

January 24, 2023

The County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County met this date pursuant to its last adjournment and there were present:

James J. Moran
Jack N. Wilson, Jr.
Patrick McLaughlin
Philip L. Dumenil
Christopher M. Corchiarino

CLOSED SESSION:

Pursuant to State Government Law Section 3-305(b) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; "The County Commissioners held a Closed Session on a motion of Commissioner Dumenil , seconded by Commissioner Wilson, at 5:00 p.m. in The Office of the County Commissioners, The Liberty Building, 107 N. Liberty Street, Centreville, Maryland." The Board adjourned in Closed Session at 5:23 p.m. Those in attendance were Mr. Todd Mohn, P.E., County Administrator and Ms. Margie A. Houck, Executive Assistant to the Commissioners.

The Board discussed Boards and Commission.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES:

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the amended Agenda for the current meeting, the Regular and Closed Session Minutes of January 10, 2023.

COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

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On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to reappoint Nicole Chase-Powell, Jenny Crossley and Jone Taylor.

This Council currently has three (3) members that would like to be reappointed on the Council for Children and Youth. Nicole Chase-Powell, Jenny Crossley and Jone Taylor. These terms will expire on December 31, 2025.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

LEGISLATIVE

ORDINANCE 23-01 – PUBLIC FACILITIES BOND AUTHORIZATION 2023

The County Commissioners of Queen Anne’s County held a public hearing on January 24, 2023 at 5:40 p.m. in the County Commissioner’s Meeting Room, Liberty Building, 107 North Liberty Street, Centreville, Maryland 21617 to receive public comments regarding the proposed County Ordinance No. 23-01 (the “Proposed Ordinance”), A PUBLIC LOCAL LAW TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY, MARYLAND (THE “COUNTY”), FROM TIME TO TIME, TO BORROW NOT MORE THAN SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$7,000,000) FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF FINANCING OR REFINANCING CERTAIN PUBLIC FACILITIES, ALL AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE, AND TO EVIDENCE SUCH BORROWING BY THE ISSUANCE AND SALE AT PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SALE, UPON ITS FULL FAITH AND CREDIT, OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (THE “BONDS”) IN LIKE PAR AMOUNT; EMPOWERING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 19-504(d) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (2013 REPLACEMENT VOLUME AND 2021 SUPPLEMENT) (THE “CODE”) PRIOR TO ISSUING ALL OR ANY PART OF THE BONDS; EMPOWERING AND DIRECTING THE

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COUNTY TO LEVY AD VALOREM TAXES IN RATE AND AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE MATURING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS AND PLEDGING THE COUNTY’S FULL FAITH AND CREDIT AND UNLIMITED TAXING POWER TO THE PAYMENT THEREOF; EXEMPTING THE BONDS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 19-205 TO 19-206, INCLUSIVE, OF THE CODE; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS; AND RELATING GENERALLY TO THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SUCH BONDS.

Jeff Thompson, Esquire, conducted the hearing on behalf of the county and noted all legal requirements were met.

Press and Public Comment:

There was not public Testimony

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to adopted County Ordinance 23-01.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

HEARING GROWTH ALLOCATION PETITION ARMORED STORAGE:

The Queen Anne’s County Commissioners gives notice pursuant to the Code of Public Laws of Queen Anne’s County, Chapter 14:1, Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Act, § 14:1-77.D, that it will hold a public hearing concerning a growth allocation petition to reclassify 2.811 acres of land from Limited Development Area (LDA) to Intense Development Area (IDA) for a proposed 156,000 square-foot, 4-story self-storage facility with interior access only and associated parking. The request includes existing Parcels 351, 352, and 287 located on Tax Map 57 on Piney Creek Road and Nash Court. The application was submitted by petitioner Nashville Properties, LLC, and by the agent, Joseph A. Stevens, of Stevens Palmer, LLC. The Petitioner’s proposal is made under the procedures of Chapter 14:1, Article XV, of the Queen Anne’s County Code

Jeff Thompson, Esquire, conducted the hearing on behalf of the County and noted all legal requirements were met.

Joe Stevens, Esquire, reviewed the Critical Area Law. Mr. Kevin Shearon, DMS & Associates, LLC reviewed the proposed project.

