

September 26, 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 5:05 p.m. in the Vincit Building, 110 Vincit Street, Centreville, Maryland." Commissioner Moran and Commissioner McLaughlin were late to the session. The Board adjourned in Closed Session at 5:26 p.m. Those in attendance were Mr. Todd Mohn, P.E., County Administrator and Ms. Shari Hershberger, Executive Administrative Assistant.

The Board discussed Boards and Commissions and a Service Agreement with Cornerstone Government Affairs, Inc.

**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 Minutes of September 12, 2023, and Sanitary Minutes of September 12, 2023.

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**BLUE HERON GOLF COURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to appoint Dorsey T. Schulz to fill the vacancy on the Blue Heron Golf Course Advisory Committee. This term will expire June 30, 2025.

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

**SPENDING AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE:**

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, the Board unanimously agreed to reappoint Joe Zimmerman to fill the vacancy on the Spending Affordability Committee. This term will expire September 30, 2025.

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

**SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD:**

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to reappoint Janet Salazar, Katelyn Sweeney and Julie Krebs-Markrich and appoint Rhonda Knotts and Julie Cunningham to fill the vacancies on the Social Services Board. These terms will expire June 30, 2026. Also, Lauren Hoffman was appointed to fill a vacancy due to a resignation. This term will expire June 30, 2024.

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

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:**

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to appoint Patricia Fox to the Economic Development Commission. This term will expire December 31, 2025.

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

**CORNERSTONE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, INC. – SERVICE AGREEMENT**

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, and Commissioner Wilson opposing the Board agreed to execute an agreement with Cornerstone Government Affairs, Inc. and extend services for a period of one (1) year starting October 1, 2023 and expiring on September 30, 2024.

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

**PROCLAMATION #23-43:**

Commissioner Moran read Proclamation #23-43 Life Saving Event

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2023, Queen Anne’s County Department of Parks and Recreation staff members Justin Harris, Jeffrey Hallett, and Corey Lancaster demonstrated heroism when they took action in a life-threatening situation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Parks and Recreation staff selflessly and without hesitation, quickly called 911 and successfully performed lifesaving CPR on a fellow co-worker; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Department of Parks and Recreation staff's own personal initiative and conscious decision to perform CPR helped to save a life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Parks and Recreation staff has set an example for their colleagues, as well as the citizens of Queen Anne's County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Parks and Recreation staff's rapid response in a life-threatening situation is to be commended; and

**WHEREAS**, dedicated professionals from the Department of Emergency Services, the Office of the Sheriff, the Grasonville Volunteer Fire Department, the Maryland State Police Aviation Division and the Departments of Human Resources and Parks & Recreation all responded quickly and skillfully to help save a life; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, on behalf of the Queen Anne's County Commissioners, the citizens of Queen Anne's County and the family of a fellow co-worker, we proclaim our sincere appreciation as we honor and recognize the Department of Parks and Recreation staff Justin Harris, Jeffrey Hallett, and Corey Lancaster and the Queen Anne's County Public Safety Community for their life saving action.

**PRESENTATION:**

**GIVING THE EDGE FOUNDATION:**

Mr. Robert Woolley, Owner presented to the Board an update of Giving the Edge Foundation. Mr. Woolley highlighted After School & Extracurricular Activities, Scholastic Achievement Awards, Community Events and Leadership Programs.

Commissioner Dumenil, Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner McLaughlin asked questions and/or made comments.

**PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

1. George Kennedy – Various complaints on lack of response

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**ACTION ITEMS**

**ADMIN/ENGINEERING;**

**FOXXTOWN APARTMENTS & SENIOR CENTER ROOF REPLACEMENT  
CONTRACT AWARD**

Mr. Lee Edgar, Chief of Engineering submitted to the board for their review and approval proposals for the Foxxtown Apartments & Senior Center Roof Replacement project. The work involves the lifecycle removal and existing asphalt shingle pitched and EPDM flat roof systems for the entire Foxxtown facility, including repair and replacement of any deteriorated substrate as encountered. A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award through the Division of Housing and Community Services (DHCS) of up to \$450,000 supports project funding. Ten (10) bids were received. Owing to the disparity between RRH Associate’s bid and that of the median, further steps were taken to verify the Bidder’s qualifications and the responsibility of his bid, including a discussion with the Bidder, a check of his references, examination of financial data and consultation with the County Attorney. Ultimately, RRH Associates, LLC is determined to have submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid. Adequate funding is available in the approved Capital Project Sudlersville Senior Center Renovations.

