

May 26, 2020

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.
Stephen Wilson
Philip L. Dumenil
Christopher M. Corchiarino

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES:

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner J. Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the Agenda for the current meeting and the Regular and Closed Session Minutes of May 12, 2020 and Budget Work Session Minutes of May 19, 2020.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following individuals 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 R. Mohn, PE, County Administrator.

JUDY CENTER EARLY LEARNING HUB PROCLAMATION: #1

Commissioner S. Wilson read the following proclamation:

Twentieth Anniversary of the Judy Center Early Learning Hub

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County, at the request of the residents, declare the County as a Judy Center Early Learning Hub of Queen Anne's County (Judy Center) Community; and

WHEREAS, all residents have been called upon to celebrate the contributions of the Judy Center in promoting the support and empowerment of families of young children, birth to 5 years old, residing in Queen Anne's County, for the past twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the Judy Center staff vow to continue their dedicated service to promote early school readiness and parent and caregiver empowerment; and

WHEREAS, the Judy Center will continue to collaborate to provide positive caregiver and parent and child empowerment initiatives, such as the: Judy Center Social Skills Development Playgroups, Judy Center Home Visits, Judy Center/SES Pre-K and Kindergarten events and activities, and miscellaneous Judy Center supported community outreach events, partnering program supports, and staff professional development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Judy Center will deliver services with dignity and respect to caregivers, parents and young children, residing in the current catchment area, of Sudlersville Elementary School regardless of race, religion, or creed; and

WHEREAS, the Judy Center will ensure staff will provide personal examples of outstanding character, ensuring many opportunities to model outstanding character traits during events or activities; and

WHEREAS, the Judy Center will strive to create and foster an environment that supports the development of early school readiness skills in young children, in an effort to provide caregivers and parents, in Queen Anne's County, the support for their families to thrive; and

WHEREAS, the Judy Center asks all community members, including caregivers, parents and young children, residing in Queen Anne's County, to celebrate the occurrence of their Twentieth Anniversary;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, do hereby designate the month of May, 2020 as the Judy Center Early Learning Hub of Queen Anne's County Twentieth Anniversary Celebration Month, and acknowledge the vast contributions the Judy Center has provided to the residents of Queen Anne's County over the past 20 years.

FY21 SEWERAGE & WATER RATE INCREASE:

Mr. Alan Quimby, Department of Public Works Director, presented to the Board for their review and approval, FY21 Sewerage and Water Rate Increase.

In 2011, the Sanitary Commission adopted resolutions that capped the annual rate escalator at 6.5% for sewer fees and 5.5% for water fees for “all subdistricts”. The resolutions had language indicating that these increases will take effect automatically on July 1 “unless the County Commissioners determine by resolution prior to July 1 of each year that the rates will increase by a lesser percentage”. Note this Resolution preceded the creation of the Southern Kent Island (SKI) subdistrict. The intent was to not raise SKI rates until all four phases were constructed unless absolutely necessary.

Please note the County Attorney has indicated an approved motion will satisfy the resolution requirement.

On a motion made by Commissioner J. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner S. Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to set the annual sewer and water operations & maintenance rate escalator for all Sanitary District rate schedules for the FY21 budget year at 2.5%, with the exception of the Southern Kent Island subdistrict which shall see no increase in rates. As part of the motion, Commissioners Dumenil and Moran made comments on this topic.

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

FIREWORKS EVENT:

Mr. Stephen Chandlee, Department of Parks and Recreation Director, submitted to the Board for their review and approval, Fireworks Event.

The Department of Parks and Recreation has contracted the Fireworks Celebration at the Exploration Center at Kent Narrows with Zambelli Inc. for the date of Wednesday, July 1, 2020 and the rain date of Thursday, July 2, 2020.

In December, we paid half of the fees (\$10,000) to lock in the date for the event. We have been contacted by the vendor regarding the decision to cancel the event and select another date due to the current situation with the COVID 19 virus.