Press and Public Comments

1. Scott Zellestian – Opposed
2. David Azar – In Favor
3. Jay Johns – In Favor
4. Valerie Hirsch – Opposed
5. James Hutson - Opposed the height
6. Karen Merret – Opposed
7. Steve Pringle – Opposed
8. Robert Thompson – Opposed
9. Jean Sadler – Opposed
10. Joshua Willis – Opposed
11. Anne Richards - Opposed
12. Susan Viam – In Favor
13. Roland Voigt – Opposed
14. Susan Buckingham – Opposed
15. Bob Zillis – Opposed
16. Andrea Kinder – Opposed
17. Jody Schultz – In Favor

It was noted that under the County Commissioner’s Press and Public Comment they received 16 emails opposing and 14 supporting the Armored Self Storage Project.

The County Commissioner’s and County Administrator’s inbox received 49 emails regarding the armored Storage Project 47 opposing and two in support.

The Board left the record open until the next meeting for any additional comments.

WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNATURE:

The Board reviewed various correspondence with Todd Mohn, County Administrator.

PROCLAMATION 23-02 HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH:

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Commissioner Wilson read the following proclamation:

23-02

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking is a serious problem on the Eastern Shore, where traffickers use violence, threats, deception and other manipulative tactics to force and coerce young and adult individuals to engage in commercial sex acts or to provide labor or services against their will; and

WHEREAS, between June 2013 and May 2020 there were reports of child sex trafficking in every Eastern Shore County and since 2017 throughout Maryland 127 human trafficking victims have been rescued; and

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking is the second highest criminal enterprise in the United States grossing \$9.5 billion every year. The increased use of drugs, focus on social-media, changes brought by Covid-19 have increased the level of Human Trafficking. The Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force is engaged in Anti-Human Trafficking actions by encouraging and promoting awareness and prevention of Human Trafficking; and

WHEREAS, January, across the nation, is Human Trafficking Prevention Month, which formally recognizes that human trafficking consistently occurs in the United States and emphasizes the need for the public and private sectors to come together to focus on prevention, prosecution, partnerships and support for survivors; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Queen Anne’s County, Maryland, hereby recognizes January as “**HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH**”

PROCLAMATION 23-03 NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH:

Commissioner Dumenil read the following proclamation.

23-03

Whereas, January 2023 will mark the 21st anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual campaign to focus attention on the need for mentors; and

Whereas, Queen Anne’s County honors volunteer mentors who support young people by showing up for them every day and demonstrating their commitment to helping them thrive; and

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Whereas, mentoring has proven to be an effective strategy to increase the life opportunities of all young people; and

Whereas, quality mentoring promotes healthy relationships and communication, positive, self-esteem, emotional well-being, and growth of a young person and their relationships with others; and

Whereas, with support of the County, State, business and community leaders, the Maryland MENTOR has helped establish mentorships with youth across the County and State, providing young people with the opportunities to succeed; and

Now, Therefore, we, the County Commissioners of Queen Anne’s County, do hereby support the Nation in proclaiming January 2023, as “NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH” in Queen Anne’s County and recognize and acknowledge the importance of mentoring programs.

KENT ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT DUE TO LOSS FUNDS:

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, to reimbursement to Kent Island High School Band Boosters in the amount of \$1,082.65, after discussion the Board tabled this item.

The Kent Island High School Band Boosters are requesting funds in the amount of \$1,082.65 due to the Kent Island High School track pavement renovation which caused the event to be moved from Kent Island High School stadium to the practice field. Track renovations were completed prior to the event however timing did not allow for the event to be moved back to the stadium. This move eliminated potential revenue for stadium ticket sales and sales of food and drink. The funds requested are to reimburse the band’s out of pocket expenses for this event. The funding loss for the MMBA event is \$122.65 on food and \$960.00 in tickets (\$1,082.65 Total).

LOCAL PARKS AND PLAYGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT VENDOR APPROVAL:

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to use ATC Corp., MUSCO Lighting, and American Ramp Company to complete their projects for the FY23 DNR-LPPI Grant.

The Commissioners previously approved the following projects to be completed using the \$1 million grant from DNR- Local Parks and Playgrounds Infrastructure (LPPI):

1. Renovate the Courts at Round Top Park to create two Pickleball Courts and one Basketball Court.
2. Replace the Basketball Court Lights at Pinkney Park.
3. Color Coat the Basketball Court at Pinkney Park.
4. Construct a Skate Park at Cockey Lane in Stevensville.

