

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday October 25, 2022

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in hybrid format, virtually and in person, at 9:07 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
Mark Belton, County Administrator
Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator
Wes Adams, County Attorney
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

**Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed., County Commissioner, was absent.*

Call to Order/Pledge

Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Rucci and Collins were present.

**Commissioner Stewart was absent.*

Comments

There were no comments.

Announcement

Next Scheduled Commissioner Session(s): November 1 and 2, 2022.

Reminder: October 26 Public Hearings at 6:00 p.m.:

FY2023 Municipal Stormwater (MS4) Permit Financial Assurance Plan

Approval of the Minutes of October 18 and 19, 2022

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Rucci, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of October 18, 2022. **Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Rucci, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of October 19, 2022. **Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

Approval Items

Request for Letter of Support-Veteran Designation on Maryland Driver's Licenses - Policy Revision

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Rucci, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve this letter of support. **Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

Update: Commissioners' Goals and Objectives- Goal 4: Education

Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator; Ms. Alexis Blackwell, Director, Department of Human Resources, and Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, provided the Board of County Commissioners with an update on Goal 4: Education of the County Commissioners' Goals and Objectives. Highlights included Board of Education and College of Southern Maryland funding; collaborative efforts with Board of Education; school construction; and County Government workforce development, training, and wellness initiatives.

Charles County Health Department Update: Health of the County

Dr. Dianna Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health; Mr. William Grimes, Vice President, Ancillary Services & Incident Commander, UM Charles Regional Medical Center; and Mr. Jason Stoddard, Director of Safety, Charles County Public Schools provided an update on the health of the County.

Dr. Abney reviewed the current COVID cases and stated that Charles County was in the LOW Community Transmission Level. She reviewed the positivity rate which was eight-point three eight percent (8.38%). The case rate per one hundred thousand (100,000) was eleven point six four (11.64). She reviewed death statistics, hospitalization trends, and post-vaccination infection data. Dr. Abney shared vaccination data and reviewed information on COVID-19 booster doses and the timeline to receive them as well as the Charles County booster percentages. She talked about the Bivalent Booster that is an updated booster formula approved. She also reviewed vaccination and testing site's locations and times. Dr. Abney also provided information on Monkeypox (MPX) symptoms, how it spreads, cases and who is at risk, as well as, MPX vaccination data. She concluded with talking about the flu and importance of getting vaccinated.

Mr. Grimes explained that at this time that there were three (3) cases in house. He mentioned that the hospital is monitoring the other viruses, flu, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Monkeypox (MPX).

Mr. Stoddard shared that the school system is not actively tracking COVID cases but noted that there was an increase in absenteeism which could be attributed to COVID, flu and RSV.

Charles County Health Department Bi-Annual Health Department Report:

Dr. Dianna Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health, provided the Health Department's Bi-Annual report. Highlights included infectious disease and emergency response, emergency preparedness efforts, nursing updates, developmental disability services, behavioral health services, environmental health activities, chronic disease prevention and management, food distributions, wellness programs, chronic disease program update, and network security incident update.

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Closed Session

At 10:26 a.m., Commissioner Bowling made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Rucci, 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)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss and to seek legal advice on a County issue. The reason for going into closed session is to keep legal advice and strategies confidential. **Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

Summary Closed Session Items

At 10:46 a.m. the Commissioners went into closed session.

3-305 (b)(7)Legal Advice on a County Issue

Present Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, Mark Belton, Deborah Hall, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Deborah Carpenter, Jim Campbell, and Elizabeth Theobalds.

Ms. Deborah Carpenter, Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management, and Ms. Elizabeth Theobalds, Deputy County Attorney, Office of County Attorney for Charles County, reviewed a noncompliance issue, process, implications, consequences, and recommendations.

The Commissioners present, reached a consensus to have staff proceed starting the process for compliance keeping all factors discussed in consideration.

At 11:27 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Rucci, and Collins present, voting in favor to end this close session. **Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

At 1:03 p.m., the Commissioners returned to open session.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Rucci and Collins were present.
**Commissioner Stewart was absent.*

Briefing: FY2022 Charles County Pension Plan (CCPP) Annual Investment and Actuarial Review

Ms. Alexis Blackwell, Director, Department of Human Resources; Ms. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services; and Mr. Lazaro Guzman, Vice President, Full-Service Investments, Mr. David Pappalardo, Vice President & Consulting Actuary, and Mr. Jackson Morris, Director, Relationship Management, Empower, provided a presentation update on the results of the July 1, 2021 Actuarial Valuation and Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Disclosure for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and an asset allocation review of the Charles County Pension Plan (CCPP) as of June 30, 2022. Since the CCPP's current asset mix is in line with its long-term investment strategy, no adjustments are needed at this time to rebalance the plan.

Briefing and Request for Approval: FY2022 Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan (SORP) Annual Investment and Actuarial Review

Ms. Alexis Blackwell, Director, Department of Human Resources; Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget,

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Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services; and Mr. Alton Fryer, Director of Client Services, and Ms. Ann Sturner, Senior Consulting Actuary, and Colin Slovenkay, Bolton USA, provided a presentation on the Charles County Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan (SORP) Investment Performance Review as of June 30, 2022 and the July 1, 2021 Actuarial Valuation and Experience Study Report. They provided recommendations from the Experience Study that has been approved by the SORP committee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Rucci, and Collins present, voting in favor to reduce the investment return assumption from seven-point four zero percent (7.40%) to seven-point two five percent (7.25%); and update mortality tables; and modify additional assumptions including salary scales, rates of retirement and rates of termination of employment to better align with experience. **Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

Briefing: FY2022 Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Annual Investment Review

Ms. Alexis Blackwell, Director, Department of Human Resources; Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services; and Mr. Alton Fryer, Director of Client Services, Bolton USA, provided the Investment Performance Review of the Other Post Employee Benefits Plan as of June 30, 2022. He reviewed the plan's notes and watchlist and asset allocations.

Commissioner's New Business

There was no new business discussed.

At 1:58 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Rucci, and Collins present, voting in favor to adjourn. **Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President