

June 13, 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 5:15 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 5:25 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.

LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD:

In open session, on a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to reappoint Scott Evans, appoint Joselle Gatrell, Michelle Johnson, Lynette Lamp, Gail Lundberg, and Alana Van Ornum to serve on the Local Management Board. These vacancies are 3-year terms that will begin on July 1, 2023 and expire on June 30, 2026.

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

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DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL:

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to reappoint Sandra Early, Ben Hammock, Steve Souder and appoint Gabriel Ripley to the Department of Emergency Services Advisory Council. These vacancies are for 2-year terms that will begin on July 1, 2023 and expire on June 30, 2025.

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

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 Agenda for the current meeting, the Regular and Closed Session Minutes of May 23, 2023, Budget Hearing Minutes of May 22nd and 24th 2023.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Brian Demoss – concerns over one of the ag preservation easements
2. Tim Adelman – Rink renovations

LEGISLATIVE:

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENT APPLICATIONS:

A Public Hearing was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 5:35 p.m. to receive public comment on the submission of various Agricultural Land Preservation Easement applications as listed below. All easement applications have received a favorable recommendation from the Local Agricultural Advisory Board.

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Ms. Donna Landis-Smith, Soil Conservation Aide, conducted the hearing on behalf of the county and noted all legal requirements were met.

1. Deane Farms LLC - Sixth Election District - Tax Map 46 Parcel 13 - 179.5 acres
2. Michael and Virginia Foster - Second Election District - Tax Map 29 Parcel 4 - 105.753 acres
3. Thomas and Dorothy Gannon - Third Election District - Tax Map 35 Parcel 20 - 77.5 acres
4. Leverage Farm LLC - Seventh Election District - Tax Map 10 Parcel 6 - 173.72 acres
5. Leverage Fann LLC - Seventh Election District - Tax Map 10 Parcel 5 - 127.129 acres
6. Francis and Glenda Messix - Sixth Election District - Tax Map 68 Parcels 15 & 29 - 247.176 acres
7. Michael Messix - Sixth Election District - Tax Map 68 Parcel 10 - 131.753 acres
8. D. Wayne and Barbara McFarland - Second Election District - Tax Map 30 Parcel 47 - 92.539 acres
9. Dorsey Patchett Jr. & Dorsey Patchett III - Second Election District - Tax Map 23 Parcel 13 - 345 acres
10. Downes Warren - First Election District - Tax Map 31 Parcel 40 - 198.9 acres
11. Ralph C. and April D. Whaley Jr. - Second Election District - Tax Map 30 Parcel 42 - 189.44 acres

Public Comments

1. Brian DeMoss - concerns over one of the ag preservation easements
2. Jay Falstad – Happy with all the land in QAC in Ag preservation

The record will remain open for two weeks.

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PRESENTATION:

MS. ANDREA SCHULTE – PROCLAMATION FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR:

Commissioner Dumenil read the following proclamation:

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WHEREAS, Andrea Schulte found her calling as a teacher while volunteering her time working with children in her home state, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Schulte attended Edinboro University of Pennsylvania where she began her education in animation and excelled both academically and artistically; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Schulte graduated from Edinboro University in December of 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in Art Education and received her Master's Degree in Art Therapy/Art Education from Edinboro University in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Schulte started her teaching career in Queen Anne's County in 2001 and has spent endless hours in and out of the classroom teaching students and empowering them to think freely by opening their minds to ideas, knowledge and dreams; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Schulte has taught Science, Math, Middle and High School Art and shares her love and excitement for these subjects with her students every day; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Schulte has lead Destination Imagination teams to world championships; she is the Visual Arts Department Chair, the Advisor for the National Art Honor Society, Art Club, and Photography Club, and co-advisor for the National Honor's Society; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Schulte enjoys being an active member of the Kent Island Community; she Chaired with other teachers for the Mom Prom to raise money for the school's American Cancer Society Relay for Life Team; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Schulte enjoys spending time with her husband Brendan and sons Caeden and Gavin. She enjoys watching her sons play baseball, traveling as a family and camping; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Schulte is grateful for the opportunity to be 2023-2024 Queen Anne's County's Teacher of the Year and honored to represent such an amazing district, families, community, and teachers of Queen Anne's County.

