

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Wednesday January 28, 2026 (Legislative Day)**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 2:35 p.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  
Amanda M. Stewart, Ed.D., County Commissioner  
Deborah Hall, Acting County Administrator  
Wes Adams, County Attorney  
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

\* *Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., 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, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins were present virtually.  
\**Commissioner Coates was absent.*

**Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Collins spoke on the challenges people are facing with severe weather and stressed safety is the primary focus.

Commissioner Patterson spoke about the Maternal Health Fair held last week at St. Charles High School which was sponsored by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc; expressed that the MLK Prayer Breakfast last week at North Point High School was inspirational and motivational; informed that the Tri-County Council installed their new Executive Board on January 22 and congratulated Commissioner Bowling as the new Chair.

Commissioner Bowling reiterated the message for everyone to be safe.

**Approval of the Minutes of January 13, 2026**

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 approve the minutes of January 13, 2026. \**Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

**Announcement**

Next Scheduled Session(s): February 3-4, 2026

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**Approval Items**

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

**FY2026 Budget Transfer Request #102 Additional Funds for Water Repairs Performed by Line Maintenance Utilities**

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 approve FY2026 Budget Transfer Request #102 for eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000.00) \**Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

**FY2026 Budget Transfer Request #118 Mandated Local Share for Eligible Children in Private Prekindergarten**

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 approve FY2026 Budget Transfer Request #118 for one hundred and forty-one thousand and eight hundred and sixty dollars (\$141,860.00) \**Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

**FY2026 Budget Transfer Request #359 New Capital Improvement Project Lackey High School Pool HVAC Replacement**

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve FY2026 Budget Transfer Request #359 for one million six hundred and forty thousand dollars (\$1,640,000.00) \**Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

**Request for Approval: Charles County Board of Education FY2026 Inter-Category Budget Transfer**  
(Ms. Karen Acton, Chief Financial Officer, and Ms. Sherri Fisher-Davis, Budget Manager, Charles County Public Schools)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve FY2026 Charles County Board of Education Inter-Category Budget Transfer for four point two (\$4.2) million dollars. \**Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

**Letter of Request: To Charles County Public Schools Related to Swimming Pools in the Schools**  
(Ms. Kelli Beavers, Director, and Mr. Sam Drury, Deputy Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism; and Mr. Jacob Dyer, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services)

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the letter of Request to Charles County Public Schools. \**Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

**Letter of Support: Naming a District 4 Court in Honor of Secretary George W. Owings III**  
(Mr. Joshua Marks, Life Independent Veteran Advocate)

The Commissioners requested to defer approval of this letter until additional feedback is provided from District Court judges.

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**Change Order #12 Mattawoman Waste Water Treatment Plant (MWWTP) Electrical and Automation Improvements Project, GHD Engineering Services Contract (RFP No. 17-10)**

(Mr. Stephen Billingsley, Contract Project Manager, Mr. Waqar Cheema, Senior Project Manager, Mr. Samuel Walter, Program Manager, Ms. Britta Hertling, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works, Capital Project Management Division; and Mr. Ed Gorham, Chief of Utility Projects, Department of Public Works-Utilities)

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve Change Order #12 \**Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

**Memorandum of Understanding(MOU): County & Town of La Plata for the Radio Station Road Side Path Extension**

(Mr. Brian Kagarise, Assistant Chief, Ms. Britta Hertling, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works-Capital Project Management; Mr. Brendon Laster, Strategic Operations Officer, Department of Public Works -Facilities; and Ms. Zhypar Beishenalieva, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County)

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

**Approval: Resolution 2026-01 Condemnation for Boundary Line Adjustment**

(Ms. Sarah Guy, Chief of Property Acquisition, Mr. Marc Potter, Associate County Attorney I, Office of County Attorney for Charles County)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve Resolution 2026-01 Condemnation of Certain Real Property: 8040 Marshall Corner Road, Pomfret, Maryland \**Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

\*At about 3:23 Commissioner Coates joined session virtually.

**Legislative Update: 2026 Maryland General Assembly Session**

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Acting Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator; Mr. Joseph Green and Ms. Jeanette Tejeda de Gomez, G.S. Proctor & Associates, Inc., provided the first overview of the 2026 Maryland General Assembly Session which last for ninety (90) days. They provided an overview of local Bills submitted and other statewide Bills of interest. They also reviewed the FY2027 Maryland State Budget and Economic Outlook.

The Commissioners present reached a consensus to send a letter of support for Senate Bill 288 Transportation – Highway User Revenues Capital Grants – Calculation at the request of Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) and approve Mr. Martin Harris, Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management to provide oral testimony.

The Commissioners would like to discuss further the Delegates' proposal to set up future funding sources.

**Commissioners' New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

**Closed Session**

At 3:53 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson 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)(3)(4)(7)(8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss a potential new business in the County; review a potential acquisition; and receive an update on a personnel issue. The reason for moving into closed session is to keep legal advice, strategies, negotiations, and personnel information confidential.

**Summary Closed Session Items**

At about 3:57 p.m., the Commissioners went into closed session.

**3-305(b)(4)(7) Discuss Potential New Business in the County**

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Carol DeSoto, Danielle Mitchell, Jim Chandler, Michelle Frye, Mark Thompson, Paul Ruppert, Eddie Pounds, Joe Reimann, Michael Enright, Nazar Khan

Staff introduced the members of the organization that is potentially coming to the County.

**3-305(b)(3)(7) Potential Land Acquisition**

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Carol DeSoto, Danielle Mitchell, Sarah Guy, Alicia Afroilan, Aimee Castillo, Victoria Rickett

Staff reviewed the potential land acquisition.

The Commissioners present reached a consensus to have staff finalize negotiations.

**3-305(b)(1)(7)(8) Litigation: Personnel**

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

Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County, provided the Commissioners with updated information related to this matter.

At 4:40 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end this close session and adjourn.

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Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

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Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President