

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday January 26, 2021

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 9:01 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.

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. Noel Cervino, President and Chief Executive Officer, 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 indicated a slight decrease in COVID Positive numbers. She also informed the Commissioners that Department of Emergency Services are supporting the vaccine clinic with weekly coordination meetings, Hazmat setup and breakdown and qualified volunteers who help give the vaccinations. Dr. Abney explained the virus itself and how the vaccine fights the virus. She provided detail information on both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. She also reviewed the symptoms of COVID-19 and the breakdown of contact tracing cases of where COVID-19 is contracted. She also reiterated the need to wear masks, wash your hands, avoid large gatherings and social distance and she encouraged people to get tested. Dr. Abney reviewed the vaccine supply and usage to date.

Ms. Jennifer Harris, Chief of Media Services, Office of the County Administrator, provided an update on the County's communication efforts related to COVID 19 and vaccination schedule. She is working with the Health Department with education and vaccination distribution messaging. Dr. Kimberly Hill, Superintendent, Ms. Nikki Majors, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Mr. Jason Stoddard, Director of Safety, Charles County Public Schools and members of the Charles County Board of Education joined the discussion to update the Commissioners on vaccinations for Charles County Public School staff.

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Comments

Commissioner Collins requested a moment of silence after speaking about the accomplishments of Maryland Senate President Emeritus, Thomas V. Miller, Jr. who had just recently passed away.

Commissioners Bowling and Stewart spoke about the legacy of Westlake High School Coach and Athletic Director, Dominic Zaccarelli, who passed away on January 18, 2021.

Closed Session

At 9:48 a.m. Commissioner Bowling made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rucci 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)(1)(7)(8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to seek legal advice on one (1) proposed agreement related to a potential litigation; and to discuss appointments to Resilience Authority Advisory Board. The reason for going into closed is to keep legal approaches and strategies confidential and to keep personnel information confidential.

Summary Closed Session Items

At 9:52 a.m. the Commissioners went into virtual closed session.

3-305(b)(7)(8) Legal: Proposed Agreement

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

Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, reviewed the potential litigation case and proposed settlement agreement.

The Commissioners reached a consensus to have the County Attorney proceed as discussed.

3-305(b)(1) Personnel : Appointments to the Resilience Authority Advisory Board

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, and Coates, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, and Jesse Bungcayao.

Mr. Mark Belton, County Administrator, reviewed potential applicants for the Resilience Authority Advisory Board.

The Commissioners reached a consensus to change the title of a member type. They also requested to review more potential applicants. Official action will take place after the additional review of applicants.

At 10:23 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 10:35 a.m. the Commissioners returned to open session.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

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Approval of the Minutes of January 12, 2021

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021.

Announcement: Next Commissioner Session will be held February 2, 2021

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners, announced that the next scheduled session is on February 2, 2021.

Approval Items

FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8345 Sheriff's Office Building Chiller Replacement

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8345 for one hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars (\$132,000.00).

FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8388 Government Building Water Phase Two

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8388 for two hundred thousand five hundred dollars (\$200,500.00).

FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8413 Program Open Space Grant match-Gilbert Run Park Boardwalk

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8413 for forty-eight thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$48,250.00).

The Commissioners agreed that a presentation on the Program Open Space Projects be scheduled on a future agenda.

Letter of Support- Friends of Chapman State Park Grant Application for Historical Renovations to Mt. Aventine

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve this letter of support to the Preservation Maryland Heritage Grant Fund.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Development, Review and Approval of Commissioner Policies

The Commissioners reached a consensus on applicable language revision (no substantive changes) to this SOP.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve SOP # CP.CC.01.001 Development, Review and Approval of Commissioner Policies with the typographical changes discussed.

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Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Commissioners' Office Signature Items

The Commissioners discussed changes to 1.2 to add language indicating "declined to sign" and to add language to 3.1 to include a twenty-four (24) hour deadline.

The Commissioners asked staff to bring these revisions back for approval at their next scheduled session.