On a motion by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to award the Foxxtown Apartments & Senior Center Roof Replacement contract to RRH Associates, LLC of Huntingtown, MD in the amount of \$241,540 and authorize the Director of Public Works to issue the Notice of Award and execute the Contract on behalf of the County Commissioners.

As part of the motion Commissioner Dumenil, Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner Moran asked questions and/or made comments.

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

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## **PROCLAMATION #23-42 SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH:**

Commissioner Wilson read Proclamation #23-42. Brittany Middleton, Victim Advocate and Susan Ahlstrom, Human Trafficking Regional Navigator for For All Seasons presented update to the Board. Commissioner McLaughlin asked questions and/or made comments.

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 11 minutes and is the 12<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death overall, and in Maryland, suicide is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death for 10 – 34 year-olds and the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for ages 35 – 44, even though most of these deaths are preventable. More Marylanders die by suicide than by homicide every year; and

**WHEREAS**, 48,183 people in the United States, including 620 people in Maryland, died by suicide in 2021, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide affects us all, with each death by suicide affecting an average of 115 people; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic toll of suicide on society is immense. Suicides and suicide attempts cost the nation almost \$70 billion per year in lifetime medical and work-loss costs alone; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, conducted by local school systems in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control, revealed that 19 percent of Queen Anne’s teenagers ages 14 to 18 had seriously considered attempting suicide in the 12 months prior to the survey, with 35 percent reporting symptoms of depression, and 15 percent of Queen Anne’s teens actually attempted suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a scientific brief in 2022 reporting that the global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by 25 percent in the first year of the pandemic and that anxiety and depression are leading precursors for suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, many individuals experiencing mental health symptoms, suicidal thoughts and behaviors, or who die by suicide never receive effective behavioral health services for many reasons, including the difficulty of accessing the services of healthcare providers professionally trained to reduce suicide risk, the stigma of seeking behavioral health treatment, and the stigma associated with losing a loved one to suicide, and urges all Queen Anne’s County citizens to 1) support the development of accessible behavioral health services for all citizens of our county in an effort to reduce the risk of suicide and mental health challenges for people of all ages and backgrounds and 2) recognize suicide as a significant public health risk and declare suicide prevention and mental health support a priority;

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**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** do hereby declare the month of September as *No Matter What...You Matter* Suicide Prevention Month and urge all citizens to actively work toward the prevention of suicide and to reach out to one another and ASK – “Are you okay? LISTEN – without judgment, and SHARE – vital resources to promote an inclusive and mentally healthy community.

**PROCLAMATION #23-45 UPPER SHORE REGIONAL COUNCIL VICENNIAL:**

Commissioner Corchiarino read Proclamation #23-45 Upper Shore Regional Council Vicennial

**WHEREAS**, The Upper Shore Regional Council, celebrates its vicennial in 2023, commemorating its distinguished efforts and successes in the region for two decades; and

**WHEREAS**, Established in 2003, the Upper Shore Regional Council has been instrumental in fostering comprehensive planning and nurturing the physical, economic, and social development for Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne’s Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, The Upper Shore Regional Council has been a steadfast supporter of local businesses in the Upper Shore region, actively diversifying and expanding area businesses, creating employment opportunities, improving transportation infrastructure, and connecting businesses with essential workforce and entrepreneurial resources, thereby bolstering economic growth; and

**WHEREAS**, The Upper Shore Regional Council has been an integral part of the agricultural community by implementing impactful programs that strengthen the regional food system, ensuring sustainability and prosperity for farmers and agribusinesses; and

