (CIP). Mr. Dyer explained that the MWWTP would benefit from the funding of the facility plan as it has experienced extremely high flow events and water quality issues causing concern for areas and processes within the plant. He clarified that the plan would focus on current process issues, coordinate recommended improvement with future CIP requests and current CIP improvements to ensure that the plant is improved as a whole.

Commissioner Bowling inquired if there was any correlation to the prior proposed improvements of the Water and Sewer Plant operational procedure and the timeframe of implementation of the improvements. Mr. Dyer responded by stating the current request is focused infrastructure improvements to improve the efficiency of operations and the timeframe of implementing the improvements would be 12 months.

Commissioner Stewart motioned to approve the FY20 Budget Transfer - MWWTP Master Facility Plan Phase II #7293, her motion was seconded by Commissioner Coates, and passed unanimously.

FY2020 Budget Transfer - EnerGov Licenses #7445

Presenters: Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services and Ms. Gina Markovich, Assistant to the Chief of CPIS, Planning and Growth Management.

Mr. Dwyer stated the request was from the General Fund to purchase five (5) additional licenses for the Health Department at the cost of seventeen thousand two hundred thirty dollars (\$17,230). The cost includes licenses for remote access for IT Department to assist the Health Department. Commissioner Stewart inquired as to whether the Director of the Health Department has offered a letter of support in an effort to ensure the funds would be implemented accordingly. Ms. Gina Markovich, Assistant to the Chief of CPIS, Planning and Growth Management, stated she has spoken directly with the Director of the Health Department and staff who have corroborated their support of these funds.

Commissioner Stewart motioned to approve the FY2020 Budget Transfer - EnerGov Licenses #7445, her motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowling, and passed unanimously.

Detention Center Intake Area #7343 & #7344 & BTR Memorandum

Presenter: Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services and Ms. Shanna L. Reese, Chief of Purchasing, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Mr. John Stevens, Chief of Capital Services.

Mr. Dwyer stated the necessity for the addition and improvements of the Detention Center Intake Area and Annex. He requested that both eBuds be voted on simultaneously.

Commissioners Bowling, Stewart and Coates collectively inquired about the bidding history for this project, and duration a bid remains active. Ms. Reese and Mr. Steven, offered brief history of the eBuds and stated February 2020 as the expiration date of the current bid.

Commissioner Rucci motioned to approve the *Detention Center Intake Area #7343 & #7344*, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Coates, and passed unanimously.

Chief Equity Officer #7346

Presenters: Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Ms. Alexis Blackwell, Director, Department of Human Resources.

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Mr. Dwyer stated the allocation of funding the Chief Equity officer position is one hundred thirteen thousand dollars (\$113,000), and the funds are available due to the increase of the income tax budget based on the FY2019 Budget end-year results.

Commissioner Collins stated the approval of the position is transformative to Charles County Government and in-line with the County's goals and objectives. Commissioner Stewart stated that she believes the County would benefit from approving the position, she remains opposes to approving the funding of the position because she believes the priority of the Board of Commissioners should be on the income raises of current employees.

Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling and Coates approved the *Chief Equity Officer #7346*. Commissioner Stewart opposed. The motion passed 4-1.

Briefing: Update RecAssist

Mr. Sam Drury, Chief of Recreation, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and Mr. Robert Jones, Recreation Services Administrator, Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

Mr. Drury gave an update on the Department's new program RecAssist, stating the program provides financial assistance for up to 400 low-income residents and senior citizens annually. Mr. Jones explained the program offers a RecPASS to those who qualify with a one hundred and fifty-dollar (\$150) credit on their RecPASS account to be used for the recreation programs within the County. He added he anticipates resident enrollment to continue to increase in the coming year.

Briefing: Update Status of Department of Planning and Growth Management

Presenters Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator and Acting Director of Planning and Growth Management, Ms. Sarah Sandy, Assistant to Chief of Planning, Mr. Ray Shumaker, Chief of Codes Permits and Inspections, Mr. Jason Groth, Planning Director, Jeffrey Barnett, Chief of Transit, Department of Planning and Growth Management.

Ms. Hall and staff highlighted the Department's progress in leading the department through a transition, filling several vacant positions, and administering resident outreach through the Citizens Academy. Ms. Sandy highlighted the benefits of Camino, a new software program that has been incorporated into the Planning and Growth Management Departments proving to be more efficient and offering the public a more user-friendly website. Mr. Shumaker expounded on the improvements in reviewing permits, meeting deadlines, implementing paperless processes, expanding land preservation efforts, and resolving complaints in a timely manner. Mr. Barnett highlighted the Department's progress in the design and engineering phase for a new transit operations and maintenance facility, adding a new service route, improving bus stops, and enhancing security and reliability of its bus fleet.

Closed Session

At 11:28 a.m., Commissioner Collins motioned to move into Closed 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 discuss appointments to Commissioner Appointed Boards: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments: Independent Policy Boards and Policy Committees, Commission for Veterans Affairs and Area Council on Aging. The reason for closing is to keep employment records confidential and to protect applicants' confidential information, to preserve the ability to attract applicants and to keep legal, approaches and strategies confidential. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Coates, and passed with Commissioners Collins, Bowling, Rucci, and Stewart voting in favor of the motion.

Closed session began at 11:28 a.m.

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Summary Closed Session Items

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Susan Claggett, Carol DeSoto.

1. Legal Counsel on Negotiation Agreement- The Commissioners were briefed and updated on the status of discussions concerning the proposed Joint Tri-County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the College of Southern Maryland's proposed budget amendment. They were joined by Dr. Murphy, President of the College of Southern Maryland to answer Commissioners' questions.
2. Personnel Matters- The Commissioners considered applicants to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments: Independent Policy Boards and Policy Committees, Commission for Veterans Affairs and Area Council on Aging.

At 12:43 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present voting in favor to end closed session and adjourn.

Susan C. Claggett, Clerk



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

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FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

Location: Commissioners' Meeting Room

Date: December 17, 2019

Time: 11:28 a.m.

Motion By: Collins Commissioner

Seconded By: Coates Commissioner

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

Appendix C C-2

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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 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