

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**

**Tuesday September 30, 2025**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in hybrid format (in person and virtual) at 9:01 a.m. with the following people 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, Ed.D., County Commissioner  
Danielle Mitchell, 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 in person.

**Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Bowling recognized the retirement of Robert Kiesel after thirty-one (31) years with the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO)

Commissioner Patterson spoke on the support for the Rotary Club Lobsterfest to help increase literacy; the Legacy Flight Academy at the Maryland Airport to expose youth to the aviation Industry; noted that Yom Kippur starts tomorrow; and wished Commissioner Collins a Happy Birthday.

**Notice of Attendance Summaries**

**Announcement**

Next Scheduled Session(s): October 7-8, 2025.

Notice of Attendance Summaries were listed on the agenda.

**Approval Items**

**Budget Amendment(s) and Budget Transfer(s):**

(Mr. Samantha Chiriaco, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative)

**FY2026 Budget Transfer Request #490 Contract Services maintenance of Solar Flares-Extraction Wells at Landfill**

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2026 Budget Transfer Request #490 for sixty-eight thousand eight hundred and twenty dollars (\$68,820.00).

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**

**Tuesday September 30, 2025**

**Letter of Support: The Port Tobacco Players (PTP) Grant Application to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC)**

(Mr. Mike Gahan, Business Manager, Port Tobacco Players)

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to send this letter of support as presented.

**Request for Approval: Charles County Board of Education FY2025 Inter-Category Budget Transfer and FY2026 Inter-Category Budget Increase**

(Ms. Karen Acton, Chief Financial Officer, and Ms. Sherri Fischer-Davis, Budget Manager, and Dr. Maria Navarro, Superintendent, Charles County Public Schools)

A motion was made Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the FY2025 Inter-Category Budget Transfer for three point two (\$3.2) million dollars.

A motion was made Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the FY2026 Inter-Category Budget Increase for five point eight (\$5.8) million dollars.

Dr. Navarro indicated that the Board of Education would schedule a joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss upcoming budget.

**Lease Renewal- Health Partners**

(Danielle Mitchell, Acting Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator)

A motion was made Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve this third amendment to this lease renewal.

**Approval: Donation Mt. Eagle Lane- Waldorf Land Donation**

(Ms. Victoria Rickett, Assistant Property Acquisition Officer, and Ms. Sarah Guy, Chief of Property Acquisition, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County)

A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to move forward with acceptance of the land donation.

**Approval: Potential Land Acquisition for Landfill Expansion- Thomas Edison Place**

(Ms. Sarah Guy, Chief of Property Acquisition, and Ms. Victoria Rickett, Assistant Property Acquisition Officer, and Ms. Tyra Hudson, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County; and Ms. Frances Sherman, Chief of Environmental Resources, Department of Public Works-Facilities)

A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve to complete the purchase sale agreements for the purchase of land at 5025 Thomas Edison Place, Waldorf Maryland for the expansion of the Landfill for two point five (\$2.5) million dollars.

**Update: Maryland Tech Council Data Center Summit**

Mr. Jim Chandler, Director, and Mr. Mark Thompson, of Commercial Development, Department of

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**

**Tuesday September 30, 2025**

Economic Development; Ms. Kelly Schultz, CEO, Maryland Tech Council, provided the Commissioners a review of the Data center Summitt held in August 2025. Ms. Schultz explained the economic impact that data centers can provide to the counties and the state related to income and work force. She also discussed the regulation of data centers, mitigation efforts for noise and environmental impacts, and fiscal growth and community benefits of data centers, a broad overview of industry opportunities, impacts, infrastructure constraints, and recently adopted and pending legislation for consideration by the State of Maryland. Maryland is the first state to require and electrical grid updates needed to be paid by the data centers. Additional potential Bill would enable counties to charge an equipment personal property tax on data centers if passed by the Maryland legislature.

**Closed Session**

At 10:18 a.m., a 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)(7)(8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss one (1) potential litigation settlement. The reason for moving into closed session is to keep legal advice, strategies, and negotiations confidential.

**Summary Closed Session Items**

At about 10:34 a.m., the Commissioners went into closed session.

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

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson and Collins, Wes Adams, Danielle Mitchell, Carol DeSoto, and Terrah Dews.

Staff reviewed the potential settlement option.

The Commissioners present reached a consensus authorizing participation in the settlement agreement and Commissioner Collins to sign agreement.

At 10:37 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioner present, voting in favor to end this close session.

The Commissioners returned to open session at 2:05 p.m.

**Roll Call**

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

**Annual: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) Tour 2025**

Ms. Samantha Biddle, Acting Secretary, and Mr. Joe McAndrew, Assistant Secretary for Project Development and Delivery, Maryland Department Transportation (MDOT) and other State of Maryland transportation officials met with the Commissioners in person as part of the State's Annual Transportation Tour to brief local jurisdictions on the state of Maryland's Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), and capital budget. Members of the Charles County State Delegation, Delegates Patterson, and Senator Ellis joined the meeting as well. Participants discussed MDOT's Draft FY2026-FY2031 Consolidated Transportation Program.