**WHEREAS**, The Upper Shore Regional Council has distributed \$210,000 and leveraged a total of \$418,500 in funding to 102 applicants across Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne’s Counties through its Agriculture Microgrant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Demonstrating commitment to empowering the regional workforce, the Upper Shore Regional Council provides exceptional scholarship programs enabling students to pursue the vocational programs of their choice, offers opportunities for skills training, internships, and apprenticeships, thus fostering a skilled and competitive workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, The Upper Shore Regional Council has provided 38 high school students with the CTE Equipment Scholarship for students to purchase the necessary equipment to complete their studies, work towards their certifications, and help ensure success; and

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**WHEREAS**, The Upper Shore Regional Council remains dedicated to continuing its service to Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's Counties, fostering thoughtful growth, and ensuring prosperity for generations to come; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THE QUEEN ANNE'S BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, hereby recognize and celebrate The Upper Shore Regional Council for its remarkable vicennial milestone and commend the USRC for its dedicated service and exemplary achievements, which have significantly contributed to the well-being and progress of the Upper Shore Region.

**TIME TO CARE ACT:**

Beverly Churchill, Director of Human Resources submitted to the Board for their review and approval the Maryland Time to Care Act of 2022 which establishes a Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. With this Program employers, employees, and self-employed individuals will make contributions to a general fund. The law provides for up to 12 weeks of paid leave to care for oneself or qualifying family member. Employers will be required to contribute at least 50% of the total premium costs. The total contribution cannot exceed 1.2% of wages. By October 1, 2023, the Secretary of the Department of Labor must publish the total contribution rate which will be in effect October 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026. We have three options with regards to administering Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program:

1. Default into the State Insurance Plan
2. Establish a Self-Administered Alternative Insurance Plan
3. Contract Out an Alternative Insurance Plan

With the third option, MABE/MACO have joined forces and developed a Time to Care Collaborative for Maryland Public School Systems and County Governments. The Collaborative is asking for school systems and counties to commit by October 1, 2023, so they can begin the process of formalizing the Collaborative. Queen Anne's County has belonged to a similar program for its employee health insurance since 1995 which has worked exceptionally well.

On a motion by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Moran, with Commissioner Wilson abstaining, the board voted to commit to participate in the MBE/MACO Collaborative and authorize the County Administrator and Director of Human Resources to execute the associated documents and work with the Collaborative for implementation. As part of the motion Commissioner Moran, Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner McLaughlin asked questions and/or made comments.

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

**TOWN RENTAL CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Queen Anne’s County contacted towns to ascertain if they will enforce the County’s Livability Code within their jurisdictions or if they'd prefer the County Housing Program Manager to undertake this responsibility. The towns of Templeville, Queenstown, and Queen Anne have expressed their preference for us to enforce the code. The Livability Code, as outlined in Chapter 15 of the Public Laws of Queen Anne’s County, is designed to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of rental residential properties in the county. This enforcement is complaint-driven, implying it is invoked in response to disputes or issues. The goal is to amicably resolve any disagreements between landlords and tenants, ensuring all rental properties adhere to the standards of the Minimum Livability Code. Templeville, Queenstown and Queen Anne have provided a Cooperative Agreement.

On a motion by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, the Board unanimously agreed to enter into an agreement with the towns of Templeville, Queenstown and Queen Anne allowing the Division of Housing and Community Services to enforce Queen Anne’s County Livability within their town boundaries.

As part of the motion, Commissioner Wilson asked questions and/or made comments.

**PROCLAMATION #23-46 CELEBRATING SCOUTING IN QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY:**

Commissioner Dumenil read Proclamation #23-46 Celebrating Scouting in Queen Anne’s County

**WHEREAS**, The Boy Scouts of America were founded in 1910 and since that time about 110 million Americans have participated in Scouting programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Boy Scout Troop 278 is located on Kent Island, is sponsored by the Kent Island American Legion Post and has a proud history of Scouting in Queens Anne’s County; and

**WHEREAS**, the stated mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to "prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."; and

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**WHEREAS**, youth are trained in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and career-oriented programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the aims of the Scouting program are character development, leadership development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. The aims of Scouting are congruent with the Queen Anne's County Character Counts initiative and develops Scouts into honorable and productive citizens of Queen Anne's County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Queen Anne's County Commissioners recognize Boy Scout Troop 278 for their commitment and dedication to the community and for setting such a fine example for younger individuals to follow; and

**NOW THEREFORE, THE QUEEN ANNE'S BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, hereby recognize and celebrate Boy Scout Troop 278 and officially declare September 26, 2023, as a day to "Celebrate Scouting in Queen Anne's County."