Parks and Recreation is recommending to use the following vendors for the above listed projects:

- a. For the Court Work - ATC Corp utilizing the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance Contract, NCPA#08-18.
- b. For Court Lights — MUSCO Lighting utilizing the Keystone Purchasing Network Agreement KPN-20 1901-01.
- c. For the Skate Park — American Ramp Company utilizing the Sourcewell Contract #112420-ARC

As part of the motion, Commissioners Moran and McLaughlin asked questions and/or made comments on this topic.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

BLOOMFIELD MARYLAND HERITAGE AREA AUTHORITY GRANT:

On a motion made by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner McLaughlin, the Board unanimously agreed that Commission President Jim Moran execute the Maryland Heritage Area Authority Fund Grant for Bloomfield Farmhouse at White Marsh Park.

Parks and Recreation received a Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant for \$17,500. The grant requires a match from the county (also in the amount of \$17,500). This grant will be used for the cost of creating a master plan for the Bloomfield Farmhouse at White Marsh Park including a historic structures report. Staff recommends execution of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant for Bloomfield Farmhouse at White Marsh Park.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

PARKS AND RECREATION CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASE:

On a motion made by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to continue with the purchase from Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc. from Milford, Delaware at the increased cost of \$49,575. Funding to come from the Department of Parks and Recreation’s Capital Equipment Budget.

In 2021 Parks was approved to purchase two 2022 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Extended Cab 4WD Trucks from Hertrich Fleet Services in Milford, Delaware for \$36,464 each. Due to supply chain shortages we have not received one of the trucks. Recently, we were informed that Chevrolet is no longer making 2022 models. Parks has the option to still purchase a truck however it will be at the 2023 model rate of \$49,575, a difference of \$13,111. The Department of Parks and Recreation is requesting permission to continue with the purchase of the truck at the increased cost. Funding shall come from the Capital Project Budget #40221 Capital Equipment account.

As part of the motion, Commissioners Dumenil and McLaughlin asked questions and/or made comments on this topic.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

PROPERTY LIEN – NUISANCE VIOLATION RESOLUTION #23-02:

On a motion made by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to approve Resolution #23-02 to place a lien on the property located at 1118 Price Station Rd. Price, MD in the amount of \$400.00.

This is nuisance violation Resolution #23-02 for unmanaged high vegetation on property owned by Palmer F. Councill located at 1118 Price Station Road. A lien will be attached to this property in the amount of \$400.00 to reimburse the County for the cost of grass cutting.

As part of the motion, Commissioner McLaughlin asked questions and/or made comments on this topic.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

PROPERTY LIEN – NUISANCE VIOLATION RESOLUTION #23-03:

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to approve Resolution 23-03 to place a lien on the property located at 117 Coleman Drive Chestertown MD in the amount of \$300.00.

This is nuisance violation Resolution #23-03 for unmanaged high vegetation on property owned by Arlene Williams located at 117 Coleman Drive. A lien will be attached to this property in the amount of \$300.00 to reimburse the County for the cost of grass cutting.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

RURAL LEGACY – PRIORITY AREA DESIGNATION:

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to choose the Land’s End Rural Legacy Area as Priority for FY24 Funding.

The County has two existing Rural Legacy Areas, Lands End and Foreman Branch. When applying for grant funding for preservation in both areas, the Department of Natural Resources requests that a priority be given for one of the two areas. In 2022 the County

Commissioners designated the Foreman Branch Rural Legacy area as priority for funding in FY 23. Staff recommends designating the Land’s End Rural Legacy Area as Priority for FY24 Funding.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

MALPF MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM:

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to approve \$354,900 Agricultural Transfer Tax, \$165,470 Solar Tax Receipts, and \$812,963 General Fund Transfer for a total of \$1,333,333 towards the MALPF Matching Funds Program.

Queen Anne’s County is a certified County which means 80% of all Agricultural Transfer tax collected is retained by the County and 20% is remitted to the State of Maryland. The agricultural Transfer Tax is used for easement acquisitions. Queen Anne’s County also participates in the Matching Funds Program which would enable the County to receive monies from the State. The initial allocation from the State will provide approximately \$1,300,000 to each County for easement acquisition. For the MALPF Matching Funds Program, FY23 Agricultural Transfer Tax available is \$354,900. In addition, FY23 Solar tax receipts available is \$165,470. If we included a General Fund Transfer (not budgeted, would need a FY23 budget amendment) of \$812,963 the total amount of matching funds committed by the County would total \$1,333,333. The State would then grant an additional \$2,000,000 for easement acquisition. This would yield approximately \$4,633,333± for land preservation in the county this cycle.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

RURAL LEGACY DEED OF EASEMENT – GUS PAPPAS:

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to approve and execute the Rural Legacy Deed of Easement for Gus Pappas.

