

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday September 17, 2024**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in person, 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  
Deborah Hall, Acting County Administrator  
Wes Adams, County Attorney  
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

*\*Ralph Patterson, II, M.A., Vice President, County Commissioner was absent for the morning session and joined session later this day as noted.*

**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, and Collins were present in person.

*\*Commissioners Stewart and Patterson were absent.*

**Recognition: Southern Sprinters Elite Youth Track Club and Charles County Elite Youth Track Club**

**Charles County Proclamations for September 2024**

2024-64 National Preparedness Month  
2024-65 National Hispanic Heritage Month  
2024-66 National Recovery Month  
2024-67 National Suicide Prevention Week  
2024-68 Direct Support Professionals' Week  
2024-69 Constitution Week  
2024-70 Diaper Need Awareness Week  
2024-71 Car Free Day  
2024-72 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Day  
2024-73 National Service Dog Month  
2024-74 National POW-MIA Recognition Day

The Commissioners were joined by members from the Department of Emergency Services to receive proclamation 2024-64 National Preparedness Month; Members of the Charles County Hispanic Heritage Month Committee, States Attorney's Office, Charles County Sheriff's Office, and the Charles County Board of Education to receive proclamation 2024-65 National Hispanic Heritage Month; Staff from the Charles County Health Department to receive proclamation 2024-66 National Recovery Month; Ms. Elaine Lawton, Vice Regent, Port Tobacco Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) to receive proclamation 2024-69 Constitution Week; Members of the Maryland Diaper Bank to receive proclamation 2024-70 Diaper Need Awareness Week; and Members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office to receive proclamation 2024-72 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Day.

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday September 17, 2024**

*\*Break 9:32 a.m.-9:43 a.m.*

Session resumed in hybrid format, virtually and in person.

**Roll Call**

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

*\*Commissioners Stewart and Patterson were absent.*

**Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Bowling:

- Thanked everyone for providing comments and reminded everyone about the need to be respectful to all people and their views.

**Approval of the Minutes of September 10, 2024**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of September 10, 2024. *\*Commissioners Stewart and Patterson were not present for the vote.*

**Announcement**

Next Scheduled Session(s): September 24-25, 2024.

**Approval Items**

**Letter of Support: National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Application**

(Ms. Ashley Chenault, Chief of Tourism, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; and Mr. Mike Mazzeo, Friends of Rich Hill)

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the Letter of Support for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Application. *\*Commissioners Stewart and Patterson were not present for the vote.*

**Agreement: Cost Sharing with Maryland State Highway Administration (MDSHA)**

(Ms. Alicia Afroilan, Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Fahad Hassan, and Mr. Andrew Balchin, Chief of Infrastructure Management, Department of Planning and Growth Management; and Mr. Bernard Cochran, Deputy Director-Utilities, Department of Public Works)

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve this agreement.

*\*Commissioners Stewart and Patterson were not present for the vote.*

**State Lobbyist Contract Agreement**

(Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Acting Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator and Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Assistant Deputy County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday September 17, 2024**

Commissioners Bowling, Coates, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve this contract.  
*\*Commissioners Stewart and Patterson were not present for the vote.*

**Federal Lobbyist Contract Agreement**

(Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Acting Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator and Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Assistant Deputy County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County)

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve this contract.  
*\*Commissioners Stewart and Patterson were not present for the vote.*

*\*At about 10:19 a.m. Commissioner Stewart joined session in person.*

**\*\*TO BE RESCHEDULED\*\* Briefing and Request to Introduce and Schedule a Public 2 Hearing: Proposed Bill 2024-(14) Charles County Government Bond Authority**

**Briefing: Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland**

Mr. John Hartline, Executive Director, and Commissioner Earl “Buddy” Hance, Chairman, Calvert County, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, joined the Commissioners on the activities of the Southern Maryland Tri-County Council. Mr. Hartline reviewed FY2025 Funding by program, Workforce Development, Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission activities, and Southern Maryland Heritage program.

Commissioner Collins requested and received consensus that the Tri-County Council should come back with a separate presentation covering only the transportation program.