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RESOLUTION #23-06 ADOPTION OF FY 2024 BUDGET:

Ms. Nicole Hepfer, Director of Budget and Finance met with the Board and reviewed the final adjustments and highlights to the FY 2024 Budget

- a) No change to total overall operating budget – \$183,565,554
- b) Property Tax Rate – \$0.8300 per \$100 of assessed value
- c) Income Tax Rate – 3.20%
- d) Moved Rec Center capital project planning up to FY 24 and increased budget from \$100k to \$175k
- e) No changes to Public Library operating budget
- f) Added additional FY 24 capital funding (\$150k) for Animal Services Dog Yard project to meet project cost proposal
- g) Added CBEC dredging/micro placement project for \$1.0m to FY 24 (100% grant funded)
- h) Moved Capital construction funding for the Detention Center expansion/renovation out to FY 25/26 (to study new EPRU site and regional options)
- i) Included \$5.4 million of ARPA funds for various capital projects in FY 24 and reduced Bond funding required down to \$6.135m
- j) Moved Centreville Middle School project construction funding from FY 26/27 to FY 27/28
- k) Added Dominion/Marling Farms public sewer line extension starting in FY 26 thru FY 29
- l) Added BOE High School expansion funding for planning starting in FY 28 and FY 29

Added BOE non-recurring projects funding in FY 25 and FY 26

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to adopt Resolution 23-06 FY24 Budget.

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

23-06

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

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WHEREAS public hearings have been held on May 22nd, 23rd & 24th at 7:00pm at Bayside Elementary School, the Liberty Building and Sudlersville Middle School, respectively;

BE IT RESOLVED THIS 13th day of June 2023, by the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County, that except as otherwise provided herein, a real estate tax rate for Fiscal Year 2024 of \$.8300 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is .018 cents above constant yield, be and is hereby adopted;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to Sections 5-22 et seq. of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, Maryland that the tax rate for the municipality of Centreville shall be \$.7000 per \$100 of assessed valuation, and the tax rate for the municipality of Millington shall be \$.7450 per \$100 of assessed valuation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a tax rate for Fiscal Year 2024 of \$2.075 per \$100 of assessed valuation for operating personal property of a public utility and operating personal property used to generate electricity for sale, be and is hereby adopted;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County income tax rate remain unchanged at 3.20%;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to the authority of Queen Anne's County Ordinance Number 92-11 providing for a Kent Narrows Commercial Management and Waterfront Improvement District, a supplemental real property tax at a rate of \$.06 per \$100 of assessed valuation be and is hereby adopted for Fiscal Year 2024. The tax shall be levied on those properties subject to such a tax under the provisions of Ordinance Number 92-11;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the annual sewer and water operations and maintenance rate escalator for all Sanitary District rate schedules for the Fiscal Year 2024 budget year is set at 2.5%, with the exception of the Southern Kent Island Subdistrict which shall see no increase in rates;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, effective July 1, 2016, funds generated by the recordation tax established under County Ordinance No. 08-17 shall be applied, apportioned and expended as follows:

- A. \$0.15 of the \$4.95 recordation tax rate shall be paid to the Critical Workforce Program administered by the Department of Housing and Community Services.

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B. The balance of the funds generated by the recordation tax shall be payable to the General Fund.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Other Post-Employment Benefits shall continue to be funded in accordance with the approved 10-year plan;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that financial status reports shall be provided to the Commissioners on a quarterly basis;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in Fiscal Year 2024 the Bay Bridge Airport shall continue repayment of the \$1,308,000 loan from the General Fund at 3 percent interest for a remaining term of 13 years;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Volunteer Fire Companies may carry forward their capital budget allocations for fire and station related equipment, from one fiscal year to the next, while they are still required to submit receipts and evidence of items purchased, and must maintain these capital funds in a separate account with no commingling of these funds with any other account;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education will be funded at \$6,378,534 above Maintenance of Effort;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education budget is adopted by category, in accordance with the Maryland Annotated Code, Education Article, Section 5-101. Any transfers between categories must be approved by the County Commissioners (Section 5-105), including, within 30 days after the adoption of the budget, the changes to categories which reflect how the alterations to the budget approved by the County Commissioners will be implemented (Section 5-103). In implementing this provision, upon adoption of the Board of Education's budget as reconciled to the approved County contribution, the Board must submit their revised budget by category for approval of the County Commissioners;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the revenue received from the personal property tax on solar generation of electricity shall be budgeted for farmland preservation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there will be a continuing annual review of capital projects based on annual budgeted amounts versus annual spending;

