

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners

Tuesday October 28, 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
Gilbert O. Bowling, III, County Commissioner
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner
Amanda M. Stewart, Ed.D., 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 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, Stewart, and Collins were present in person.

**Commissioner Patterson was absent.*

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Stewart thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their work and the great event they hosted over the weekend for the Taste of Southern Maryland.

Approval of the Minutes of October 7 and October 21, 2025

The Motion for the minutes of October 7, 2025 took place later this day under Additional Approval Items.

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 approve the minutes of October 21, 2025. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

Announcement

Next Scheduled Session(s): November 4-5, 2025.

Approval Items

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

There were no budget items for approval.

Approval: To Light the Courthouse in Teal for Alzheimer Awareness

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

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

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

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Approval: Changes to Standard Operating Policy (SOP) Disposition of County Real Estate (CP.CAT.02.002)

(Ms. Sarah Guy, Chief of Property Acquisition, and Ms. Victoria Rickett, Assistant Property Acquisition Officer, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County; and Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Acting Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator)

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 approve this request.

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

Approval: New Standard Operating Policy (SOP) Acquisition of County Real Estate (CP.CAT.02.001)

(Ms. Sarah Guy, Chief of Property Acquisition, and Ms. Victoria Rickett, Assistant Property Acquisition Officer, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County; and Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Acting Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator)

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

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

Letter of Support: NewCastle Development Group Grant Application to US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

(Mr. Jim Chandler, Director, Ms. Michelle Frye, Deputy Director, and Mr. Mark Thompson, Chief of Commercial Development, Department of Economic Development)

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 approve this letter of support. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

Briefing: Storm Projection in Event of Flooding from Natural Events|

Mr. Martin Harris, Director, Department of Public Works; and Mr. Steve Rager, Senior Manager, SAS, Mr. Tyson Echentile, Senior Manager, and Ms. Beth Boyd, Director, SAS, provided a briefing on storm projections in the event of flooding from natural events using digital twins, virtual representations of real-world entities and processes, synchronized at specified frequency and fidelity. Digital twins use real-time and historical data to represent past and present events and to simulate predicted future events, such as the impact of flooding. The information can be used to enhance preparation, deployment, evacuation, safety, and recovery operations.

Staff will bring back this topic with proposed costs to the County.

Briefing: Update Water Supply Program for the Northern Charles County Region

Ms. Alicia Afroilan, Engineering Supervisor for Infrastructure Management, Mr. Andy Balchin, Chief of Infrastructure Management, Mr. Jason Groth, Director, and Mr. Fahad Hassan, Engineer II, Department of Planning and Growth Management; Mr. Timothy Giles, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works-Utilities; and Mr. Christopher Ramo, Senior Associate, Hazen and Sawyer, joined the Commissioners to provide information on the water supply in Northern Charles County. The presentation included an overview of the existing public water supply, as well as short- and long-term water supply goals. The conversation also included a summary of next steps for current and planned projects to improve the County's water supply.

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Commissioners' New Business

Commissioner Bowling informed the Board that at the Tri-County Council meeting it was announced that money would be given to Charles County Thomas Stone Historic Site for tourism.

Closed Session

At 10:32 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 (b)(1)(3)(7)(8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to receive legal advice/update on three (3) matters; review a potential litigation settlement; receive an update on a potential property acquisition and to discuss Commissioners Committee Assignments. The reason for moving into closed session is to keep legal advice, strategies, negotiations, and personnel information confidential. **Commissioner Patterson was not present for the vote.*

Summary Closed Session Items

At about 10:41 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, Deborah Hall, Carol DeSoto, Danielle Mitchell, Olin Straus, Samuel Walter, Martin Harris, Terrah Dews

**At about 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Patterson joined closed session virtually.*

Staff reviewed the settlement letter.

The Commissioners present reached a consensus to have Commissioner Collins sign this letter.

3-305(b)(3)(7)Update on a Potential Land Acquisition

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Carol DeSoto, Danielle Mitchell, Sarah Guy, Marc Potter, Victoria Rickett, Jason Groth.

Staff provided an update on the status of this potential land acquisition.

The Commissioners present reached a consensus on the settlement approach and next steps if not accepted.

3-305(b)(7) Legal Advice Sponsorships

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Carol DeSoto, Danielle Mitchell Jacob, Charles Garramone, Byron Sackett, Kelli Beavers, Sam Drury.

Staff introduced the owners of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs and reviewed the request for the naming sponsorship of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs Stadium.

The Commissioners present reached a consensus for changing the name of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs Stadium with the new sponsor. Official Action took place later this day under Additional Approval Items.

**At about 11:17 a.m. Commissioner Patterson left closed session.*

3-305(b)(7) Legal Advice

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Carol DeSoto, Danielle Mitchell, Kelli Beavers, Sam Drury.

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Commissioners and staff discussed potential options and legal requirements related to use of County property and requirements of Department of Natural Resources.

The Commissioners directed staff to develop a potential program and bring back recommendations for 2026.

3-305(b)(7) Legal Advice

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Carol DeSoto, Danielle Mitchell, Elizabeth Theobalds.

Staff reviewed Court Orders the County received and the potential next steps in the case.

***TO BE RESCHEDULED* 3-305(b)(1) Personnel- Commissioners' Committee Assignments**

At 12:03 p.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 end this close session. **Commissioners Patterson was not present for the vote.*

The Commissioners returned to open session at 3:03 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Additional Approval Items

Action on Boards and Commissions

There were no actions.

Approval of the Minutes of October 7, 2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of October 7, 2025.

Approval: Southern Maryland Blue Crabs Stadium Naming Rights

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the name change requested by Crabs on Deck, LLC, pursuant to Section 8.3 of the Concession Agreement.

Joint Meeting on Public Safety

Charles County Sheriff's Office, Charles County State's Attorney, La Plata Police Department, Department of Emergency Services, Charles County Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services, the Charles County Public Schools, the Charles County Health Department and Delegate Patterson, Charles County Delegation joined the Commissioners for a bi-annual meeting to discuss public safety. Public safety leaders discussed concerns related to mental health crisis response services, youth needs and challenges, funding options, and staffing support. The S a n t é Mobile Crisis Team provided an overview of their regional Crisis Response Services Program, costs, and services to Charles County.

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**At about 4:18 p.m. Commissioner Patterson joined session in person.*

Staff will provide feedback on how to move forward with the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) Program.

At about 4:33 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President