

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**

**Tuesday January 5, 2021 (Legislative Day)**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 8:32 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 Bowling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

**Comments**

There were no comments.

**Charles County Health Department Update: Coronavirus/COVID-19**

Dr. Dianna Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health; Ms. Michelle Lilly, Director, Department of Emergency Services; Mr. William Grimes, Vice President, Ancillary Services & Incident Commander, Ms. Stacey Cook, Vice President, Human Resources, Dr. Joseph Moser, Chief Medical Officer, University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center, provided an update on COVID-19 statistics and how they are responding to COVID-19. Ms. Lilly discussed coordinating with Charles Regional Medical Center on the location of the decontamination station. She also informed the Commissioners that the First Responders vaccine clinics are scheduled for the next two (2) weeks. Dr. Abney indicated that they are expecting an increase in COVID positive over the next several weeks due to the holiday gatherings. She explained the difference between isolation and quarantine; task of contact tracers; and information on the vaccine and the vaccination phases. Mr. Grimes explained the difficulty of finding temporary staffing not only here but across the country. He also mentioned that over four hundred and twenty (420) staff members have received the first dose of the vaccine to date.

Ms. Jennifer Harris, Chief of Media Services, Office of the County Administrator, provided an update on the ongoing media communications, the Vaccine Distribution Public Awareness Campaign and vaccine communications plan.

**Approval of the Minutes of December 15, 2020**

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of December 15, 2020.

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**Announcement: Next Commissioner Session will be held January 12, 2021**

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners, announced that the next scheduled session is on January 12, 2021.

**Closed Session**

At 9:16 a.m. Commissioner Bowling made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stewart 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)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss one (1) proposed contract. The reason for going into closed is to keep legal approaches and strategies confidential and keep applicant and personnel records confidential.

**Summary Closed Session Items**

At 9:19 a.m. the Commissioners went into virtual closed session.

**3-305(b)(7) Legal: Proposed Contract Under Negotiation**

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Deborah Hall, Alexis Blackwell, Megan Donnick, Jenifer Ellin, Jacob Dyer, Eric Paltell.

Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator and Mr. Eric Paltell, Negotiation Counsel, reviewed a proposed agreement.

The Commissioners reached a consensus and took official action on these agreements later this day under Approval Items.

At 9:29 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end this Closed Session.

At 1:30 p.m. the Commissioners returned to open session.

**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

**Approval Items**

*FY2021 Budget Amendment Increase #8232 USDA Rural Housing Preservation Grant*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget Amendment increase #8232 for ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00).

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*Request to Set a Public Hearing:*

1. *Amendment to the Development Right and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) for Christopher Pointe*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to set the public hearing for February 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. virtually.

2. *Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 20-156 Agricultural Related Uses*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to set the public hearing for February 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. virtually.

*Memorandum of Understanding Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 24-Wages*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding between the Charles County Commissioners, the Charles County Sheriff's Office and the Fraternal Order of Police No. 24.

**Briefing: Overview of Housing Authority**

Ms. Dina Barclay, Director, and Ms. Rita Wood, Housing Authority Chief, Department of Community Services, provided a briefing on Charles County Housing Authority programs and services, including recent accomplishments and new initiatives. The briefing included updates on the Housing Choice Voucher program and plans to reopen the wait list on a periodic basis in the future to provide increased housing opportunities for families in Charles County. The department also discussed housing preservation programs for low-income families; homeownership programs to build financial stability and facilitate equitable access aimed at reducing the wealth gap; various community development initiatives; and a preview of new service initiatives planned for 2021.

*\*Commissioner Collins left session at 1:57 p.m.*

**Commissioners' New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

**Closed Session**

At 2:09 p.m. Commissioner Coates made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Coates, Stewart, Bowling and Rucci present, voting to move into Close Session where all or a portion of this session may be closed pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(10) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the development and implementation of emergency plans. The reason for going into closed is to keep plans and approaches confidential.

*\*Commissioner Collins was not present for the vote.*

*\*Commissioner Collins returned to session at 2:18 p.m.*

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**Summary Closed Session Items**

At 2:19 p.m. the Commissioners went into virtual closed session.

**3-305(b)(10) Development and Implementation of Emergency Plans**


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

Ms. Lilly led the Commissioners in tabletop exercises related to the implementation of emergency plans related to weather emergencies.

At 2:58 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor end this closed session and to adjourn.



Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

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**FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING**

Location: Virtually- MS Teams      Date: January 5, 2021

Time: 9:16 a.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Bowling

Seconded By: Commissioner Stewart

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**

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
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**Appendix C C-2**

(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: Discuss Negotiations on a Proposed Agreement**

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep legal approaches confidential



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Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

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**FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING**

Location: Virtually- MS Teams      Date: January 5, 2021

Time: 2:09 p.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Coates

Seconded By: Commissioner Stewart

Vote to Close Session:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq.	[x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Gilbert O. Bowling, III.	[x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.	[x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Amanda Stewart, M.Ed.	[x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Bobby Rucci	[x ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

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(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.

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(4)  To consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.

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TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

**3-305 (b)(10) Discuss the Development and Implementation of Emergency Plans for the County**

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep plans and approaches confidential



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President