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AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any savings from capital projects shall be returned to the General Capital Projects Fund. Any re-appropriation of said savings requires the approval of the County Commissioners. Project funds must be expended within three years;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed budgets for the General Fund, the Special Revenue Funds, the Enterprise Funds, and the Capital Projects funds for Fiscal Year 2024, copies of which are attached hereto, as a part hereof, be and are hereby adopted.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County is hereby declaring its official intent to reimburse expenditures to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and Section 1.150-2 of the Income Tax Regulations as follows:

- A. The County reasonably expects that it will issue tax-exempt bonds or other obligations to finance all or a portion of each project for which bonds are described as the source of funding in the Capital Budget by year included in the attached budget;
- B. The County intends to expend money on such capital projects from County funds prior to the issuance of debt by the County for such purposes;
- C. The County intends to reimburse such expenditures from the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds or other obligations to be issued by the County in amounts not to exceed the principal amounts listed per project in the attached “Capital Budget by Year” table under the “Bonds” column.

AS WITNESS the hands and seals of the County Commissioners of Queen Anne’s County, Maryland the day and year above written.

WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNATURE:

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

PROCLAMATION #23-34 CHARACTER COUNTS PILLAR OF THE MONTH “FAIRNESS”:

Commissioner read the following proclamation:

23-34

WHEREAS, Queen Anne’s County was declared a “*Character Counts!* Community; and

WHEREAS, all citizens have been called upon to accept the “Six Pillars of Character”

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and
embrace them in our daily lives and activities and to model exemplary examples; and

WHEREAS, the *Character Counts!* Pillar of the Month for June is “Fairness”; and

WHEREAS, Fairness means being impartial and just with a lack of favoritism towards one side or another; and

WHEREAS, if there is a game, each side has an equal amount of mixed ability players and referees that make fair calls; and

WHEREAS, when playing or participating in activities, follow the rules/laws and do not cheat; and

WHEREAS, treat everyone equitably no matter what they look like, act like, think like; and

WHEREAS, in whatever you do in life, be honest, take responsibility, and exhibit respect; and

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY, do hereby designate the *Character Counts!* Pillar of the Month for June to be “Fairness.”

Written by Mrs. Martin’s 5th Grade Class at Kennard Elementary School.

UPPER WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD – LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:

The Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board has submitted their 2023-2025 Memorandum of Understanding for review and consideration. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Local Workforce Development Board, the American Job Center System Partners and the Chief Local Elected Official. This MOU is developed to record the understanding of the Parties regarding the operation and management of the American Job Centers in the Upper Shore Workforce Development Area (the “Local Area”). The Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board (the “Local Board”) provides oversight of workforce employment and training programming for the Local Area. Staff recommends execution of the Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board Memorandum of Understanding for 2023-2025.

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On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner McLaughlin, the Board unanimously agreed to execute the Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board Memorandum of Understanding for 2023-2025. As part of the motion, Commissioner Wilson asked questions and/or made comments on this topic.

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

RURAL LEGACY - AGREEMENT OF SALE AND PROJECT AGREEMENT BLUESTEM FARMS LLC:

Ms. Donna Landis-Smith submitted to the Board for their review and approval a rural legacy agreement of sale. It was noted a 224.296-acre property owned by Bluestem Farms LLC which is ready to be submitted to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for review and final approval for inclusion in the Foreman Branch Rural Legacy Area. Total funding is being provided by the Rural Legacy grants program through Program Open Space, no County funds are being utilized.

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to execute the Rural Legacy Agreement of Sale and Project Agreement for the Bluestem Farms LLC property.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MD-23-CD-2 SUDLERSVILLE SENIOR ROOF AMENDMENT:

Mr. Mike Clark, Chief of Housing and Family Services submitted to the Board an amendment to the CDBG MD-23-CD-2. This is the Amendment to the CDBG Grant Agreement for the Sudlersville Senior Center roof replacement project. Funds through this grant will be used to replace and improve the roof on the facility. With the additional funds from this amendment,

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replacement and improvement of the attached Foxxtown Senior Housing Apartments roof will also be completed. No additional county funds are required.

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to execute the Community Development Block Grant # MD-23-CD-2 Grant Amendment.

