

November 14, 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

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 October 24, 2023 and Sanitary Minutes of October 24, 2023.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Joe Gannon – Opposed Regional Jail
2. Ms. Di Quynn Reno – Lower Speed Limit on Bennett Point Road
3. Mr. Drew Turner – County Ordinance 23-02
4. Mr. Paul Millstein – County Ordinance 23-02
5. Joe Stevens, Esquire – County Ordinance 23-02
6. Mr. Brandon Kaufmann – County Ordinance 22-03
7. Mr. David Kaufmann – County Ordinance 22-03
8. Mr. Ken Eaton – County Ordinance 22-03
9. Mr. BJ Kilby – County Ordinance 22-03

November 14, 2023

PRESENTATIONS:

SPOTLIGHT AND 23RD ANNIVERSARY FOR CHARACTER COUNTS

PROCLAMATION:

Ms. Melinda Ray, Character Counts! Coordinator and Mr. Wayne Humphries met with the Board and reviewed the various programs.

Commissioner Dumenil read the QAC Commissioner’s Character Counts! Spotlight for November 2023:

The Character Counts! pillar celebrated in November is CITIZENSHIP. Being a good citizen means doing your part to make your home, school, and community better. This can include voting, being a good neighbor, and making choices that protect the safety and rights of others. This month we have two honorees that have distinguished themselves and deserve to be recognized.

First, QACTV. The dedicated staff of QACTV work tirelessly to make sure citizens stay informed about happenings in our county, including their broadcasts of county Board of Education and Commissioners meetings. You will often see them throughout the county promoting local non-profits, small businesses, and local fundraising events. This organization’s foundation is built on all the pillars of character, and we thank them.

We also want to recognize the Queen Anne’s County Veteran and Military Support Alliance. VAMSA was launched in 2022 to address the unique needs of servicemen and women. They strive to provide financial counseling, holistic therapies and healing services, guidance to government and private sector assistance, and peer support to active military, veterans, and their families. They believe the sacrifice of our military and veteran families entitle them to live in communities that value them, invest in them, and understand the unique cultural, environmental, and battleground experiences they share in service to their country. We agree and thank them for their dedication and service.

Commissioner Dumenil read the following proclamation:

23-52

WHEREAS, more than two decades ago, the people of Queen Anne’s County initially recognized the importance of positive character traits in people and encouraged one another to incorporate these values into their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the Queen Anne’s County Commissioners officially endorsed the “Six Pillars of Character” and declared Queen Anne’s County a “Character Counts!” Community; and

November 14, 2023

WHEREAS, Character Counts! encourages all citizens, corporate and individual to incorporate and model the invaluable traits of the Six Pillars which are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship in an ongoing commitment to promote character development and ethical behavior in our community; and

WHEREAS, Character Counts! has been fortunate in building a great partnership with the Queen Anne’s County public school system and has facilitated over 100,000 character education experiences to children delivered by over 1500 volunteer character coaches and mentors; and

WHEREAS, local businesses, organization and non-profits have participated in the Character Counts! initiative as Businesses of Character, providing volunteers and financial support and assisting with spreading the message of good character; and

WHEREAS, through Character Counts!, our community has been and will continue to promote the goals of the Queen Anne’s County Character Counts! Advisory Council to strengthen personal character traits, build families of character and create a more cohesive community of character; and

NOW THEREFORE, QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS do hereby recognize and invite our citizens to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of Character Counts! in Queen Anne’s County.

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATE AND NATIONAL CAREGIVERS’ MONTH PROCLAMATION:

Ms. Cathy Willis, Director, Ms. Anne Sparks and Mr. Mike Clark Community Services met with the Board and gave an overview of their department. The following was highlighted:

They reviewed the 2023 events, 18th Annual Senior Summit, Commission on Aging Town Hall Meeting, YMCA & Active Aging Center Opening, Make a Difference Day and Ride for Free in 2023.

November 14, 2023

Commissioner Moran read the following Proclamation:

23-48

WHEREAS, over 50 million Americans today are family caregivers for their loved ones, providing crucial care and medical assistance to parents, children, siblings and other loved ones, ensuring their health and dignity; and

WHEREAS, a large number of them are finding themselves providing care 24-hours a day, 7 days a week; and

WHEREAS, caregiving can be a rewarding experience, it is not without its consequences such as stress, poor health, and caregiver burnout; and

WHEREAS, family caregivers juggle everyday life tasks such as preparing the children for school, managing household responsibilities and working full or part-time jobs. In addition, they have the added responsibility of managing medications for their loved ones. Whether it be for a senior with Alzheimer's or a child with special needs the required attention can be non-stop; and

WHEREAS, making time for yourself and the family protects a family caregiver's own health, strengthens family relationships, prevents burnout and can enable a care recipient to stay at home longer. The chance to take a breather and re-energize is vital in order for you to be as good a caregiver tomorrow as you were today; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of family caregivers in our country is growing every year, it is even more essential to encourage these heroes to take some time for respite, attend our local caregivers meetings, attend the Caregivers Conference on November 17, 2023 and continue to contact the Queen Anne's County Area Agency on Aging for additional resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, do hereby recognize November 2023 as 'National Caregivers Month' with the theme "Caregivers Connect".

COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN INFORMATIONAL MEETING:

This Informational Meeting allows the Commissioners to ask any questions of the applicant or staff in preparation for the hearing scheduled November 28, 2023.

November 14, 2023

The first request is a text amendment on behalf of the Town of Centreville which will allow them to increase their sewerage treatment capacity from 542,000 gallons per day to 1,000,000 gallons per day. The second request is a map amendment to add two properties to be served by the new water main in Chester which was heard as Amendment 11-18.

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION

This text amendment reflects a request to increase the wastewater treatment capacity at the Town of Centreville’s wastewater treatment plant. The wastewater treatment plant currently has a permitted capacity of 542,000 gallons per day and utilizes groundwater discharge via spray irrigation on a seasonal basis on its lands located at 751 Hope Road (April 1 through November 30) and a surface water discharge into Gravel Run stream the remainder of the year (December 1 through March 31). This amendment seeks to increase the capacity to 1,000,000 gallons per day with the increase in capacity being surface water discharged year-round. In order to accommodate this surface water discharge increase, the current wastewater treatment plant outfall point is proposed to be extended from its current location within the Gravel Run stream (immediately adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant) to a new point directly into the Corsica River. The existing spray irrigation facility will remain in operation seasonally at its current capacity.

The Town Council reviewed the need for the proposed amendment.

NORTHWEST CHESTER WATER MAIN EXTENSION (additional properties)

This map amendment adds two properties to those properties which were already upgraded via amendment 11-18. This will upgrade the water service area map designations from W-3 to W-2 for Tax Map 57 Parcels 143 and 356, located at the intersection of Main Street and Shopping Center Road, to allow those properties to connect to water when they so desire.

LEGISLATIVE:

COUNTY ORDINANCE 23-02 AMENDMENT 1

A BILL ENTITLED AN ACT CONCERNING Maximum Density of Dwellings in the Waterfront Village Center (WVC) Zoning District in Queen Anne's County; FOR THE PURPOSE of amending the pending County Ordinance 23-02 to require less of a decrease in the amount of commercial square footage required as part of a Mixed Use development than initially proposed, and to clarify that no individual parcel or lot may be used solely for residential purposes. BY AMENDING PENDING ORDINANCE 23-02

No motion was made.

November 14, 2023

COUNTY ORDINANCE #23-02

A BILL ENTITLED AN ACT CONCERNING Maximum Density of Dwellings in the Waterfront Village Center (WVC) Zoning district in Queen Anne’s County; FOR THE PURPOSE of authorizing the Queen Anne’s County Planning Commission to consider and grant a maximum density of up to 25 dwellings per Acre in the Waterfront Village Center (WVC) Zoning District under certain circumstances; and generally dealing with density and dwellings in the Waterfront Village Center (WVC) Zone

No motion was made.

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. #22-03

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, with Commissioner McLaughlin abstaining because he was not a County Commissioner at the time the ordinance was introduced and when the hearing was held, the Board agreed to adopt County Ordinance #22-03.

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

A BILL ENTITLED AN ACT CONCERNING the Repeal of Section 18:1-66 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne’s County; FOR THE PURPOSE of repealing Section 18:1-66 of the Code of Public Local Laws; eliminating any conflict between Section 18:1-66 and provisions of the State Forest Conservation Act and the State and Local Critical Area laws; and generally eliminating the regulation of woodlands in Section 18:1-66 from the Queen Anne’s County Zoning Code; BY REPEALING Section 18:1-66 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne’s County.

WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNATURE:

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

November 14, 2023

ACTION ITEMS:

ADMIN/ENGINEERING:

4-H PARK STORMWATER REPAIRS CONTRACT AWARD:

Mr. Lee Edgar, Chief of Engineer submitted to the Board for their review and approval the 4-H Park Stormwater Repairs. Sealed proposals were received for the 4-H Park Stormwater Repairs portion of Queen Anne’s County 4-H Park Infrastructure Upgrade project. The work involves installation of new and replacement storm drain, plus appurtenant site grading and stabilization which includes approximately 26,000 square feet of asphalt pavement. This is the first major phase of a Park Infrastructure Upgrade project first initiated by the County 4-H Park Association, Inc. in 2022. This project is funded by a \$1,200,000 grant and the 4-H Park Capital Budget. Seven bids were received and Martin’s Excavation and Hauling, LLC submitted the lowest bid in the amount of \$638,238.10. Adequate funding is available with the Rural Investment Grant and in the approved Capital Budget. The Director of Public Works is asking authorization to issue the Notice of Award and execute the Contract to Martin’s Excavation and Hauling, LLC in the amount of \$638,238.10.