Proposed Resolution 2021-(03) Community for a Lifetime

The Commissioners agreed to Commissioner Coates' request to bring this item back at the next scheduled session for approval.

Work Ready Communities Agreement

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the Work Ready Communities Agreement.

Legislative: Update 2021 Maryland General Assembly Session

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney, Mr. Steve Proctor, Lobbyist, GS Proctor and Associates, Inc. discussed legislative bills being considered by the Maryland General Assembly that were included in the Charles County legislative package. She indicated five of these proposals were supported to move through the process from draft to Bill:

- Pretrial release and alternative sentencing program in Charles County
- Allow small wineries to also have ownership interest in another licensed establishment.
- Civilian Review Board
- Forming a Civil Rights Commission
- Licensing program for residential leased properties

Ms. Mitchell mentioned other Bills being followed:

- HB50 Landlord disclosures related to utilities
- HB62 Establish Small Business Office for Maryland Business Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- HB414/SB0081 SMART Rapid Transit
- SB0051 Tri-County Council Management of Southern Maryland Regional Agricultural Center
- SB148/HB066 Transition from Fossil Fuels
- SB0174 Property Tax Assessments change from three (3) year to five (5) year cycle

Ms. Mitchell mentioned the Senate Joint Resolution 0002 which urges the renaming of the Town of Indian Head; Senate Bill 0213 Renaming Indian Head Highway to President Barrack Obama Highway and SB0033 Minority Business Enterprise Program Participation Goals.

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Ms. Mitchell concluded the update with the request from Department of Economic Development to send a letter of support for Governor Hogan's 2021 Relief Act.

The Commissioners reached a consensus to send a letter of support for Governor Hogan's 2021 Relief Act.

Commissioner Collins requested that the Board be provided more information on why the Town and Highway were named "Indian Head".

Commissioner Bowling requested more information on all the Broadband Bills being considered by the Maryland Legislature.

Update: Rural Broadband Task Force

Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator, and Ms. Evelyn Jacobson, Chief of Information Technology, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, and representatives for the County's Rural Broadband Task Force, joined the Commissioners to provide an update on the Nanjemoy-Cobb Neck (NCN) Broadband Buildout and other task force efforts. Mr. Mark Wagner, Chief Executive Officer and Ms. Dee Anna Sobczak, Chief Operating Officer, ThinkBig Network also joined the Commissioners for this update. Ms. Hall and Ms. Jacobson reviewed the NCN Broadband buildout timeline; the P3 Fiber Agreement; the Fiber Optic Sale and Maintenance Agreement; the categories of the unserved; and the overview of the NCN Broadband Buildout. The NCN Broadband Buildout is a comprehensive broadband network in Nanjemoy and Cobb Neck, which would make service available to one thousand four hundred and eight (1,408) residents and businesses in the area. The update concluded with an outline of other Broadband efforts and next steps.

Update: Commissioners' Goals and Objectives- Goal 1: Economic Development and Supportive Services

Mr. Mark Belton, County Administrator, Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator and the Departments of Economic Development, Planning and Growth Management, Public Works and Tourism Division staff provided an update on the Commissioners' Goal and Objective: Economic Development and Supportive Services. These included economic development updates in commercial development, industry diversification, infrastructure services, and transportation network. The Department of Economic Development also highlighted their Shop Safe video featuring local business owners.

Commissioner Collins requested that future presentations on the Commissioners' Goals and Objectives include performance measures.

**Commissioner Collins left session at about 12:50 p.m.*

Commissioners' New Business

There was no new business discussed.

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At 1:18 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Rucci present, voting in favor to adjourn. *Commissioner Collins was absent for the vote.



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 26, 2021

Time: 9:48 a.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Bowling

Seconded By: Commissioner Rucci

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]	[]	[]	[]

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION

General Provisions Article §3--305(b):

(1) [X] 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) [X] To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

(8) [X] 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

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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)(8) Legal Advice: One (1) Proposed Agreement Related to a Potential Litigation

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep legal approaches confidential.

3-305 (b)(1) Discuss Appointments to Resilience Authority Advisory Board

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep legal Personnel information confidential.



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President