

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**

**Tuesday April 24, 2020**

The special meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 9:06 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  
Wesley Adams, County Attorney  
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

**Call to Order/Pledge**

Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Coates led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Update: State Legislative Report**

Senator Arthur Ellis, Maryland State Senator, Delegate CT Wilson, Delegate Debra Davis and Delegate Susie Proctor, Charles County State Delegation and Mr. Ivan Lanier, President, Greenwill Consulting Group joined the Commissioners to discuss the "Overview of the Federal COVID-19 Assistance for Maryland" document and how the funds would be allocated to Charles County. The state of Maryland will receive an estimated five point six (\$5.6) billion dollars in federal assistance. Charles County will receive twenty-eight point five (\$28.5) million dollars.

Commissioner Stewart queried if the County would get reimbursed if it instituted a plan and process to get back to work such as an on-staff nurse to test employees. Senator Ellis stated that these types of COVID-19 funds would be reimbursed. Delegate Wilson added that there will only be a finite amount of funds available to help. Delegate Davis indicated that municipalities would need to come the counties with their plans. These initial plans for the State assistance need to be sent in by May 1, 2020.

Commissioner Collins acknowledged that County staff has worked to position and plan for the County to receive these funds.

**Update: CARES Act**

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Ms. Michelle Lilly, Director, Department of Emergency Services and Mr. Darrell Brown, Director, Department of Economic Development joined the Commissioners to discuss the County's preparation for the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) established under the CARES Act. She explained that it was not to be used as revenue replacement. The first disbursement of relief funds would be for medical expenses according to Maryland Department of Health guidance. All funds will go through the Charles County Health Department for disbursement. The second disbursement of funds will be broader in scope of types of reimbursements allowed related to the COVID-19 expenses. Ms. Ellin further explained that they would submit a plan next week for these funds and that this is a fast-paced process that is always be updated.

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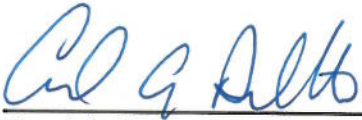
Commissioner Stewart suggested using the second round of funds to allow for, quarantined career emergency medical services workers, a place to be quarantined other than their homes and to contract with a Nurse to be on staff in house from May 1-December31, 2020.

**Follow-up: Charles County Small Business Relief Program**

Mr. Darrell Brown, Director, Ms. Marcia Keeth, Deputy Director, and Ms. Lucretia Freeman- Buster, Chief of Business Development, Department of Economic Development reviewed the Charles County COVID-19 Relief Loan Fund for Small Businesses in the County. Ms. Freeman-Buster explained that to date there are one hundred and five (105) applications; seven (7) that are completed; and sixty(60) sixty-five (65) in process.

Ms. Doris Spencer, President, Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce; Ms. Bonnie Grady, President, Charles County Chamber of Commerce; and Ms. Ann Hooper, Chair, Charles County Economic Development Department Advisory Committee, provided feedback to the Commissioners on the needs of small businesses in Charles County and how the Charles County COVID-19 Relief Fund will help small businesses.

At 10:31 a.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.



Carol A. DeSoto, Acting Clerk



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President