

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday February 15, 2022 (Legislative Day)

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
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

** Bobby Rucci, Vice President, County Commissioner was absent*

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. Commissioners Collins, Bowling, Coates and Stewart were present. *Commissioner Rucci was absent.*

Announcement of Additional Charles County Board of County Commissioners' Proclamation(s) Issued for February 2022

2022-10 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; Ms. Jennifer Harris, Chief of Media Services, Office of the County Administrator; and Mr. Jason Stoddard, Director of Safety, Charles County Public Schools, provided an update on COVID-19 statistics and how they are responding to COVID-19.

Dr. Abney reviewed current COVID cases and stated that Charles County was in still in a HIGH Community Transmission Level and that everyone should wear a mask in public, indoor settings. She reviewed the positivity rate which decreased from five-point zero eight percent (5.08%) last week to three-point six one percent (3.6%). The case rate also decreased from twenty-six-point seven percent (26.7%) last week to seventeen-point six eight percent (17.68%). She reviewed death statistics, hospitalization trends, and post-vaccination infection data. Dr. Abney shared information on the Omicron variant, vaccination data, and Charles County booster percentages. She also reviewed vaccination and testing site's locations and times. Dr. Abney shared that both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines have full FDA approval. She reviewed the number of COVID-19 vaccinations

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given to children five (5) years old and older; testing sites, distribution of at home test kits and KN95 masks.

Ms. Lilly reported on the COVID positive EMS Transports per month in 2021-22. The number of transports for February to date were seventeen (17). She reviewed Viral Pandemic Triage Protocol usage by the quarter along with the successful uses by the quarter. She informed the Commissioners that the Department of Emergency Services (DES) will continue to monitor COVID and provide support as needed.

Mr. Stoddard shared that the number of COVID cases continue to decline. He informed the Commissioners that the State Board of Education was meeting on February 22, 2022 to discuss the State's mask mandate for public schools. He clarified that the Charles County Public Schools have no control of this decision.

Legislative Update: 2022 Maryland General Assembly Session

Ms. Daniellé Mitchell, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney; Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator; Mr. Joseph Green, and Ms. Sherri Simms, GS Proctor and Associates, Inc., provided updates on the 2022 Maryland General Assembly legislative session.

Ms. Mitchell provided an update on the following legislation in the 2022 Maryland General Assembly Session:

HB1116 Charles County - Alcoholic Beverages - Abeyance of License

Authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Charles County to hold a certain license in abeyance until the earlier of the date the Board issues the license to a new license holder or one (1) year; and providing that a certain license is considered extinguished under certain circumstances.

The Commissioners reached a consensus to send a letter of support.

HB1114/SB741 Charles County - Blighted Property - Special Property Tax Rate

Authorizing the governing body of Charles County to set a special property tax rate that is twelve-point five percent (12.5%) greater than the tax rate that is generally applicable to real property for a class of real property that is defined as blighted by local law; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2022.

The Commissioners reached a consensus to send a letter of support.

HB514/SB388 Charles County - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting

The Commissioners reached a consensus to send a letter of support.

SB76 Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles - Cobb Island

Favorable in the Senate now moved to the House Environment and Transportation.

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Additional Bills that are being monitored from the 2022 Maryland General Assembly Session included:

SB413 Voting Rights Act of 2022 – Counties and Municipalities

SB685 Economic Development - Maryland Stadium Authority - Charles County Multicultural Recreational and Amphitheatre Facilities
Bill submitted by Senator Ellis. Hearing scheduled for March 2, 2022.

Approval of the Minutes of February 8 and February 9, 2022

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Coates, Bowling, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of February 8, 2022. *Commissioner Rucci was absent for the vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Coates, Bowling, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of February 9, 2022. *Commissioner Rucci was absent for the vote.

Announcement: Next Commissioners' Session(s) are Scheduled for March 1 and 2, 2022

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners, announced that the next Commissioners' sessions are scheduled for March 1 and March 2, 2022.

Approval Items

FY2022 Budget Transfer Request #9584 Sheriff's Office HVAC Projects

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve FY2022 Budget Transfer Request #9584 for one hundred and eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000.00)

**Commissioner Rucci was absent for the vote.*

FY2022 Budget Amendment Increase #9587 Turf Fields Storm Water Management A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve FY2022 Budget Amendment Increase #9587 for six hundred and forty thousand dollars (\$640,000.00) *Commissioner Rucci was absent for the vote.

FY2022 Budget Amendment Increase #9588 Circuit Court Elevators

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve FY2022 Budget Amendment Increase for nine hundred and thirty thousand dollars (\$930,000.00)

**Commissioner Rucci was absent for the vote.*

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Letter of Support for Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Technical Assistance Grant-Housing Study Bryans Road

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve this letter of support. *Commissioner Rucci was absent for the vote.

Draft Joint Tri-County to Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)-Mitigating Measures at Bridges

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve this draft joint Tri-County letter to Maryland Department of Transportation. *Commissioner Rucci was absent for the vote.

Commissioners' New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Closed Session

At 9:56 a.m., Commissioner Coates made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Coates, Bowling, Stewart and Collins 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 review one (1) Board and Commission vacancy. The reason for going into closed is to keep personnel information confidential.

*Commissioner Rucci was absent for the vote.

Summary Closed Session Items

At 10:00 a.m. the Commissioners went into virtual closed session.

3-305 (b)(1) Boards, Commissions, and Committees


Present: Commissioners Collins, Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Deborah Hall, and Kenberly Stephens.

Ms. Kenberly Stephens, Commissioner Specialist reviewed the appoint request for the Disability Review Board (Sheriff's Office)

The Commissioners present reached a consensus and official action will take place on the next scheduled session day, March 1, 2022.

At 10:07 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to end this close 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: Virtual- MS Teams Date: February 15, 2022

Time: 9:56 a.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Coates

Seconded By: Commissioner Bowling

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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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(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)(1) Personnel: Discuss Appointments One (1) County Boards and Commissions

REASON FOR CLOSING: Keep personnel information confidential.



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

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