

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday June 22, 2021 (Legislative Day)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 9:03 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 the 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; and Mr. William Grimes, Vice President, Ancillary Services & Incident Commander, UM Charles Regional Medical Center, provided an update on COVID-19 statistics and how they are responding to COVID-19.

Ms. Lilly indicated that COVID positive numbers continue to decline and are at the lowest this year. She reviewed the number of Charles County residents who have been vaccinated including first dose, second dose and single dose vaccine. She also informed the Commissioners that the Department of Emergency Services will end providing SitReps on July 1, 2021 to coincide with the Governor's end of the State of Emergency but will continue to monitor COVID and provide support as needed.

Dr. Abney reviewed the multiple vaccination clinics, pop-up clinics, and the mobile vaccines within the community that are being held indoors and drive through. She announced that the Charles County Health department will return to Regency Stadium Vaccination Site on June 29, 2021. She discussed encouraging vaccinations of adolescents ages twelve (12) to seventeen (17) years old. She reported the statistics on COVID vaccination doses given to Charles County residents. She also reviewed COVID cases by age, Charles County COVID deaths by age and hospitalization by age and the racial and gender breakdown of fatalities data. She reminded everyone about the Asymptomatic Spread of COVID-19.

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday June 22, 2021 (Legislative Day)

Mr. Grimes indicated that the number of COVID patients has been down consistently and currently at two (2) patients in the hospital. He also mentioned that the hospital still has restrictions on visitors and that unvaccinated staff are tested on a regular basis.

Ms. Jennifer Harris, Chief of Media Services, Office of the County Administrator, reviewed the County's communication efforts related to COVID 19. She discussed COVID-19 Vaccine Priority list, that vaccines are widely available, and everyone is eligible. She announced that in partnership with NBC4, the Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force, and the Charles County Department of Health, there will be a special COVID-19 vaccination clinic on Friday, June 25 at World Class Barbers. Participants who get vaccinated can receive fifty (50) percent off their next haircut at World Class Barbers.

Mr. Jason Stoddard, Director of Safety, Charles County Public Schools, joined the discussion to update the Commissioners. He discussed the new superintendent transition, summer school and COVID-19 testing, and that staff will continue updating their COVID-19 protocols this summer and for the next school year.

The consensus of the Commissioners was to continue the virtual biweekly updates through July and that staff was directed to post biweekly updates on the website and through social media.

Commissioner Bowling suggested that the Commissioners consider meeting in person starting in September. The Commissioners agreed to review plans on future meetings which include a potential hybrid format.

Approval of the Minutes of June 8, 2021

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 June 8, 2021.

Announcement: Next Commissioner Session will be held July 13, 2021

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners, announced that the next scheduled session was on July 13, 2021.

Closed Session

At 9:31 a.m., Commissioner Rucci made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bowling 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)(3)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss four (4) property acquisitions; to seek legal advice on seven (7) agreements/contracts; and to discuss appointments to three (3) Boards, Commissions, and Committees and to conduct interviews for one (1) Board's appointments. The reason for going into closed is to keep legal approaches and negotiations and personnel information confidential.

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday June 22, 2021 (Legislative Day)

Summary Closed Session Items

At 9:35 a.m. the Commissioners went into virtual closed session.

3-305(b)(1) Personnel: Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees

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

Ms. Maquita Irvin, Commissioners Specialist, reviewed vacancies on the Interfaith Commission and Disability Review Board.

The Commissioners reached a consensus on each Board and provided Ms. Irvin with further direction. Official action took place later this day under Action on Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

3-305(b)(3)(7) Conservation Easement Acquisitions

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Deborah Hall, and Charles Rice

Mr. Charles Rice, Assistant Chief of Planning, Department of Planning and Growth Management, reviewed potential Rural Conservation Easements.

The Commissioners reached a consensus on how Mr. Rice should proceed with the negotiations.

3-305(b)(7) Legal: Lobbyist Contract

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

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney II, Office of the County Attorney, reviewed terms of the lobbyist contract.

The Commissioners reached a consensus on the contract. Official action took place later this day under Approval Items.

The Commissioners directed Ms. Mitchell to bring back the lobbyist for a discussion on July 13, 2021 for further discussion on additional potential projects to focus on.

3-305(b)(7) Legal: Contract

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

Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator, provided an update on a potential contract and needed zoning changes.

