

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday February 23, 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.

**Announcement of Charles County Board of County Commissioners' Additional Proclamations Issued for February 2021**

2021-09 National Engineers Week

**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, 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 decrease in COVID positive numbers and COVID deaths. She also indicated that there were no COVID positive Emergency Services Transport as of February 19, 2021. She also informed the Commissioners that the Department of Emergency Services is continuing to provide logistical support for vaccine clinics. Dr. Abney provided State statistics on the number of citizens vaccinated by counties; number of Charles County residents who received first and second doses; and Charles County statistics of vaccinations by race and ethnicity. She indicated that the numbers in Charles County have been declining since the peak in January. She provided updated statistics on the three (3) COVID-19 variants and location of reported cases in the United States. She stressed the need to be patient with the scheduling process to receive the vaccination; continue to wear mask correctly; social distance; wash hands; avoid large crowds; avoid travel if possible; and get COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you.

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Mr. Grimes indicated that the number of COVID patient at the hospital is also down. He indicated that the hospital's vaccine clinic is continuing to serve fifty (50) to one hundred (100) people per day.

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, vaccination schedules, and reminders to wear masks, social distance and avoid large gatherings. She also provided information on the vaccine call center support and the various ways to get vaccination information.

Mr. Jason Stoddard, Director of Safety, Charles County Public Schools joined the discussion to update the Commissioners on vaccinations for Charles County Public School staff. He indicated that the school system has a signed agreement with Abbott Labs for Rapid COVID-19 tests.

**Approval of the Minutes of February 9, 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 February 9, 2021.

**Announcement: Next Commissioner Session will be held March 2, 2021**

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

**Legislative: Update 2021 Maryland General Assembly Session**

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney, Mr. Joe Green and Ms. Michelle Goodwin, Lobbyist, GS Proctor and Associates, Inc. discussed legislative bills being considered by the Maryland General Assembly. Members of the Board of Education also joined the Commissioners for this discussion. Ms. Michell provided an update on the following Bills:

**House Bill 1018 Charles County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class 4 Limited Winery License**  
Hearing was held on February 19, 2021

**House Bill 1024 Charles County - Citizens Complaint Oversight Board**  
House hearing was held on February 15, 2021; Awaiting bill amendments

Commissioner Bowling suggested that the Delegation should consider tabling this bill and put it into a summer study.

**House Bill 1061 Southern Maryland – Multifamily Dwelling Registration – Fees and Fines**  
Reviewed the proposed amendment to include not just multifamily dwellings in the bill.

Commissioners Bowling and Rucci support this Bill as written; Commissioner Stewart does not support this Bill; Commissioners Collins and Coates felt that this bill was gutted from the original intent.

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The Commissioners directed Ms. Mitchell to request a meeting with the Delegation as a joint meeting with the Commissioners to discuss this bill. The Commissioners would be flexible for a day and time that would work for the Delegation.

**House Bill 1072 Charles County – Community Service and Pretrial Release Programs – Authorization**

House hearing scheduled for March 2, 2021 and Senate hearing on March 4, 2021; Awaiting bill amendments.

**House Bill 1081 Southern Maryland – Human Relations Commission**

Senate hearing on February 23, 2021 and House hearing on March 5, 2021; potential this bill may be withdrawn at next Delegation meeting.

**House Bill 1060 Charles County - Board of Education - Membership Alterations**

Members of the Board of Education indicated their surprise that this bill was submitted. The Board of Education held a work session on February 22, 2021 and voted in opposition of this bill as written. They had a motion to request that this bill be held over to next year for study and public input. They also were informed that Delegate Patterson indicated that there was going to be some amendments made.

The Board of Education members also mentioned their opposition to Senate Bill 245 Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Requirements and Prohibitions

**House Bill 655 Local Government – County Commissioner Elections – District Voting**

Ms. Mitchell reviewed the findings related to minority representation on other counties board of county commissioners. Maryland has twelve commissioner counties and only four (4) of them have minority representation on their board.

The Commissioners requested that GS Proctor Lobbyist Group get the breakdown of support related to this bill.

**House Bill 325 and Senate Bill 475 Talbot County – Deer and Turkey Hunting – Sundays**

The Commissioners directed Ms. Mitchell to bring this back for discussion next week.

