

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened at 1:31 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
Mark Belton, County Administrator
Wes Adams, County Attorney
Susan C. Claggett, Clerk to the Commissioners

Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed., County Commissioner was not present for session.

Board of Education's Recognition of Charles County High School Selected Student Pages

Commissioner Bowling and Commissioner Coates participated in the Board of Education's Recognition of Charles County High School Selected Student Pages, located at the Board of Education building.

Open Session

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

Recognition for the County by the Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition

Presenter: Ms. Uranus Mapson, Senior Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, Community Health Outreach Worker, Southern Maryland WIC Program, Charles County Department of Health.
Charles County Government, Commissioners and the Department of Human Resources were recognized with a Silver Star Award for the newly furnished Breastfeeding Room located in the County Government Building.

Recognition: Proclamation #2020-01 National Mentoring Month

The Commissioners proclaimed the month of January as National Mentoring Month in Charles County. Proclamation 2020-01 was received by Ms. Maranda Carlson and Ms. Kim Cook of Marketing and Communications VISTA/Maryland Mentor.

Commissioners' Comments

There were no comments.

Approval of the Minutes of December 10, 2020 and December 17, 2020

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, voting in favor to approve the minutes of December 10, 2020 and December 17, 2020.

**Commissioner Stewart was not present for this vote.*

Notice of the Tentative Agenda of January 28, 2020

Ms. Susan Claggett, Clerk, announced the tentative agenda for January 28, 2020.

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Approval Items

FY2020 Budget Amendment Increase #7464 – Plan Review

Presenters: 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. Dyer stated that this Budget Amendment Increase of two hundred thousand, nine hundred dollars (\$200,900) is pay for increased fees associated with a new plan review contractor. The County will use fund balance reserves from within the Inspection and Review Enterprise Fund to pay for the additional costs during this fiscal year and evaluate fee increases for next year.

Commissioner Coates requested a brief report of the bidding history of the project and whether negotiations were sought. Ms. Reese gave the bidding history and explained there was no opportunity for negotiations because there was only one proposal submitted and the vendor had quantified they were unable to provide the services for less than proposed. Ms. Reese pointed out that the previous bids to similar contracts, if compared, the vendor's fees are minimal and lower than neighboring jurisdictions.

Commissioner Bowling motioned to approve the FY2020 Budget Amendment increase #7464 – Plan Review, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Rucci, and passed.

**Commissioner Stewart was not present for this vote.*

College of Southern Maryland Letter of Support

Presenter: Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney.

Mr Adams stated the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) is seeking state legislation for authorization to develop a unified budget. He explained the letter initially dealt with 2 separate issues of budget and funding. He clarified there was no agreement between the counties regarding funding, however this request is only comprised of the budget proposal of which the Board of Commissioners' have given support.

Commissioner Rucci motioned to approve the College of Southern Maryland Letter of Support, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowling, and passed.

**Commissioner Stewart was not present for this vote.*

Legislative Updates

Presenter: Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney.

Ms. Mitchell presented the Commissioners with the first State Legislative update for the 2020 General Assembly Session, noting the 2020 Session convened under new leadership in both the House and the Senate for the first time in seventeen (17) years. She reported there were over 200 Bills introduced in the opening week of session. Ms. Mitchell gave a brief update on two (2) of the more fervid topics, Education Reform and Sports Betting, followed by an update on the ten (10) Charles County Commissioners' 2020 Legislative Proposals submitted last fall.

Ms. Mitchell stated that two (2) of the proposals, Amend Alcoholic Beverage to Allow Small Family Farm Wineries Ownership Interest in Small Family Owned Business Establishment That Sell Alcohol, and Amend Alcoholic Beverages Laws regarding Class D License, neither of those Bills were submitted for drafting, nor would there be any further updates. Ms. Mitchell reported these decisions were made by the Delegation.

Commissioner Bowling asked if the Delegates disagreed with these specific proposals. Ms. Mitchell answered that it appeared so. Commissioner Coates stated she did not believe the Delegation disagreed. The Board of Commissioners' directed Ms. Mitchell to inquire as to why the Delegation has decided to not draft bills on these two proposals. Commissioner Bowling requested Ms. Mitchell to inquire as to how many of the bills have been drafted and issued Bill numbers.

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Ms. Mitchell completed her update by reminding the Commissioners that updates will be provided at each session into April, letters of support will be brought directly to the Commissioners for signatures and offered to track items as deemed by the Commissioners.

Briefing: Salvation Army

Presenter: Lt. Chris Pachik, Salvation Army.