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to award the Queen Anne’s County 4-H Park Stormwater Repairs contract to Martin’s Excavation and Hauling, LLC of Centreville, Maryland in the amount of \$638,238.10 and authorize the Director of Public Works to issue the Notice of Award and execute the contract on behalf of the County Commissioners.

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

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FY 2024:

Mr. Mike Clark, Director, Community Partnership for Children and Families submitted to the board for their review and approval the Community Partnership Agreement FY2024. The Community Partnership Agreement is between the State of Maryland Children’s Cabinet and Queen Anne’s County Community Partnerships for Children and Families, Local Management Board. This agreement is a partnership to develop a comprehensive, integrated children and family interagency service delivery system that is community-based, family focused and culturally competent. To complete the full execution of this agreement it needs to be signed by Commission President Jim Moran

On a motion made by Commissioner McLaughlin, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to execute the FY 2024 Community Partnership Agreement between the State of Maryland Children’s Cabinet and the Queen Anne’s County Community Partnerships for Children and Families.

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

MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (MTA) CAPITAL GRANT AGREEMENT:

Mr. Steve Palmer, Transit Administrator submitted to the Board for their review and approval the MTA Capital Grant Agreement packet for FY 2024. Signing this agreement informs MTA that Queen Anne’s County accepts the Federal and State funding to support transit services and County Ride, the locally owned transit system of Queen Anne’s County. This grant includes money for preventative maintenance and the county’s portion would be 10% of the grant. The County Attorney Patrick Thompson has reviewed and signed the documents.

On a motion made by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to accept the Maryland Transit Administration Capital Grant Agreement packet to certify that the Queen Anne’s County Department of Community Services Area Agency on Aging will operate the Public Transit System and accept the awards as offered by the State of Maryland Department of Transportation for FY 2024. As part of the motion, Commissioners Dumenil, Moran and Wilson asked questions and/or made comments on this topic.

November 14, 2023

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

MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (MTA) OPERATING GRANT AGREEMENT:

Mr. Steve Palmer, Transit Administrator, submitted to the Board for their review and approval the MTA Operating Grant Agreement packet for FY 2024. Signing this agreement informs MTA that Queen Anne’s County accepts the Federal and State funding to support transit services and County Ride, the locally owned transit system of Queen Anne’s County. The FY24 Operating Federal and State allocations continue to support the necessary budget and county dollars for the transit program. The County Attorney Patrick Thompson has reviewed and signed the documents.

On a motion made by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to accept the Maryland Transit Administration Operating Grant Agreement packet to certify that the Queen Anne’s County Department of Community Services Area Agency on Aging will operate the Public Transit System and accept the awards as offered by the State of Maryland Department of Transportation for FY 2024.

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

FY 24 EQUIPMENT PURCHASE - VENTRAC BALLPARK GROOMER:

Ms. Steve Chandlee, Director of Parks and Recreation submitted to the Board for their review and approval the FY24 Equipment Purchase. The Department of Parks and Recreation is requesting permission to purchase one Ventrac Ballpark Groomer from J&R Sheds & Equipment, Inc. located in Churchville, Maryland in the amount of \$53,286.00 utilizing the Sourcewell Contract 031121-TTC. This would be an additional ballfield groomer which can also

November 14, 2023

be used for snow removal. Funding will come from the Capital Project Budget #40221, Capital Equipment account.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to purchase one Ventrac Ballpark Groomer from J&R Sheds & Equipment, Inc. of Churchville Maryland in the amount of \$53,286.00. As part of the motion, Commissioner Dumenil asked questions and/or made comments on this topic.

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

FY 24 EQUIPMENT PURCHASE - VERMEER BRUSH CHIPPER:

Ms. Steve Chandlee, Director of Parks and Recreation submitted to the Board for their review and approval the FY24 Equipment Purchase. The Department of Parks and Recreation is requesting permission to purchase one Brush Chipper from Vermeer located in Annapolis, Maryland in the amount of \$49,544.27 utilizing the Sourcewell Contract 031721-VRM. Funding will come from the Capital Project Budget #40221, Capital Equipment account.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner McLaughlin, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to purchase one Vermeer Brush Chipper from Vermeer of Annapolis Maryland in the amount of \$49,544.27.