**Update: Commissioners' Goals and Objectives- Goal 2: Institutional Governance and Policy**

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Ms. Evelyn Jacobson, Chief of Information Technology, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services; Ms. Deborah Carpenter, Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management; Ms. Alexis Blackwell, Director, Department of Human Resources; Ms. Jennifer Harris, Chief of Media Services; Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney; Ms. Marcia Keeth, Deputy Director and Ms. Lucretia Freeman-Buster, Chief of Business Development, Department of Economic Development; and Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator, provided an update on the Commissioners' Goals and Objective two (2) on Institutional Governance Policy. This included updates on the County's work on the smart county concept, automated technology and cyber security, information and data programming, equitable program funding, streamlining services and comprehensive zoning review, diversity and cultural competency, employee engagement, citizen

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engagement, and County branding. The County's work on public policy includes legislative initiatives and an updated process, governance leadership efforts, resource stewardship through asset management and fiscal responsibility, and promotion of local and minority businesses.

**Closed Session**

At 11:48 a.m. Commissioner Bowling made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coates 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) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to review one (1) agreement; and to discuss appointments to Resilience Authority Advisory Board. The reason for going into closed is to keep negotiations and strategies confidential and to keep personnel information confidential.

**Summary Closed Session Items**

At 11:52 a.m. the Commissioners went into virtual closed session.

**3-305(b)(7) Legal: Agreement**

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

Mr. Michelle Lilly, Director, Department of Emergency Services, reviewed a potential agreement related to the use of the property.

The Commissioners reached a consensus on this memorandum of understanding and took official action on this agreement later this day under Approval Items.

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

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

Mr. Mark Belton, County Administrator provided an update on potential applicants for this board.

The Commissioners reached a consensus to change the bylaws for this board to have nine (9) voting members instead of seven (7). They took official action on this change later this day under Approval Items.

The Commissioners reached a consensus related to these appointments and took official action on these appointments later this day under Actions on Boards, Commissions and Committees.

At 12:08 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end this Closed Session.

At 1:01 p.m. the Commissioners returned to open session.

**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

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**Approval Items**

*FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8465 Clifton Well #5*

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8465 for one hundred and forty-nine thousand dollars (\$149,000.00).

*FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8438 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) Bridge*

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Coates, and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8438 SAMSHA bridge for two hundred and sixteen thousand one hundred and eighty dollars (\$216,180.00).

*FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8496 Mobile Recreation Vehicle*

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Rucci, and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8496 for two hundred and fifteen thousand dollars (\$215,000.00).

*FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8506 Traffic Signal Maintenance*

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Rucci, and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8506 for sixty thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$60,750.00).

*Change to Public School Forward Funding Task Force*

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling, and passed with Commissioners Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Collins present, voting in favor to amend the makeup of the Public-School Forward Funding Task Force to be comprised of the following nine (9) members or their designees:

- Two (2) Members from the Board of Education Supporting Services Team
- One (1) Member from the Board of Education Fiscal Operations Team
- The Town of La Plata's Town Manager
- The Town of Indian Head's Town Manager
- Two (2) Members from Charles County Government's Fiscal & Administrative Services Department
- Two (2) Members from Charles County Government's Planning & Growth Management Department

Commissioner Stewart was opposed. A roll call of the vote was taken: Commissioner Bowling-yes; Commissioner Coates-yes; Commissioner Stewart-no; Commissioner Rucci-yes; and Commissioner Collins-yes. The motion passed four (4) to one (1).

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*Resilience Authority Advisory Board Bylaws*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the Resilience Authority Advisory Board Bylaws membership change from seven (7) members to nine (9) voting members.

*Memorandum of Understanding: State of Maryland Department of Health and Regency Stadium*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates, and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between State of Maryland Department of Health and Regency Stadium.

**Action on Boards, Commissions and Committees**

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling, and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to appoint Dr. Craig Beyroudy, Bonnie Norman, Dr. Charles C. Glass, Ryan Hicks, Patrice Kelly, Tom Schueler, Jenifer Ellin, Deborah Carpenter, Dave Nemazie, Daniel Donohue, and Teresa Ball to the Board of Directors of the Resilience Authority of Charles County.