Based on conversation with Kim Ceyrolles, Zambelli’s Project Manager, we have two options to consider:

1. Cancel and move the event to next year July 2021 with no price increase
2. Postpone and select another date this year 2020 with no price increase

On a motion made by Commissioner S. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously opposed to authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to cancel the fireworks contract with Zambelli, Inc. for the July 2020 Fireworks Celebration that was to be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2020, due to the COVID 19 virus and select the same dates next year based on availability of the vendor. As part of the motion, Commissioners S. Wilson and J. Wilson made comments on this topic. The county will hold their Fourth of July Fire Works Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

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

REQUEST FOR EDIF:

Ms. Heather Tinelli, Economic Development Director submitted to the Board for their review and approval, Request for Economic Development Incentive Funding - Lab Leasing Co., Inc. d/b/a Water Testing Labs of Maryland.

At its meeting on May 18, 2020, the Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF) Commission recommended approval of a conditional loan of \$50,000 to Lab Leasing Co., Inc. d/b/a Water Testing Labs of Maryland for the purpose of purchasing water analysis equipment for its base of operations at 1000 Butterworth Court, Stevensville, MD 21666.

Lab Leasing Co., Inc. operates two divisions that provide water testing services: Water Testing Labs of Maryland focuses on potable (drinking water) and Chesapeake Labs focus on wastewater analysis from its base of operations in Stevensville, MD. The company is seeking funding to purchase a piece of equipment to enhance its ability to conduct water analysis for private and public clients. The total cost of the project, including cost of equipment, is \$180,000.

The company currently employs fifteen (15) full-time employees at its Stevensville headquarters and will create two (2) new full-time positions, with an average starting salary between \$44,000 and \$55,000 respectively.

The EDIF Commission recommended the award as a reimbursement for a portion of the cost of the equipment and conditioned upon the incremental creation of two (2) full-time positions within three (3) years from the date of disbursement of funds. The company would also be required to maintain the employment level at seventeen (17) employees and remain in full operation in the county for a total of five (5) years. The collateral for the conditional loan is the equipment. The EDIF agreement to be prepared by the county attorney will include guarantees

and employment reporting requirements. Upon meeting performance requirements of the agreement, the conditional loan would revert to a grant.

On a motion made by Commissioner J. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Moran, with Commissioner S. Wilson opposed, the Board agreed to approve the disbursement of \$50,000 of Economic Development Incentive Funding to Lab Leasing Co., Inc. for the purpose of purchasing water analysis equipment for its Stevensville headquarters. The disbursement of funds is contingent upon a signed agreement between the EDIF Commission and the company outlining the conditions of the agreement and performance of the project in accordance with the application submitted to the EDIF Commission. As part of the motion, Commissioners Dumenil and S. Wilson made comments on this topic.

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

EXTENSION REQUEST – CITIZEN SPONSORED TEXT AMENDMENT:

Ms. Amy G. Moredock, Principal Planner, presented to the Board for their review and approval, review extension request citizen sponsored text amendment #20-04.

Chapter 18 contains provisions for text and map amendments. In accordance with §18:1-218 citizen sponsored applications for text amendments may be filed with the Office of the Clerk to the County Commissioners for consideration by the County Commissioners only during the first 10 business days in the month of February of each calendar year. During this annual window, the County received four applications for consideration at the County Commissioners March 10, 2020 meeting.

Two things occurred between then and now: the April Planning Commission meeting was canceled in accordance with Governor Hogan’s Executive Order regarding social gatherings/meetings (the May meeting was held virtually and in person in compliance with the Governor’s Order); and Brandon A. Davis (#20-06) and Chesapeake Bay Beach Club (#20-07) withdrew their February 2020 applications.