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**

**Tuesday September 30, 2025**

Commissioner Collins spoke on the County's long standing top transportation priority Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) project. SMRT continues to be Charles County's highest transportation priority as well as for Prince George's County. He spoke on the final five million dollar (\$5,000,000.00) Federal Earmarks in the Senate Appropriation Bill that is awaiting action by the House. He stressed the need to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for SMRT and obtain a Record of Decision from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Traffic continues to worsen, and residents demand rapid transit, and light rail is the only transit mode that will keep up with the demand in this area.

**Commissioners' New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

*\*Break 4:09 p.m. – 5:29 p.m.*

**Roll Call**

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

**Public Hearing: Status Update on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Women's Recovery Home- Jude House**

The Commissioners conducted an in person and virtual public hearing to review the program performance and status update to citizens on the Community Development Block Grant pertaining to the Recovery Housing Program – Robins Nest, a woman's recovery home program. Our office was awarded this grant on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2024. The purpose of the project was to purchase a home targeted for women who are in recovery for substance abuse disorder. This final public hearing is required to review the use of Community Development Block Grant funds which were used to fund the project. Ms. Barbara Farmer, Community Development Supervisor, Department of Community Services, and Ms. Susan Thompson, Executive Director, and Ms. Michelle Asmussen, Special Programs Director, The Jude House, provided a presentation reviewing The Robin's Nest Program, which provides family centered recovery housing in a safe and supportive environment for women and their children, with the ultimate goal of breaking the cycle of addiction.

There were no public comments provided.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to close the public record.

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

**Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Rehabilitate the Salvation Army Facility**

The Commissioners conducted an in person and virtual public hearing on the application for funds that are being requested to rehabilitate Salvation Army facility located at 11690 Doolittle Drive, Waldorf, Maryland 20602 to serve as a warming shelter in Charles County, Maryland. In order to submit a Community Development Block Grant application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, must remain in compliance. A statement of activity and the draft application

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**

**Tuesday September 30, 2025**

was made available for public review on our website at charlescountymd.gov and at the Department of Community Services office located at 8190 Port Tobacco Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677. Since the posted date of the public notice on September 19, 2025. All questions and comments were directed to Ms. Barbara Farmer, Community Development Supervisor at 8190 Port Tobacco Road, Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677 with the contact number 301-934-0124. Ms. Barbara Farmer, Community Development Supervisor, Department of Community Services, and Ms. Angela Soriano, Grant Manager, and Ms. Rebekah Palpan, Lieutenant Corps Officer, Salvation Army joined the Commissioners to provide an overview of the requested project.

There was one (1) person who presented public comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to close the public record.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adopt Resolution 2025-14 Rehabilitation of Salvation Army Facility in Waldorf Maryland to serve as a warming center.

*\*Break 5:50 p.m. – 5:59 p.m.*

**Roll Call**

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

**Public Hearing: Proposed Bill 2025-(03) The Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Tax Rate (Corrections to Charles County Code, Chapter 54 )**

The Commissioners conducted an in person and virtual public hearing on proposed Bill 2025-03 The Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Tax Rate (Corrections to Charles County Code, Chapter 54 ). Ms. Elizabeth Theobalds, Deputy County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County, explained that this proposed Bill considers an amendment to the Charles County Code Chapter 54 to correct a scrivener's error in citing the tax rate in the County Code and to correct the omission of the Executive Committee of the Charles County Association of Emergency Medical Services as a record keeper, reviewer and reporter of members' credits for participation in the Length of Service Award Program.

There were no public comments provided.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to close the public record.

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

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**

**Tuesday September 30, 2025**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adopt Bill 2025- 03 The Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Tax Rate (Corrections to Charles County Code, Chapter 54 ).

**Public Hearing: Charles County Government 2025 Bond Issue**

The Commissioners conducted an in person then virtual public hearing on the Charles County Government 2025 Bond Issue. Mr. Jacob Dyer, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, reviewed the proposed total Bond Size is seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000.00) which will cover projects for water and sewer, Board of Education and new school construction, the College of Southern Maryland, roads, environmental projects, and government facilities and parks. Bond Terms for fifteen (15) year bonds is forty-six (\$46.0) million dollars for eligible General Government, Board of Education, Parks, Roads, Water and Sewer, and Environmental Resources projects; ten (10) year bond is seven (\$7.0) million dollars for School Excise Tax Bonds for eligible Board of Education projects and thirty (30) year bond is twenty-two (\$22.0) million dollars for eligible Water, Sewer and Watershed projects.

There were no public comments provided.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to close the public record.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adopt Resolution 2025-15 Charles County Government 2025 Bond Issue.

**Public Hearing: Amend the Solid Waste Management Plan**

The Commissioners conducted an in person and virtual public hearing on Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) which addresses the management of solid waste including generation, waste reduction, collection, transportation, processing, and disposal. Ms. Margaret Romero, Assistant Chief of Environmental Services, Department of Public Works explained that the proposed Amendment is to update the Plan to include a glossary; and to include an amendment application process before being added to the Plan of Action section of the SWMP.

There were no public comments provided.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to close the public record.

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end this public hearing.

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**

**Tuesday September 30, 2025**

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adopt Resolution 2025-16 Amending the Solid Waste Management Plan.

At about 6:13 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates 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