**Briefing: VanGO Operations and Maintenance Facility**

Ms. Deborah Carpenter, Director, and Mr. Jeffry Barnett, Chief of Transit, Department of Planning and Growth Management, provided an overview of the VanGO Operations and Maintenance Facility. Mr. Barnett explained the concept of a County owned facility which was recommended in the January 2010 Transit Development Plan. He explained the process and the final site selection, the Driggs site, which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in November 2018. The design and engineering phase of the Driggs site began in December 2020 and thirty (30) percent of the design is expected to be complete in March 2021. He reviewed the conceptual drawings, benefits, and next steps for construction with expected completion during FY2023-FY2024.

**Briefing and Request for Approval: Annual VanGO Transportation Authorizing Resolution**

Mr. Jeffry Barnett, Chief of Transit, Department of Planning and Growth Management, explained the consolidated grant application to Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration for transit operating and capital assistance. He reviewed the application highlights for transit operation and capital assistance and potential costs for the County. The Operating assistance formula grants can cover approximately fifty (50) percent of net costs and capital assistance covers eighty (80) percent of costs with Federal Transit Administration funds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci, and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve *corrected* newly numbered Resolution 2021-04 authorizing Commissioner Collins to file an application with the Maryland Transit Administration of the Maryland Department of Transportation for one or more grants under the Federal Transit Act.

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**Briefing and Request for Approval: Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board (RC&D) Implementation of the REPI Program**

Mr. Charles Rice, Assistant Chief of Planning, Department of Planning and Growth Management; Ms. Cindy Greb, Executive Director, and Ms. Caroline King, Program Manager, Southern Maryland RC&D Board, Inc., provided a presentation on leveraging innovative partnerships with the County, Department of Defense, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and RC&D, to include the Zekiah Watershed Rural Legacy Area. The United States Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program supports cost-sharing partnerships between military services, governments, and private conservation groups to purchase land interests or easements from willing landowners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with RC&D Board, Inc. and the Board of County Commissioners as presented.

**Briefing: Update on Waldorf Urban Redevelopment Corridor**

Mr. Jim Campbell, Planning Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management and Mr. Taylor Yewell, Chief of Development, Department of Economic Development; Mr. John Stevens, Chief of Capital Projects and Mr. Arthur Swann, Capital Services Project Manager, Department of Public Works, provided update on Waldorf Urban Redevelopment Corridor (WURC). They discussed the vision plan and concept; transitional zoning provisions; feedback from the Spring of 2020 Tour; status, potential options, and next steps.

The Consensus of the Commissioners was to have staff review and address immediate transitional zoning concerns and present zoning change recommendations by May/June 2021, preferably earlier, late March/April 2021.

**Commissioners' New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

**Closed Session**

At 3:07 p.m. Commissioner Rucci made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coates, 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) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to conduct interviews for Commissioner appointed Boards. The reason for going into closed is to keep personnel information confidential.

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**Summary Closed Session Items**

At 4:00 p.m. the Commissioners went into virtual closed session.

**3-305(b)(1) Personnel: Interviews for Commissioner Appointed Boards**

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

The Commissioners interviewed ten (10) applicants for the Planning Commission and the Board of Appeals and three (3) applicants for the Board of License Commissioners

1. Planning Commission - a consensus was reached related to the appointments to this board.
2. Board of Appeals - a consensus was reached related to the appointments to this board.

The Commissioners' official action, on these appointments, will be taken in open session on March 2, 2021 and will be reflected in Action on Boards, Commissions and Committees.

The Commissioners agreed to continue the interview process for the Board of License Commissioners on March 2, 2021.

At 6:07 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart, and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end closed session and 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: February 23, 2021

Time: 11:48 a.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Bowling

Seconded By: Commissioner Coates

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**

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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: Review of one (1) agreement**

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep legal negotiations 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

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**FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING**

Location: Virtually- MS Teams      Date: February 23, 2021

Time: 3:07 p.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Rucci

Seconded By: Commissioner Coates

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)  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.

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**FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING**

**Appendix C C-2**

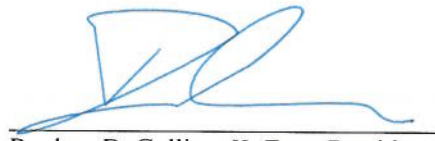
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TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

**3-305 (b)(1) Conduct Interviews for Commissioner Appointed Boards**

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep legal Personnel information confidential.



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

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