

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday April 14, 2026 (Legislative day)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in hybrid format, in person and virtually, at 6:00 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
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner
Deborah Hall, Acting County Administrator
Wes Adams, County Attorney
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

** Amanda M. Stewart, Ed.D., County Commissioner, was absent.*

At about 9:00 a.m., before the official start of the Commissioners' Meeting, Commissioners Bowling and Patterson presented April proclamations to staff and organizations present.

Charles County Proclamations for April 2026

2026-16 National Volunteer Week

2026-17 National Deaf History Month

2026-18 Fair Housing Month

2026-19 National Child Abuse Prevention Month

2026-20 Autism Acceptance Month

2026-21 Archaeology Month

2026-22 National Crime Victims' Rights Week

2026-23 National Public Health Week

2026-24 National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week

2026-25 National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week

2026-26 National Walking Day

2026-27 National Financial literacy Month and Money Smart Week

**** TO BE RESCHEDULED ** FY2027 Budget Work Session: Review of FY2027 Operating Revenue Estimates and First Review of Proposed FY2027 General Fund, and Highlights of County Agencies Funding**

**** TO BE RESCHEDULED ** FY2027 Budget Work Session: Review of FY2027 Governmental Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)**

****TO BE RESCHEDULED ** Closed Session**

**** TO BE RESCHEDULED ** Discussion: Cost of DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia) Soldiers Semi-Pro Basketball Home Games at St. Charles High School**

**** TO BE RESCHEDULED ** Briefing: FY2026 General Fund Review-Third Quarter**

**** TO BE RESCHEDULED ** Briefing: Update on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

**** TO BE RESCHEDULED ** Discussion: Crosswalk Realignment at Washington Avenue, La Plata Maryland**

**** TO BE RESCHEDULED ** Commissioners' New Business**

**** NO PUBLIC COMMENT ** Commissioners' Public Comment Session**

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, Patterson and Collins were present in person. Commissioner Coates was virtual. **Commissioner Stewart was absent.*

Approval of the Minutes of March 17, 2026

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of March 17, 2026. **Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

Announcement

Next Scheduled Session(s): April 21-22, 2026

Approval Items

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

FY2026 Budget Transfer Request # 110 Cover Cost of Installing a Water Tap on Livingston Road

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve FY2026 Budget Transfer Request #110 for fifty-four thousand nine hundred and thirty dollars (\$54,930.00) **Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

FY2026 Budget Transfer Request #582 Purchase and Retrofit an Existing Building into Satellite Regional Facility for the Department of Public Works

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve FY2026 Budget Transfer Request #582 for six million seventeen thousand seven hundred and ten dollars (\$6,017,710.00). **Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.*

FY2026 Budget Amendment Increase #122 Conceptual Design for a Potential New County Circuit Courthouse Facility

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve FY2026

Budget Transfer Request #122 one hundred and forty-three thousand one hundred dollars (\$143,100.00). *Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.

Letter of Commitment: Western Parkway Phase Three US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)

(Mr. Brian Kagarise, Assistant Chief of Capital Services, Ms. Britta Hertling, Deputy Director, Mr. Brendon Laster, Strategic Operations Officer, Department of Public Works Capital Services)

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

Approval: Two Amendments to Enhance the Charles County Pension Plan for Non-Public Safety

Participants

(Ms Megan Donnick, Deputy Director, and Ms. Kim Pelczar, Senior Benefits Administrator, Department of Human Resources; and Mr. Jacob Dyer, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Patterson, and Collins, present, voting in favor to approve the amendments to the Charles County Pension Plan. Commissioner Coates was opposed. *Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote. A roll call of the vote was taken: Commissioner Bowling-yes; Commissioner Coates-no; Commissioner Stewart-absent; Commissioner Patterson- yes; Commissioner Collins-yes. The motion passed three (3) to one (1).

Public Hearing: Proposed Bill 2026-(02) Animal Matters Board (Member Compensation)

The Commissioners conducted an in-person and virtual public hearing on proposed Bill 2026-02 Animal Matters Board (Member Compensation). Ms. Terrah Dews, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County, reviewed the proposed bill which would enact the 2025 recommendations of the Charles County Compensation Commission related to stipends for Boards and Commissions. It is necessary to change Charles County Code to reflect these approved recommendations. Ms. Dews explained she submitted the newly updated legislation which will change the language from “without” to “with” compensation. (Chapter 230-4(A)(3) *The members of the Board shall serve with[out] compensation.*)

There were no in-person or virtual comments provided by the public.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson and Collins present, voting in favor to close the public record. *Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson and Collins present, voting in favor to Bill 2026-02 Animal Matters Board (Member Compensation) with the amended language. *Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.

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Note: (Change the language from “without” to “with” compensation. Chapter 230-4(A)(3) The members of the Board shall serve with[out] compensation.)

At 6:33 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to adjourn. *Commissioner Stewart was not present for the vote.

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President