The citizen sponsored text amendment applications of COHBROS, LLC (#20-05) and William F. Reed (#20-04) are currently being processed. While the COFIBROS, LLC application is moving forward under a separate memorandum, at its May 14, 2020 meeting, the Planning Commission requested points of clarification regarding Mr. Reed’s application.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER ACTION

In accordance with § 18:1-220(C)(1) [Action b Planning Commission], the Planning Commission and staff request a review extension from the County Commissioners for TACO #20-04. The County Commissioners conveyed a suite of text amendments (including this application) to the Planning Commission for report and recommendation on March 11, 2020, and the delays outlined above place the Planning Commission recommendation outside of the required 90-day turn around period.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Moran, the Board unanimously agreed to grant review extensions in accordance with §18:1-220(C)(1) for citizen sponsored text amendment application #20-04 which was conveyed to the Planning Commission by the County Commissioner at its March 11, 2020 meeting. I cite the public review delay in the process caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Planning Commission’s request for additional clarification as grounds to grant the 90-day extension.

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

REOPENING LOCAL RESTAURANTS:

A letter to Governor Hogan requesting reopening local restaurants and requesting consideration and support to begin the process of reopening local restaurants with outdoor seating in a safe and controlled manner.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner S. Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to sign the letter to the Governor. As part of the motion, a discussion was held between Commissioners Dumenil, Moran, J. Wilson and S. Wilson on this topic.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

The Board agreed to schedule a public hearing the following ordinances:

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 20-03

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING the timing of development impact fee collection and assignment of an administrative fee for the processing of deferred impact fee payments in Queen Anne's County.

FOR THE PURPOSE of clarifying specific standards in the unincorporated areas of Queen Anne's County for the imposition and enforcement of development impact fees in Chapter 18:3-7 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

BY AMENDING Section 18:3-7 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 20-05

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING lot width dimensions and other bulk standards for duplex units in Grasonville Neighborhood Commercial (GNC) and Grasonville Village Commercial (GVC).

FOR THE PURPOSE of making consistent Planned residential development standards outlined in § 18:1-36 with lot width dimensions and other bulk standards in GNC and GVC found in the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

BY AMENDING §18:1-32.D(2)(b)[5][b] and §18:1-33.D(2)(b)[5][b] of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

1. Holly Mann
2. Justin

CONSTANT YIELD HEARING:

Due to COVID-19 this was the only one budget hearing held this year. Six citizens gave public testimony.

FY2021 Budget Highlights

- Budgeted Decrease - \$1.3 million or .87%, decrease from \$145.1 million in FY2020 to \$143.8

million in FY2021

- Revenue - Income tax & property tax make up 85% of total County revenue sources
- Income Tax Revenue - Projected to decline by 6.8%
- Property Tax Revenue - Projected to grow by 2.4%
- Tax Rates - Remain the same, property tax rate is \$0.8471/\$100 of assessed value; income tax rate is 3.2%
- Constant Yield Rate - Is \$0.8358/\$100 of assessed value
- Constant Yield is slightly lower than the current tax rate. The current rate would result in revenue that is \$956,891 more than the Constant Yield Rate would generate.

COMMISSIONER’S ROUNDTABLE:

Commissioner Corchiarino discussed the following:

Had a Zoom meeting with the Comptroller regarding to have restaurants be able to offer open air dining to help reopen and be able to remain in business.

Commissioner Dumenil discussed the following:

Strongly encouraged the Commissioners to look into sending out a payment schedule in lieu of a tax sale notice for citizens that may get behind on water and sewer bills due to COVID-19.

Commissioner S. Wilson discussed the following:

The County Fair has been cancelled for this year and would like to see if there is anything the county can do still have some events, such as the animal events, without the public being on the grounds.

Commissioner J. Wilson discussed the following:

The new courthouse does not have an American Flag or Flagpole in front of the building and would like one placed there.

Commissioner Moran discussed the following:

Would like a letter sent to Secretary Slater asking for an update on the work that is being done on and leading up to the Bay Bridge.

There being no further business, they adjourned at 7:52 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

PRESIDENT