

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners

Tuesday April 29, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 2:01 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, Clerk to the Commissioners

Call to Order/Pledge

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

Meet and Confer with the Town of LaPlata and the Town of Indian Head: FY2021 Tax Differential

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, and Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, provided an overview of the requirement to meet and confer based on state law and explained the tax differential. Mr. Dyer provided an overview of the FY2021 Tax Differential for the Town of LaPlata and for the Town of Indian Head.

The proposed rate calculation for the Town of LaPlata for the Fiscal Year 2021 would be point one three nine (.139) for the residents of LaPlata. This is higher than last year which means residents in the Town of La Plata will receive an increased tax credit. Ms. Jeannine James, Mayor, and Mr. Kevin Greenville, Town Treasurer, Town of LaPlata, expressed their satisfaction with the proposed rate calculation.

The proposed rate calculation for the Town of Indian Head for the Fiscal Year 2021 would be point zero three nine (.039) for the residents of Indian Head. Mr. Brandon Paulin, Mayor, Town of Indian Head, stated his satisfaction with the proposed rate since residents would get a higher tax credit.

Approval Items

Charles County State of Emergency Declaration Extended

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve Resolution 2020-08 Renewed Declaration of a Local State of Emergency.

**Break 2:09 p.m. – 2:29 p.m.*

Joint Meeting with Board of Education: FY2020 School Allocation Cycle

Mr. Jason Groth, Deputy Director, and Mr. Ben Yeckley, Planner III, Department of Planning and Growth Management, joined the Commissioners and the Charles County Board of Education and Dr. Kimberly Hill, Superintendent, Charles County Public Schools, to review the summary and analysis of the proposed school allocations for the annual 2020 cycle. They discussed the formula used to recommend school allocations.

Commissioner Stewart requested that documents in the future include municipalities allocations as well.

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday April 29, 2020

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

Budget Work Session - FY2021 General Fund

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, and Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, reviewed the proposed County Administrator's balanced budget for FY2021 General Operating Budget. It is a proposed four hundred and thirty-three million four hundred and forty-one thousand two hundred dollars (\$433,441,200.00). The reviewed included an overview of each County Administered Department's proposed budgets.

Ms. Ellin informed the Commissioners if they would like to propose any changes to the budget, the add/delete forms should be returned by May 7, 2020. The scheduled final review of the budget is on May 12, 2020.

**Break 3:38 p.m. – 6:01 p.m.*

Public Hearing: FY2021 Constant Yield

The Commissioners conducted a virtual public hearing on the FY2021 Constant Yield. Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, and Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, explained that this public hearing was a State requirement. It is a hypothetical tax rate to generate the same tax revenue for the next year. There were no comments provided by the community.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to keep the record open until May 5, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to close the public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to set the tax rate on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 between 9:30- 11:00 am. This will take place here in the Government Building at 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland, or remotely via video teleconference, if we are required, under COVID-19 Emergency State Declaration, to continue with limited public gatherings

At 6:05 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, 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