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REQUEST TO AWARD BID FOR MENTAL HEALTH:

The Department of Health is requesting to award the bid of Mental Health Consultant for the Healthy Families Program for the remaining fiscal year with the option to renew for an additional five successive years to Inspire Consulting, LLC with an hourly rate of \$79.89 and Chester River Behavioral Health, LLC with an hourly rate of \$125.00. The funds are available using the FY24 Health Department grant funding and no additional county funds are requested.

On a motion made by Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize the Queen Anne’s County Department of Health to award the bid of Mental Health Consultant for the Healthy Families Program for the remaining fiscal year with the option to renew for an additional five successive years to Inspire Consulting, LLC with an hourly rate of \$79.89 and Chester River Behavioral Health, LLC with an hourly rate of \$125.00. 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	

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA SPONSORSHIP CONTRIBUTION:

The 2023 Wreaths Across America is underway and the Benedict A. Andrew American Legion is seeking sponsorships again this year for wreaths to be placed at the Eastern Shore Veteran’s Cemetery in Hurlock, MD. Last year, Queen Anne’s County supported this initiative and contributed \$5,000 and they are requesting a contribution again this year.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner McLaughlin, the Board unanimously agreed to sponsor the 2023 Wreaths Across America in the amount of \$7,000.

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

November 14, 2023

EARLY VOTING CENTER - KENT ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Election Law Article sets the number of early voting centers that each county is required to have, Queen Anne’s County is required to have one early voting center and may also have an optional early voting center. The Kent Island Fire Department has been an optional early voting center in addition to our site in Centreville since 2014. The Kent Island site has been utilized by more voters than the Centreville site. To comply with the State Law, County officials must approve the optional voting center and the Board of Elections is recommending that Kent Island Fire Department continue to be utilized as an optional early voting center for the upcoming election as well as all future elections.

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to continue the utilization of Kent Island Fire Department as an optional early voting center for the upcoming election as well as all future elections.

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

DECEMBER COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

The December Commissioners meetings are scheduled to be held on December 12th and December 26th. We would like to cancel the December 26th, 2023, meeting due to the Christmas Holiday.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Moran, the Board unanimously agreed to cancel the December 26, 2023, County Commissioner Meeting due to the Christmas Holiday.

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

LETTER OF SUPPORT - HOTEL TAX INCREASE:

The Worcester County Commissioners are seeking support for enabling legislation from Maryland legislature that would grant Eastern Shore Code Home Rule Counties the authority to increase the hotel room tax from five percent to a maximum of six percent. This increase allows tourism related expenses to be covered. Hotel room tax revenues provide a dedicated source to fund tourism and tourism-related activities, and the return for each dollar invested in tourism marketing generates \$31 in visitor spending, making the authority to increase hotel room tax by up to an additional one percent mutually beneficial to each of our Eastern Shore Code Home Rule Counties, as we promote tourism-related activities that attract residents and visitors alike to live, play, and explore our Eastern Shore Communities.

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Corchiarino, the Board unanimously agreed to execute the Letter of Support to the Worcester County Government 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%. As part of the motion, Commissioners Wilson 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	

BUDGET AMENDMENT #CC61 - FIRE IMPACT FEES:

The County Code states that the county reimburses the 50% and the 25% discounts for commercial property within and outside the growth area. This amendment provides budget authority for the FY23 transfer out of the General Fund and into the Fire Impact Fee funds for these discounts. The amendment is balanced with an increase in property tax revenue, which the County has received in addition to what was already budgeted for FY23. The first line of this amendment removes the existing budget authority of \$90,000 that was included in the existing budget and the remaining lines for the transfer in are based on the actual commercial impact fees received.

On a motion made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner McLaughlin, the Board unanimously agreed to approve Budget Amendment #CC-61 – Fire Impact Fees.

November 14, 2023

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

QAC CHRISTMAS ANGELS:

Mrs. Linda Austin submitted a flyer regarding the QAC Christmas Angels program. This is a 501C3 organization managed by Queen Anne’s Advocates for Youth. They are seeking donations to provide Christmas gifts (clothing, toys, hygiene kits, blankets, pillows) for children in need. Currently they have over 1,500 children in the program and there are about 175 Children that have not yet been sponsored. Last year the County supported this initiative with a \$5,000 donation.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dumenil, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to approve funding in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Queen Anne’s County Christmas Angels.

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

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

November 14, 2023

COMMISSIONER'S ROUNDTABLE:

Commissioner Wilson discussed the following:
Happy Thanksgiving

Commissioner Dumenil discussed the following:
National Friendship Week

There being no further business, they adjourned at 7:30 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

PRESIDENT

November 14, 2023