Commissioner McLaughlin, Commissioner Dumenil and Commissioner Wilson asked questions and/or made comments.

**ROUTE 18 SHOP ROOF REPAIR:**

Mr. Steve Chandlee, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation submitted to the Board for their review and approval a contract to install a restoration coating on the roofs at Route 18 Shop. Total cost of \$174,663 is for the entire building. Parks and Recreation will be utilizing the Omnia contract Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement. Funding of \$150,690 shall come from Preventative Maintenance Capital Project account and the remaining funding shall come from the Futsal/Basketball Capital Project in the amount of \$23,973.

On a motion by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to contract with Garland/DBS, Inc. to install a restoration coating on the roof at the Route 18 Shop in amount of \$174,663 utilizing the Omnia contract Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement #PW1925.

As part of the motion, Commissioner Dumenil, Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner McLaughlin asked questions and/or made comments.

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**LEGISLATIVE**

**SKI PHASE 3 – VACANT PROPERTIES – RENDERING OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENT:**

A public hearing was held on September 12, 2023 to fix the amount of the sewer benefit assessment levy pursuant to Section 24-29 of the code of public local laws of Queen Anne’s County within the Southern Kent Island Wastewater Subdistrict – Phase 3 (Kentmorr and Queen Anne Colony Subdivisions). The proposed benefit assessment, which will be effective October 1, 2023, for existing Class B vacant properties without a valid state approved percolation test is \$27,920 which consists of a Base Cost (\$2,320) and the Economic Benefit Premium (\$25,600). The EBP reflects a portion of the increase in the lot’s value realized making it buildable. The hearing also addressed existing Class C vacant properties with a valid state approved percolation test consisting solely of a Base Cost (\$2,320). Both assessments may be financed over a twenty-year period at 1.0.

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to adopt Resolution #23-10 fixing and levying a benefit assessment in the amount of \$27,920 on all Southern Kent Island – Phase 3 Class B vacant properties without a valid state approved percolation test, and \$2,320 on all Southern Kent Island – Phase 3 Class C vacant properties with a valid state approved percolation test, with an effective billing date of October 1, 2023.

As part of the motion, Commissioner Corchiarino, Commissioner Moran and 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	

**SKI PHASE 2 – IMPROVED PROPERTIES – RENDERING OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENT:**

A public hearing was held on September 12, 2023 to fix the amount of the sewer benefit assessment levy pursuant to Section 24-29 of the code of public local laws of Queen Anne’s County within the Southern Kent Island Wastewater Subdistrict – Phase 2 (Tower Gardens Subdivision). The proposed benefit assessment, which will be effective October 1, 2023, for existing improved properties within the Phase 2 sewer service area is \$15,220 which consists of a

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Base Cost (\$2,320) and the Septic Tank Effluent Pump Cost (\$12,900). The sum of the Base Cost and the STEP Cost may be financed over a twenty-year period at 1.0%.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, the Board unanimously agreed to adopt Resolution #23-11 fixing and levying a benefit assessment in the amount of \$15,220, payable over 20 years at 1.0% interest, on all Southern Kent Island – Phase 2 Class A properties that were improved on or before May 27, 2014 with an effective billing date of October 1, 2023.

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

**PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No further public comment

**COMMISSIONER’S ROUNDTABLE:**

Commissioner Wilson discussed the following:  
RT 50/301 Ramp Traffic Management Plan

Commissioner Dumenil discussed the following:  
RT 50/301 Ramp Traffic Management Plan

Commissioner McLaughlin discussed the following:  
No Comments

Commissioner Corchiarino discussed the following:  
RT 50/301 Ramp Traffic Management Plan

Commissioner Moran discussed the following:  
RT 50/301 Ramp Traffic Management Plan

There being no further business, the Board adjourned to meet again on Tuesday October 10, 2023.

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EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT

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PRESIDENT

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