*\*Break 10:54 a.m. – 10:59 a.m.*

**Roll Call**

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

**Discussion and Questions on Charter Form of Government**

Commissioner Bowling had requested a discussion on the provisions of the proposed charter. Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County answered questions posed by the Commissioners about various aspects of the proposed charter document. Topics included public safety, checks and balances between the proposed county council and county executive positions, and tax concerns.

The Commissioners agreed that any questions the Commissioners submit to the County Attorney before a scheduled agenda meeting about the potential charter document would be answered in an open session following the receipt of the questions.

**Closed Session**

At 11:44 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, 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

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday September 17, 2024**

(b)(1)(7)(8)(9)of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss collective bargaining negotiations; to discuss a settlement agreement and to conduct interviews for vacancies on Commissioner appointed Boards and Commissions. The reason for moving into closed session is to keep legal advice, negotiations, strategies, and personnel information confidential.

*\*Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

**Summary Closed Session Items**

At about 11:47 a.m., the Commissioners went into closed session.

**3-305(b)(7)(9) Collective Bargaining Negotiations**

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Carol DeSoto, Jenifer Ellin, Alexis Blackwell, Jacob Dyer, and Eric Paltell

Mr. Eric Paltell, Outside Counsel, and County Staff reviewed the requests made during the collective bargaining discussions and provided input.

The Commissioners provided direction on the next steps.

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

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Carol DeSoto, Jenifer Ellin, and Terrah Dews.

Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, and Ms. Terrah Dews, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County, reviewed the potential settlement and recommendations.

The Commissioners reached a consensus to sign the authorization to opt out of this settlement.

*\*Break 12:32 p.m. – 2:47 p.m.*

*\*At about 2:48 p.m. Commissioner Patterson joined session virtually.*

**3-305(b)(1) Personnel: Virtual Interviews for Commissioner Appointed Boards**

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

The Commissioners interviewed nine (9) applicants for the Planning Commission and five (5) applicants for the Police Accountability Board.

*\*At about 5:15 p.m. Commissioner Collins left closed session.*

The Commissioners agreed to discuss appointments to these boards during the next scheduled closed session.

At 5:27 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Patterson present, voting in favor to end this close session. *\*Commissioner Collins was not present for the vote.*

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners  
Tuesday September 17, 2024

At about 5:47 p.m. the Commissioners returned to open session.

**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present in person.

**Additional Approval Items**

Budget Amendments and Budget Transfers

(Mr. Jacob Dyer, Acting Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services)

FY2025 Budget Amendment Increase #368 Carryover Contract Charter Board Media Campaign

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to FY2025 Budget Amendment Increase #368 for sixty-five thousand three hundred and ten dollars (\$65,310.00).

Action on Boards and Commissions

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to reappoint Damion Trasada as an At-Large Member on the Board of Appeals.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to appoint Edward Holt and to reappoint Jon Zanelotti as the interim chair on the Board of Electrical Examiners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to appoint Dee Sapp and Erica Thomas as At-large members on the Commission on Individuals with Disabilities.

**Commissioners' New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

*\*Break 5:50 p.m. – 5:59 p.m.*

**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present in person.

**Public Hearing: Docket 90 Amendment PDZA #24-90(23), Villages of Wooded Glen & Piney Reach Master Plan**

The Commissioners held a hybrid, virtual/in-person, public hearing on the proposed Docket 90 Amendments. Ms. Heather Kelly, Planning Supervisor and Mr. Charles Rice, Planning Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management reviewed the amendments which would relocate the proposed site of a Middle School from a location on St. Charles Parkway to an alternate site along Piney Church Road; it would also grant an exception to the eighty five percent (85%) rule, which requires no construction on the Villages of Piney Reach until eighty five percent (85%) of all residential buildings are completed in the Village of Wooded Glen; and the requirement for a vegetated buffer along MD Route 488.

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday September 17, 2024**

There were twenty-one (21) people who presented in person comments and one (1) person who provided virtual comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to keep the public record open for fifteen (15) days and hold a work session within thirty-five (35) days.

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

At 8:12 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.

---

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

---

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President