Lt. Pachik highlighted the many programs the Salvation Army offers in our community to those in need. He emphasized fundraising efforts, accomplishments in 2019, the purchase of a centrally located building in the county and the new programs focusing on the community's youth.

Briefing: Arts and Entertainment District for La Plata, MD

Presenters: Town of La Plata Mayor Jeannine E. James and Town Clerk, Ms. Danielle Mandalay.

Mayor James explained that she was seeking the preliminary support of the Board of Commissioners' to explore program options in the designation of the Town of La Plata to become an Arts and Entertainment District. She stated that the support and partnership of the Board of Commissioners was essential in moving forward in exploring program options and taking steps towards filing for Applicant for the Intent to Apply.

Commissioner Bowling motioned to approve the Town of La Plata's request of support to move forward in exploring program options and Application of Intent to Apply, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Rucci, and passed.

**Commissioner Stewart was not present for this vote.*

Briefing and Request for Letter of Support: Reliant Group Management – Application to HUD

Presenters: Mr. Jason Snyder, Vice President for Acquisitions for Reliant Group Management, Mr. Christopher Wilmot, II CAM, Regional Property Manager, Ross Management Services, Ms. Rita Wood, Chief of Housing Authority, Department of Community Services.

Mr. Snyder briefed the Commissioners on their pending application to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), requesting a letter of support that is required for the application process. Mr. Snyder stated that Reliant Group Management owns 3 different apartment complexes in Charles County, to include a mix of market-rate apartments that are subsidized by HUD project-based vouchers. He explained the purpose of the application is to request transfer approval from HUD to consolidate the budgets for Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contracts from 3 apartment complexes into one, ensuring reliability and availability of the funds in the future.

Ms. Wood presented the Commissioners the program background and explained how it fits into the current model. She opined this program enhances property, provides better living opportunities for low income residents and creates good quality affordable housing for the community.

Commissioner Coates motioned to approve the Request for Letter of Support for the Reliant Management Group, her motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowling, and passed.

**Commissioner Stewart was not present for this vote.*

Action on Boards, Commissions and Committees

Ms. Susan Ramsey-Claggett, Clerk to the Commissioners, announced this item is to be rescheduled.

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Resolution: Operation of Adult Entertainment Establishment

Presenter: Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney

Mr. Adams stated there is little or no zoning regulations in the Charles County Code that would affect the placement of any of these establishments. He explained that under the Constitution of the United States, the County's police powers or zoning authority, that the Board of Commissioners does have the authority to regulate and create a zoning scheme that would affect where such an establishment would be located in the County under the Constitutional standard. Mr. Adams suggested the County obtain a study that determined the adverse secondary impact on the health, safety and welfare of the citizens. He expounded that such a study takes time to complete, be reviewed and would ensue a Public Hearing before anything could be enacted.

Mr. Adams proposed the County enact a Resolution that temporarily prohibits the use of any site approval plans, ratifies certificates of Use and Occupancy for any business that wishes to operate as an adult entertainment establishment until proper studies can be conducted. Mr. Adams believes these studies will offer the evidence and assistance to the Board of Commissioners in considering new zoning legislation based on the study results of any adverse secondary impact on the health, safety and welfare of the citizens, to include prostitution, human trafficking, sexually transmitted diseases and increased crime.

Commissioner Coates motioned to approve the Resolution 2020-01, Operation of Adult Entertainment Establishment, her motion was seconded by Commissioner Bowling, and passed.

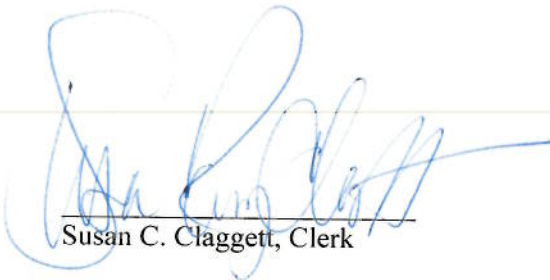
**Commissioner Stewart was not present for this vote.*

Commissioners' New Business

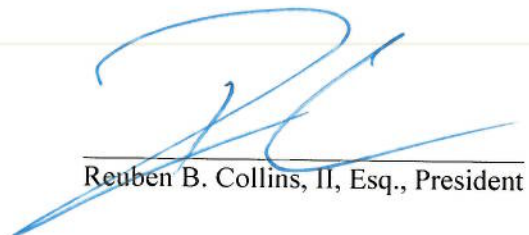
There was no new business discussed.

At 3:00 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Collins and Rucci present, voting in favor to adjourn.

**Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*



Susan C. Claggett, Clerk



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President