

April 23, 2019

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

James J. Moran (absent)
Jack N. Wilson, Jr.
Stephen Wilson
Philip L. Dumenil
Christopher M. Corchiarino

BUDGET HEARINGS:

Three public hearings on the proposed budget were held. The hearings were held as follows: Bayside Elementary School in Stevensville on April 22, 2019, 17 citizens gave testimony; Queen Anne's County Liberty Building in Centreville on April 23, 2019, 11 citizens gave testimony; and Sudlersville Middle School on April 24, 2019, 19 citizens gave testimony.

The Board made closing statements following each budget hearing.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

Pursuant to Section 10-503(c) of the State Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the County Commissioners went into closed session for the purpose of conducting an administrative function meeting; "The County Commissioners held a Closed Session on a motion of Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, at 5:15 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 5:30 p.m. Those in attendance were Mr. Todd Mohn, County Administrator; Ms. Margie Houck, Executive Assistant; Ms. Lynda Thomas, Deputy Executive Assistant;

The Board discussed Boards/Commissions.

In open session:

On a motion made by Commissioner S. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to recommend Thomas Morris, Mark Cascia, Gail Malle-Davis, Thomas Glen and Cheryl-Ann Wargotz to the Governor of Maryland for selection and appointment to serve on the Property Tax Assessment Board.

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran - absent		
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

MINUTES:

On a motion made by Commissioner S. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the Agenda for the current meeting and the Regular and Closed Session Minutes of April 9, 2019.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following persons spoke to the Commissioners on subjects of interest to them:

1. Jay Falstad

WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNATURE:

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

FTA & MTA CERTIFICATIONS & ASSURANCES:

Ms. Catherine R. Willis, Department of Community Services Director, submitted to the Board for their review and approval, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Certifications and Assurances.

The Board reviewed the FTA and MTA Certifications and Assurances packet required of the FY2020 Annual Transportation Plan for Queen Anne’s County. Signing these documents informs FTA and MTA that the Queen Anne’s County Area Agency on Aging certifies that it will operate the Public Transit System and the Statewide Specialized Transportation Assistance Program (SSTAP) in compliance with those certifications and assurances.

Patrick Thompson, Esquire, County Attorney, has reviewed these documents and included a letter of Opinion of Counsel. These documents have multiple tabs which are to be signed annually by the Commission President. The packet also includes an Authorizing Resolution #1909 which is to be signed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner S. Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to sign the Authorizing Resolution #1909 for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Certifications and Assurances FY2020 packet to certify that the Queen Anne’s County Department of Community Services Area Agency on Aging will operate the Public Transit System and the Statewide Specialized Transportation Assistance Program (SSTAP). As part of the motion, Commissioner J. Wilson made comments on this topic.

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran – absent		
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CORS):

Ms. Beverly A. Churchill, Department of Human Resources Director, submitted to the Board for their review and approval, Correctional Officers Retirement System (CORS).

The legislation submitted on our behalf has passed the House and Senate and now goes to the Governor for signature.

On April 10, I met with the Correctional Officers along with a representative from the Maryland State Retirement & Pension System (SRPS). We reviewed the benefits of CORS and answered questions. We have obtained more than a 60% favorable consensus from the officers for CORS.

The Board reviewed two resolutions required for signature. These resolutions were drafted by the SRPS and are due to them following the April 23 meeting. The first (#19-07) is authorizing the transfer from the Employee Pension System to the CORS system. This essentially withdraws the officers from the current system and moves them to the CORS plan. The second resolution (#19-08) memorializes the continuation of the employer pick up program which is currently in place for both the Employee Pension System and LEOPS. This program allows employers to withhold mandatory employees’ retirement contributions on a pre-tax basis for federal income tax purposes. The Board reviewed a letter from the SRPS further explaining the program.

As a reminder, the preliminary valuation established our new entrant payment as \$1,790,426 which can be amortized with level dollar payments of \$154,273 over 25 years. In addition, the 2019 annual rate is currently approximately \$22,000 higher for CORS than the Employee Pension system. Thus, the total annual increase would be \$176,273. This plan provides for retirement with 20 years of service and the employee contribution is 5% of base salary.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner S. Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to adopt Resolutions 19-07 and 19-08 as written.

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran – absent		
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

SENATOR PETERS THANK-YOU LETTER:

On a motion made by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to sign the thank you letter to Senator Peters.