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

BROADBAND – LONG DRIVEWAY PROGRAM:

This is a request from county staff and BAC to create a Queen Anne’s County Long Driveway Program. This program will provide grants to property owners with long driveways to connect to nearby internet service providers (ISP) infrastructure. We anticipate receiving a \$1 million state grant for this program later this year. Our state contacts have advised us to start up a local program now for deployment of these funds to our citizens. Our proposed program is setup to provide funding up to 90% or a maximum of \$13,500 for properties that are very near current ISP infrastructure. The remaining 10% would be provided by the resident. We estimate that there may be as many as 1,000 residences that would qualify. In the interest of establishing this program before the grant funding is available, it is also recommended to contribute \$250K from the Public Fiber Infrastructure project (which is funded by ARPA) and commence with this program.

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the request to provide \$250K from the Public Fiber Infrastructure funds to begin the implementation of the Queen Anne’s County Long Driveway Program in anticipation of receiving a \$1M State Grant to support the expansion of broadband in Queen Anne’s County. As part of the motion, Commissioner Wilson asked questions and/or made comments on this topic.

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

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BROADBAND – RURAL MARYLAND COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT:

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) has a grant available for the expansion of broadband infrastructure. While the majority of the County is anticipated to be covered with broadband in the coming years, there are still a few small areas of concentration that will not be covered. To address this, a letter of intent (LOI) was sent to the RMC to participate in their Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF). In the interest in participating in this grant, which is a 75 local/25 RMC split, this is a request to allocate County funds in the amount up to \$187.5K for a grant award of \$250K. Funds for this request are available in the Public Fiber Infrastructure budget (funded with ARPA).

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the request to provide \$187.5K from the Public Fiber Infrastructure budget to participate in the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Rural Maryland Council grant.

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

COUNTY ORDINANCE 18-10 PROPERTY TAX CREDITS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES:

In 2018, a County Ordinance was adopted to approve a Property Tax Credit as authorized by the Maryland Legislature for the primary residence of certain veterans and their spouses. This ordinance was effective starting in FY 2020 and will expire after FY 2024. There has been interest from the “Andy Anderson Eastern Shore Chapter Military Officers Association” to amend the 5-year sunset clause of [Ordinance 18-10](#). In order to change this provision new legislation is required including drafting of a new ordinance and holding a public hearing. The total tax rebate for this program is listed below. There are currently 59 citizens who claim this credit.

- FY20: \$31,000
- FY21: \$31,000
- FY22: \$37,000
- FY23: \$40,000
- FY24: \$45,000

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It was consensus of the Board to have an ordinance draft and include wording that the ordinance would be reviewed every five years.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #CC-57 – SHERIFF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY, COMMUNITY AND TRANSPARENCY GRANT:

The Police Accountability, Community, and Transparency (PACT) Grant program assists law enforcement departments with the development of effective accountability procedures to achieve their goals of lawfulness and legitimacy while enhancing community relations and transparency. This is a technical budget amendment to move \$16,200 from Salary & Benefits to Equipment to fund the purchase of bike helmets, training equipment, electric bike, and protective gear. No additional County funds are needed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, the Board unanimously agreed to approve Budget Amendment #CC-57 – Sheriff Police Accountability, Community and Transparency Grant .

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran	x	
J Wilson	x	
McLaughlin	absent	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

BUDGET AMENDMENT # CC-58 SHERIFF’S OFFICE BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT:

The Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) awarded the Sheriff’s department additional Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) funding. This reimburses for the purchase of training equipment for public safety-medical attention equipment. Funds are paid out on a reimbursement basis. (up to \$33,000). No additional County Funds are needed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, the Board unanimously agreed to approve Budget Amendment # CC-58 Sheriff’s Office Byrne Justice Assistance Grant .

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

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

COMMISSIONER’S ROUNDTABLE:

Commissioner Wilson discussed the following:

Commissioner Dumenil discussed the following:
 Attended Ruff Roofer Ribbon Cutting
 Meet with Secretary of Commerce Anderson for business round table

Commissioner McLaughlin discussed the following:
 Attended Juneteenth Festival, Kennard Library Dedication and Giving Day

Commissioner Corchiarino discussed the following:
 Attended Juneteenth Festival, Kennard Library Dedication and Giving Day

Commissioner Moran discussed the following:
 Was on a Conference call regarding the Whitsitt Center
 Light is coming at the Cross-Island Trail by the High School

There being no further business, they adjourned at 7:10 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

 EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

 PRESIDENT

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