The consensus of the Commissioners was to have staff continue to move forward as discussed in order to be able to bring this forward in the public process.

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday June 22, 2021 (Legislative Day)

3-305(b)(3)(7) Legal: Property Acquisition

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Deborah Hall, Jenifer Ellin, Jennifer Harris, Terri Kahouk, John Stevens and Judy Michaels.

Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator, provided an update on the property acquisition and capital improvement project and timeline related to this project.

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

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Deborah Hall, Elizabeth Theobalds, Jason Groth, and Ben Yeckley.

Ms. Elizabeth, Deputy County Attorney, provided an update on proposed settlement agreement options related to an agreement.

The Commissioners reached a consensus on how Ms. Theobalds should proceed with the agreement.

3-305(b)(7) Legal: Contract/Agreement

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Deborah Hall, and Shanee Major-Kelley.

Ms. Shanee Major-Kelley, Associate County Attorney, reviewed the current agreement and potential options.

The Commissioners directed staff to come back on July 13, 2021 with more specific information related to the options discussed.

**Break 11:29 a.m. – 12:04 p.m.*

3-305(b)(7) Legal: Negotiations-Contracts

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

Mr. Eric Paltell, Outside Negotiations Counsel, reviewed the final negotiation terms with the unions.

The Commissioners reached a consensus. Official action took place later this day under Approval Items.

3-305(b)(1) Personnel: Interviews for Boards, Commissions and Committees

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

The Commissioners interviewed applicants for appointment to the Board of License Commissioners (Liquor Board).

**At 1:02 p.m. Commissioner Coates recused herself from this closed session discussion.*

**At 1:07 p.m. Commissioner Coates returned to closed session.*

The Commissioners reached a consensus. Official action took place later this day under Action on Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday June 22, 2021 (Legislative Day)

The Commissioners provided Ms. Maquita Irvin, Commissioner Specialist, with direction to prepare questions for future interviews of Boards, Commissions, and Committee's applicants and to continue advertising for other vacancies.

At 1:08 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end this closed session.

The Commissioners returned to open session at 3:29 p.m.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All the Commissioners were present.

Approval Items

FY2021 Budget Amendment Increase #8883 Climate Action Plan

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget Amendment Increase #8883 Climate Action Plan, for one hundred and twenty four thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$124,250.00).

FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8884 Detention Center Intake

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 # 8884 Detention Center Intake, for one hundred and fifty seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$157,200.00).

FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8892 Stormwater Watershed Protection Debt Budget Savings

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 #8892 Stormwater Watershed Protection Debt Budget Savings, for one hundred and twenty-seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$127,200.00).

FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8893 Water and Sewer Debt Budget Savings

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates, and passed with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8893 Water and Sewer Debt Budget Savings, for six hundred and fifteen thousand seventy dollars (\$615,070.00).

FY2022 Budget Amendment Increase #8896 Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Capital Projects

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2022 Budget Amendment Increase #8896 Recreation, Parks and Tourism Capital Projects, for three (3) million dollars (\$3,000,000.00).

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday June 22, 2021 (Legislative Day)

FY2022 Budget Transfer Request #8845 Synagro Contract

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci, and passed with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2022 Budget Transfer Request #8845 Synagro Contract, for seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00).

Board of Education FY2022 Operating Budget/State Certification

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the Board of Education FY2022 Operating Budget.

Lobbyist Contract-GS Proctor

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to renew GS Proctor's Lobbyist contract.

International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4658 Agreement

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4658.

Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #24 Memorandum of Understanding

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #24.

Charles County Correctional Officers Association Memorandum of Understanding

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Charles County Correctional Officers Association.

Standard Operating policy- Investment Policy

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the changes to the Investment Standard Operating Policy CP.FAS.06.001.

Request to Set the Public Hearing on Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) Text Amendments

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to schedule the public hearing on July 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. virtually.

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday June 22, 2021 (Legislative Day)

Action on Boards, Commissions and Committees

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to nominate Norman Chlosta for reappointment and Cleona Irvin and Gregory Waller, Jr. for Governor appointment to the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to appoint Rhona Cowie, Yolanda Felder, Cecilia Maryland-Twyman, Yonelle Moore-Lee, Larisha McKnight, Tiara Frazier and Betsy Adeboyejo to the Commission for Women.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to reappoint George Willet and Susan Rice to the Disability Review Board/ Charles County Pension Plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to appoint Angela French-Bell as the At large member to the Board of license Commissioners (Liquor Board).