The County Commissioners of Queen Anne’s County would like to take this opportunity to send our sincere appreciation for endorsing \$250,000 for the construction of turf fields for Queen Anne’s County High School and Kent Island High School and \$678,000 for the design phase of the Queen Anne’s County Detention Center Renovations project in the FY20 State Capital budget.

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran – absent		
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE FUNDING:

Ms. Jean Fabi, Economic Development Manager, submitted to the Board for their review and approval, Request for Economic Development Incentive Funding - Communications Electronics Systems, LLC.

At its meeting on April 15, 2019, the Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF) Commission recommended approval of a conditional loan of \$30,000 to Communications

Electronics Systems to support its expansion project proposed for 101 Log Canoe Circle, Suite C, Stevensville, MD based on the information presented at the meeting and the application for funding. The funds are to be used to reimburse the company for office equipment and furniture associated with the expansion.

The EDIF Commission bases its recommendation on the information provided in the application for funding and the presentation made at the meeting by its President, Thomas Steg. The award should be conditioned upon the following: the creation of ten (10) new full-time positions within three (3) years of disbursement of funds; the maintenance of a minimum of twenty (20) full-time employees for the balance of the term of the agreement; and that the company remains in full operation in the county for a minimum of five (5) years from the date of disbursement of funding. The company is encouraged to work with the local schools and colleges to recruit employees. Upon performance of the conditions of the agreement, the conditional loan would revert to a grant. The collateral for the conditional loan is the equipment purchased with EDIF monies.

On a motion made by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the disbursement of \$30,000 from the EDIF fund to Communication Electronics Systems, LLC for the project described in accordance with the conditions described herein. As part of the motion, Commissioner S. Wilson made comments on this topic.

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran – absent		
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

DESTINATION IMAGINATION TEAM REQUEST:

Theo Levering, a 6th grader at Matapeake Middle School, submitted to the Board for their review and approval, fund request.

Theo Levering writing on behalf of Destination Imagination team, DI of the Storm. Destination Imagination is an unfunded elective afterschool enrichment program focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. DI of the Storm is a first-year team and we have exceeded all expectations by earning an invitation to the global competition.

We have worked for months on our solution to the challenge. We are proud to have placed 2nd in the Regional Competition, and in the State Competition. We are honored to have the opportunity to represent Queen Anne’s County in a global competition against 31 countries! However, we need to solicit funding to have the opportunity to compete in Kansas City. As the

only team in Queen Anne’s County Invited to compete, we are asking for \$5000 to help us get to Kansas City, Missouri. We are proud to represent QAC and show everyone what a bright future lies ahead.

On a motion made by Commissioner S. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to support the Destination Imagination Team in the amount of \$5000.

The Board agreed to amend the motion to support the Destination Imagination Team in the amount up to \$5000.

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran – absent		
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

BUDGET AMENDMENT & LETTER:

The County Commissioners of Queen Anne’s County have agreed to support the Chesterwye Center with a supplemental funding allocation in the amount of \$300,000. This funding should be considered as a one-time commitment to your organization in this time of financial need to be transferred during the FY2019 budget year.

The County has sponsored Chesterwye Center from time to time with capital grants for replacement busses. As a condition of this additional upfront funding support, we will not be in a position to provide future capital grant funding to Chesterwye for the remaining six-year capital budget program which extends through FY2025.

We appreciate your acknowledgement of this situation and we genuinely commend Chesterwye’s mission to enhance the lives of adults and assisting them toward personal independence.

On a motion made by Commissioner S. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to approve Budget Amendment CC-26 and sign the support letter.

#	CC-26			Date	4/12/2019		
Entered By	QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY						
	REQUEST FOR BUDGET AMENDMENT						
	FY 2019						
							Increase (Decrease)
Description of expenditure/revenue accounts to inc/(dec):	Fund	Account Code					Amount
increase	General Fund - Aid to Agencies	Local Allocation	100	165040	8820		\$ 300,000

increase	General Fund - Gen Revenue	Income Tax Revenue	100	199000	30201	\$ 300,000
Justification:						
This amendment authorizes an allocation of \$300,000 to the Chesterwye Center. These funds will be provided on a one time basis to assist						
the Chesterwye with their plan to establish an ongoing sustainable balance between income and expenses.						

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran – absent		
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

LOCAL BOARD OF ELECTIONS – SALARY PROPOSAL:

Mr. David J. McManus, Chairman, State Board of Elections, submitted to the Board for their review and approval, Local Board of Elections - Salary Proposal.

Under Election Law Article, §2-207(c)(2)(iii) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the State Board of Elections has salary setting authority for the employees of the local board of elections in your County. Although we have this authority, we, as a board, believe that the county governments should agree to salary increases before the State Board exercises its authority.