The FY22 Rural Legacy grant was submitted in January 2021 and on December 1, 2021, the Board of Public Works awarded funding for the Lands Rural Legacy Area. These funds have been utilized for easement acquisitions. Gus Pappas is one of the two properties selected to preserve. The project agreement and agreement of sale were approved by the Commissioners at the July 26, 2022, meeting. The 170.286 -acre property is located within the Lands End Rural Legacy area and will enhance the large area of preserved lands. No County funds were used in the preservation of the property.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

PRIORITY PROJECTS LETTER TO GOVERNOR MOORE:

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to execute the letter to Governor Moore outlining the County’s top priorities.

This is an updated letter to Governor Moore outlining the Counties top budget priorities and our request for funding assistance in the Governor’s pending supplemental budget. This action was recommended by Cornerstone (Bernie Marczyk).

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

FORD TRANSIT CONNECT VAN ACQUISITION:

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to cancel the current contract with Apple Ford of Columbia for \$44,670 for two Transit Connect Vans and move forward with the purchase of one 2022 Ram ProMaster City Wagon from Preston CDJR of Millsboro, Delaware for \$35,604.

Parks was approved to purchase two 2021 Ford Transit Connect Vans from Apple Ford for \$44,670 total. Due to supply chain shortages, they have not received either of the vans. We were informed that these vans still do not have a build date and that we can cancel our contract if need be. Parks has reached out to two dealerships and has found one vehicle in stock from Preston CDJR of Millsboro. The vehicle in stock would a be 2022 Ram ProMaster City Wagon for \$35,604. Parks is requesting approval to cancel the current contract with Apple Ford and enter into a new contract with Preston CDJR of Millsboro for this unit.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES LETTER:

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to execute the letter to the Moore-Miller Climate and Environmental Transition Team outlining the County’s Environmental Goals .

This is a draft letter to the Moore transition team regarding environmental programs and priorities that we have in the county. This was requested by Jay Falstad who is a member of the Moore Administration’s Executive Policy Committee for Climate & Environment.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to adopted budget amendment CC-47.

This budget amendment will transfer the budget authority for the Roads Department from the General Fund to a separate fund established for the accounting of Roads Operations. During the FY21 GFOA review of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), we became aware that we are required to account for the Roads Department in a separate fund. Since there is a separate Board, it is a blended component unit and cannot be combined with the General Fund of the County. In summary, this amendment removes all revenue (\$1,095,000) and expenditure (\$5,472,826) budgets for Roads from the General Fund (pages 1 and 2). Those budgets are added to the new Roads Operating Fund (pages 3 and 4). The deficit of \$4,377,826 is included as a transfer out of the General Fund and a transfer into the new Roads Operating Fund, which creates a balanced budget in the new fund. Please recall, prior to the 2012 recession and the loss of Highway User Revenue (HUR) Roads was a separate fund. It was rolled into the General Fund during this time period due to the HUR reduction of 95%.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

REQUEST TO SUPPORT ENABLING LEGISLATION TO INCREASE HOTEL ROOM TAX:

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to draft a letter of support enabling legislation to increase hotel room tax.

The Worcester County Commissioners are seeking support for enabling legislation granting the Eastern Shore code home rule counties the authority to increase the hotel room tax from 5% to a maximum of 6%.

| Commissioners | Yes | No |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Moran | x | |
| J Wilson | x | |
| McLaughlin | x | |
| Dumenil | x | |
| Corchiarino | x | |

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

COMMISSIONER'S ROUNDTABLE:

Commissioner Wilson discussed the following:
Condolence for the family of former Commissioner Dave Olds
He gave a shout out to the Family of fire fighter

Commissioner Dumenil discussed the following:
He had served with former Commissioner Dave Olds
He presented the proclamation to Ronald Jon Siarnicki on his retirement

Commissioner McLaughin discussed the following:
He attended the installation of offices for Sudlersville and Churchill
QAC needs services for youth that are in crisis, wants to reach out to Brooklane

Commissioner Corchiarino discussed the following:
Condolence for the family of former Commissioner Dave Olds

Commissioner Moran discussed the following:
He served with the former Commissioner Dave Olds
Working with other counties to help our youth that are in crisis

There being no further business, they adjourned at 8:38 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, February, 2023.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

PRESIDENT