

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday April 24, 2024 (Legislative day)**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in person, at 5:02 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. Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins were present. *Commissioners Bowling, Stewart and Collins were in person.*

*\*Commissioner Patterson was absent.*

*\*Commissioner Coates was virtual.*

**Meet and Confer with the Town of La Plata and the Town of Indian Head: FY2025 Tax Differential**

Mr. Jacob Dyer, Acting Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services and Mr. Brandon Poulin, Mayor, Town of Indian Head, and Ms. Jeanine James, Mayor of the Town of La Plata, joined the Commissioners to meet and confer. Mr. Dyer provided an overview of the requirement to meet and confer based on state law and explained the history of the tax differential and an overview of the proposed FY2025 Tax Differential for the Town of LaPlata and for the Town of Indian Head.

*\*At about 5:10 p.m. Commissioner Patterson joined session virtually*

The proposed rate calculation for the Town of Indian Head for the Fiscal Year 2025 would be zero point zero two five (0.025) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed value. For FY2024, the Commissioners approved the rate of zero point zero three nine (0.039) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed value.

Mr. Brandon Paulin, Mayor, Town of Indian Head, requested that the Commissioners approve the FY2024 rate.

*\*At about 5:10 p.m. Commissioner Patterson joined session virtually.*

The proposed rate calculation for the Town of LaPlata for the Fiscal Year 2025 would be zero point one two four (0.124) for the residents of LaPlata. For FY2024, the Commissioners approved the rate of zero point one four two (0.142) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed value.

*\*Break 5:20 p.m. – 6:01 p.m.*

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**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins were present. *Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins were in person.*

*\*Commissioner Patterson was absent.*

**Public Hearing: Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budgets, the Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program, and Proposed Fees, Rates, and Charges -In Person**

The Commissioners conducted an in person then virtual public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget and the Fiscal Year 2025 through Fiscal Year 2029 Capital Budget. Mr. Jacob Dyer, Acting Director, and Ms. TaTanya Bowman, Assistant Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services presented an overview of the proposed budget. Mr. Dyer reviewed what was included in the proposed budget and the considerations taken to reach this budget which included discussions with departments and agencies to set priorities, community engagement, embedding equity into the budget process, balance the budget through internal reallocation of resources, no tax rate increases, and planning for a sustainable budget to meet future needs. The proposed balance budget for FY2025 is five hundred and fifty-nine million seven hundred and forty-three thousand two hundred dollars (\$559,743,200.00).

There were twenty-three (23) in person comments provided by the community.

*\*Break 7:52 p.m.-7:58 p.m.*

*After the break, the public hearings continued in a virtual format in order to hear virtual comments.*

**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present. *Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins were in person.*

*\*Commissioner Patterson was virtual.*

**Public Hearing: Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budgets, the Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program, and Proposed Fees, Rates, and Charges – Continued Virtually**

There was one (1) virtual comment provided by the community.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to keep the record open until May 3, 2024.

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

At 8:04 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.

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Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

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Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President