At last week’s State Board meeting, the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) presented a proposal that: (1) revises job descriptions to update minimum qualifications and provides a path for promotion for employees; and (2) provides a salary increase for all employees of the local board of elections in your county. It is our understanding that each local board has included in its FY20 budget request the funds for the requested FY20 increase.

In recent years, the local boards of elections have experienced extreme difficulty finding and retaining individuals who are qualified, eligible, and willing to work at the current pay rates in positions that do not reflect the current job duties and responsibilities. Job descriptions were last updated in 2003, and as you can imagine, their duties and a corresponding transition from clerical to technical skills have changed significantly since then. MAEO’s proposal is responsive to both areas of concern: a new job-classification series that (1) provides current staff a higher wage and the opportunity for career growth; and (2) helps the local board’s staff retention and institutional stability. We support their efforts.

While we understand there are many budgetary priorities in your county, we urge you to consider the importance of running a flawless election and having staff with the institutional knowledge necessary to conduct such an election³. Election administration in Maryland is

recognized across the country as a model, and the work of the local boards of elections is critical to this recognition.

The State Board is scheduled to meet again on April 24, 2019, and we would appreciate knowing your County government's thoughts on MAEO's proposed salary increase before the meeting.

We hope that you understand that the State Board is trying to work in partnership with you and your County on this issue. Thank you for your consideration of MAEO's request, and I look forward to receiving your thoughts.

On a motion made by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed not to support the Maryland Association of Election Officials proposed salary adjustments for local elections staff as presented.

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran – absent		
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Bruce Bereano, Esquire, County Lobbyist, presented to the Board for their review, Legislative Update.

Mr. Bereano discussed the following:

1. The final bill status tracking list
2. Discuss Capital budget items
 - a. Queen Anne's County High Schools Synthetic Turf Fields \$250,000.00
 - b. Queen Anne's County Detention Center Additions & Renovations \$678,000.00
3. Discuss Highway User Revenues
4. Tawes Crab Feast on Wednesday, July 17th in Crisfield, Md

FEC SWEARING-IN:

The Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission held their annual election of officers and submitted the following to be sworn-in:

Chairperson - Bill Faust
Vice-Chairperson – Robbie Marsh

Secretary- Tracey Johnston

The Articles & Bylaws of the Fire & EMS Commission state that the officers of the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary. An annual election was held at the January meeting to select officers of the Commission.

Mr. Bill Faust was sworn in by Commissioner J. Wilson. Mr. Robbie Marsh and Ms. Tracey Johnston could not attend due to work obligations and will be sworn in at a later date.

EARTH DAY SCHOOL VIDEO CONTEST WINNER:

Ms. Connie Toulson, Recycling and Refuse Manager, presented to the Board for their review, Earth Day School Video Contest Winner.

To promote Earth Day and the Countywide Roadside Cleanup Event the Department of Public Works held a Facebook “Likes” video event for all area schools. This was a 60 second video contest on the importance of Earth Day. The schools were given free range on what aspect of Earth Day they wanted to promote. Three elementary schools and one middle school submitted videos. There was one winner for each level (Elementary and Middle).

The winning schools are:

Elementary - Grasonville Elementary School

Middle - Sudlersville Middle School

The winning schools received a banner on April 15th for the “Best Idea for Earth Day 2019”. These two schools will also receive Commissioner recognition and a certificate at the Commissioners meeting on April 23rd.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICAITONS WEEK PROCLAMATION:

The Board presented Mr. Scott A. Haas, Department of Emergency Services Director, and Mr. Jim Alfree, Assistant Chief of Communications, the following Proclamation:

Declaring National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire, emergency medical or search and rescue services; and

WHEREAS, professional telecommunicators are not visible as the men and women who arrive at the scene of emergencies, but provide a vital link to public safety services as part of the first responder team, each telecommunicator has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year; and

WHEREAS, telecommunicators are critical to our county's emergency response and homeland security services, dispatching law enforcement, emergency medical services, firefighters and other emergency responders 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, the safety of our police officers, firefighters and medical responders is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens and visitors who contact the Queen Anne's County Communications Center; and

WHEREAS, professional Public Safety Telecommunicators are a vital link between citizens and victims and the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety/Emergency Telecommunicators serve as the single most vital link for our first responders by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety;

THEREFORE, WE THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, declare the week of April 14 through 20, 2019 to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Queen Anne's County in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our city and citizens safe.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

On a motion made by Commissioner S. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, the Board unanimously agreed to adopt County Ordinance 19-04.

