

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Wednesday February 28, 2024 (Legislative Day)**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 3:04 p.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq., President, County Commissioner  
Ralph Patterson, II, M.A., Vice President, County Commissioner  
Gilbert O. Bowling, III, County Commissioner  
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner  
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed., County Commissioner  
Deborah Hall, Acting County Administrator  
Jenifer Ellin, Acting Deputy County Administrator  
Wes Adams, County Attorney  
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

**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. All Commissioners were present *virtually*.

**Closed Session**

At 3:05 p.m., motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, 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)(8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to interview applicants for Commissioner Appointed Boards; to receive an update on a potential litigation issue; and receive legal advice related to a personnel matter. The reason for moving into closed session is to keep legal advice, negotiations, strategies, and personnel issues confidential.

**Summary Closed Session Items**

At 3:08 p.m., the Commissioners went into closed session.

**3-305 (b)(1) BCC Interviews**

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins, Deborah Hall, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Jenifer Ellin, and Christina Elkins.

The Commissioners interviewed six (6) applicants for the Police Accountability Board.

**3-305 (b)(7)(8) Potential Litigation**

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins, Deborah Hall, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Jenifer Ellin, Elizabeth Theobalds, Shanna Reese, Amanda Wills, Jacob Dyer, Martin Harris, Brian Kagarise, and Charles Strawberry and Kevin Karpinski.

Staff and Counsel reviewed the litigation case and provided recommendations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to give outside counsel settlement authority and to begin negotiations up to *specified amount*.

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*\*At about 4:30 p.m. Commissioner Coates left closed session.*

*\*At about 4:34 p.m. Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County left closed session.*

**3-305(b)(1) Personnel**

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins, Deborah Hall, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Jenifer Ellin, Alexis Blackwell, and Kevin Karpinski

Mr. Kevin Karpinski, Outside Counsel, reviewed the negotiation process and provided legal advice and will follow up on specific information requested that he obtain.

At 4:47 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to end this closed session and adjourn. *\*Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

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Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

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Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President