Update and Request for Approval: CARES Act

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, provided an update on the CARES Act.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve reporting Hazard Pay incurred from January to March as an eligible CARES Act expenses.

The Commissioners directed staff to prepare a budget transfer after June 30th reporting with a minimum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) transferred to the Cable Fund and reserved for broadband.

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 led the update on the Commissioners' Goal and Objective: Economic Development and Supportive Services. These included an update on international trade, commercial tax base expansion, business attraction, opportunity zone enhancements, and business support. Tourism Division staff provided an update on their tourism partnerships and contracts. Deputy County Administrator Deborah Hall provided an update on broadband access. Utilities Division staff provided an update on water and sewer operations. Department of Planning and Growth Management staff provided an update on transportation.

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday June 22, 2021 (Legislative Day)

Commissioners' New Business

There was no new business discussed.

**Break 4:25 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.*

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All the Commissioners were present.

Public Hearing: Bill 2021-03 Amendments to the Charles County Code-Redistricting Board

Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, reviewed Bill 2021-03 that amends the selection criteria for members of the Charles County Redistricting Board:

- The Redistricting Board shall be composed of three appointees of the County Commissioners, two appointees of the Democratic Central Committee and two appointees of the Republican Central Committee.
- The selection of members shall be intended to produce a commission that is independent from legislative influence, impartial, and reasonably Representative of the county's diversity and geographical, racial and gender makeup.
- None of the appointees shall be employees of the county or the state.
- No appointee may be:

A member or candidate for any political office in the county, state, or united states;

An officer or employee of a political party or political committee;

A member of staff of the governor, Maryland General Assembly, or United States Congress;

A current registered lobbyist in the state or county.

- Each appointee shall be a voter who, for at least three years immediately preceding the date of appointment, has been registered in the state continuously with the same political party or continuously with neither the democratic party nor the republican party.
- The Redistricting Board shall convene not later than 30 days after appointment to organize and elect a Chairman from among its members.

There were no citizens who spoke at the public hearing to provide comments to the Commissioners.

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

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

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday June 22, 2021 (Legislative Day)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adopt Bill 2021-03 Charles County Redistricting Board.

At 6:31 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.

Board of County Commissioners Second Quarter Town Hall Meeting

The Commissioners conducted their second Town Hall Meeting of 2021 virtually using the GoToWebinar platform. Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, were present to address community questions, as well as Mr. Mark Belton, County Administrator and the following Directors and designees:

- Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services
- Ms. Deborah Carpenter, Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management
- Mr. Bill Shreve, Director, Department of Public Works
- Ms. Michelle Lilly, Director, Department of Emergency Services
- Ms. Eileen Minnick, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism
- Ms. Dina Barclay, Director, Department of Community Services
- Ms. Alexis Blackwell, Director, Department of Human Resources
- Mr. Darrell Brown, Director, Department of Economic Development
- Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney II, Office of the County Attorney
- Mr. Jason Groth, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management
- Ms. Renesha Miles, Chief Equity Officer, Department of Human Resources

Commissioner Collins provided a welcoming remarks. Ms. Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners, reviewed the format for the town hall meeting. Ms. DeSoto read the questions and comments submitted. Questions were answered by the Commissioners or by the appropriate director in attendance.

At 6:45 p.m. the Town Hall meeting concluded.



Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday June 22, 2021 (Legislative Day)

FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

Location: Virtual- MS Teams Date: June 22, 2021

Time: 9:31 a.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Rucci

Seconded By: Commissioner Bowling

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) [X] 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) [] 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
Tuesday June 22, 2021 (Legislative Day)
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)(3)(7) Legal: Property Acquisition of Four (4) Properties

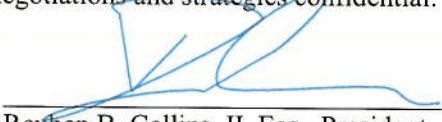
REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep business proprietary information confidential.

3-305(b)(1)(7) Personnel: Three (3) Commissioner Appointed Boards, Commissions, and Committees
Appointments/Interviews for one (1) Board

REASON FOR CLOSING: Keep personnel information confidential.

3-305(b)(7) Legal: Seven (7) Agreements/Contract

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep legal approaches, negotiations and strategies confidential.



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President