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING the Definition of "Truck Stop and Travel Plaza" under Chapter 18 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, Maryland;

FOR THE PURPOSE or revising and clarifying the definition of Truck Stop and Travel Plaza in Chapter 18 of the Code of Public Local Laws;

BY AMENDING the definition of Truck Stop and Travel Plaza in Chapter 18 App: Appendix a: Glossary of the Code of Public Local Laws.

SECTION I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND that the definition of Truck Stop and Travel Plaza in Chapter 18 App: Appendix a: Glossary be and is hereby

AMENDED to read as follows:

TRUCK STOP AND TRAVEL PLAZA

A facility primarily intended for commercial trucks, tractor trailers and recreational vehicles ~~and truck-~~ ~~service facility that consists of fuel sales and a~~ restaurant, facilities a fast-food restaurant and/or convenience store on one lot or adjacent lots, and may also include vehicle service and repairs, ancillary retail overnight lodging activities and shower and locker room facilities, all managed as a unit with off-street parking provided on the property.

SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that, upon introduction, this Ordinance shall be referred to the Queen Anne’s County Planning Commission for investigation and recommendation.

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran – absent		
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

Commissioner Dumenil introduced proposed County Ordinance 19-06:

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING Holding Periods for Impounded Animals Under the Age of Three Months;

FOR THE PURPOSE of eliminating the holding period under the Queen Anne’s County Animal Control Ordinance (Chapter 9 of the Code of Public Local Laws) for animals under the age of three (3) months.

BY AMENDING Section 9-23 B.(1) the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne’s County.

SECTION I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND that Section 9-23 B. (1) of the Code of Public Local Laws be and is hereby AMENDED to read as follows:

§9-23. Impoundment, redemption and seizure.

. . .

B. Impoundment.

Subject to Subsection B(2) of this section, an impounded domestic animal shall be kept for not fewer than seven days, unless an owner or custodian redeems the impounded domestic animal, pursuant to §9-23D of this chapter, within seven days. The holding period does not apply to animals under the age of three (3) months.

Commissioner Corchiarino introduced proposed County Ordinance 19-07:

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING a Citizen Sponsored Text Amendment to Revise References to the 2002 Queen Anne's County Comprehensive Plan in Chapter 18:1 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County;

FOR THE PURPOSE of revising the reference to the 2002 Queen Anne's County Comprehensive Plan contained in Section 18:1-4-A.(1) of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County.

BY AMENDING Section 18:1-4.A.(1) of the Code of Public Local Laws.

SECTION I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND that Section 18:1-4.A.(1) of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County be and is hereby AMENDED to read as follows:

§18:1-4. Statement of purpose; interpretation.

A. Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter 18:1 is to implement the 2010 Queen Anne’s County Comprehensive Plan and subsequent additions and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the present and future inhabitants in the County by

K. Hovnanian DRRA decision:

On a motion made by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner S. Wilson, Commissioner Dumenil opposed, the Board agreed to, as to the Petition of K. Hovnanian at Kent Island, LLC, I move that we acknowledge that the Developers Rights and Responsibilities Agreement was tolled in part, as more specifically set forth in paragraph 7 of the Declaratory Provisions of Judge Sause’s September 17, 2003 Judgment, until October 23, 2023. As to the remainder of the period which K. Hovnanian seeks to have the Commissioners confirm that the DRRA has been tolled, I move that that the Commissioners, sitting in an administrative capacity as the “public principal,” take no action on the request as it presents a legal issue properly to be determined by a Court of appropriate jurisdiction. As part of the motion, Commissioners Corchiarino and Dumenil made comments on this topic.

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran – absent		
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil		x
Corchiarino	x	

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No persons spoke to the Commissioners on subjects of interest to them.

COMMISSIONER’S ROUNDTABLE:

Commissioner S. Wilson discussed the following:
The attendance at Monday night’s Budget Hearing

Commissioner Dumenil discussed the following:
KNDF Commissioner member

On a motion made by Commissioner S. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, the Board unanimously agreed to make Commissioner Dumenil the liaison and Commissioner Moran the alternate for the KNDF.

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran – absent		

J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

Commissioner J. Wilson discussed the following:

Court House Dedication

House Bill 513 – failed

Working on moving forward with the Regional Tech School, without the state

There being no further business, they adjourned at 7:50 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, May 15, 2019.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

PRESIDENT