

Minutes of the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland

November 15, 2022

Joseph M. Mitrecic, President
Theodore J. Elder, Vice President
Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
Madison J. Bunting, Jr.
James C. Church
Joshua C. Nordstrom
Diana Purnell

Following a motion by Commissioner Bertino, seconded by Commissioner Elder, the commissioners unanimously voted to meet in closed session at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room to discuss legal and personnel matters permitted under the provisions of Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions (GP) Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and to perform administrative functions permitted under the provisions of Section GP 3-104. Also present at the closed session were Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Candace Savage, County Attorney Roscoe Leslie, Public Information Officer Kim Moses, and Human Resources Director Stacey Norton. Topics discussed and actions taken included the following: hiring Madeline Nee as an IT Technician in Information Technology and certain personnel matters with Human Resources; receiving legal advice from counsel; and performing administrative functions, including upcoming board appointments.

Following a motion by Commissioner Nordstrom, seconded by Commissioner Bertino, the commissioners unanimously voted to adjourn their closed session at 9:34 a.m.

After the closed session, the commissioners reconvened in open session. Commissioner Mitrecic called the meeting to order, and following a morning prayer by Reverend Mary Haggard, senior pastor of the Snow Hill-Newark United Methodist Church Circuit, and pledge of allegiance, announced the topics discussed during the morning closed session.

The commissioners reviewed and approved the open and closed session minutes of their November 1, 2022 meeting as presented.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bertino, the commissioners unanimously approved by consent agenda item numbers 2-8 as follows: out-of-state travel for two Recreation and Parks staff to attend the Sports Entertainment Tourism Association Symposium in Kansas City, MO May 8-11, 2023; a \$4,320 Youth and Amateur Sports Grant from the Maryland Sports Office of the Maryland Stadium Authority; a one-year lease of \$5,016 for cost estimating software for use within Public Works; five-year lease for a 2023 Caterpillar Landfill Compactor for \$1,394,825 and 2023 Caterpillar D-6 Dozer for \$699,750 for use within the Solid Waste Division; a five-year lease of \$482,000 for cyber security software from SecuLore Solutions, with Maryland 911 Board funding to cover all costs; bid documents for FY24 Local Management Board programs; and scheduling a public hearing to amend the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan for an

amendment to the Riverview Mobile Home Park.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bertino, the commissioners unanimously agreed to table approval of the commissioners' meeting and budget schedules and holidays for 2023 until their December 6, 2022 meeting.

Pursuant to the request of Public Works Director Dallas Baker and upon a motion by Commissioner Nordstrom, the commissioners unanimously accepted the contract from Envirep, Inc. for \$72,328 to repair 10 leachate wet wells at cells 2, 3, 4, and 5 at the Central Landfill in Newark. Mr. Baker explained that funding to cover this unbudgeted request are available within the FY23 budget.

Pursuant to the request of Mr. Baker and upon a motion by Commissioner Purnell, the commissioners unanimously authorized staff to develop a cellular lease between the County and T-Mobile that would allow T-Mobile to place 10 antennae on the Newark water tower at a cost of \$4,000 per month. Mr. Baker advised that staff will work with a third-party engineering consultant for a full review of structural impacts the project may have on the water tower and develop construction drawings prior to finalizing the lease agreement, insurance, and bonding with T-Mobile. In response to questions by Commissioner Bunting, Mr. Baker confirmed that T-Mobile will not be permitted to sublet the antennae.

At the request of Commissioner Bertino, the commissioners agreed to table discussions regarding appointments to the Tri-County Council Executive Board and full board until their December 6 meeting.

Outgoing Commissioner Nordstrom thanked his constituents for the opportunity to serve them for the last four years, and he thanked staff for their help and support of various projects and initiatives. He advised that this has been a rewarding experience, and he advised his fellow commissioners that it has been a pleasure to serve alongside them.

The commissioners thanked outgoing Commissioner Church for his 20 years of service on the Board of County Commissioners of Worcester County, as well as his prior 10 years of service on the Board of Education, and they wished him a long and healthy retirement.

The commissioners adjourned to host a retirement reception for Commissioner Church.

The commissioners, with Commissioner Nordstrom absent, reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

The commissioners reviewed and discussed various board appointments.

Upon a nomination by Commissioner Elder, the commissioners unanimously agreed to appoint Snow Hill Mayor Michael Pruitt to the Solid Waste Advisory Board.

Upon a nomination by Commissioner Purnell, the commissioners voted 4-2, with Commissioners Bertino and Bunting abstaining, to appoint Commissioner Elder to serve on the Fire Committee to replace outgoing Commissioner Nordstrom.

The commissioners adjourned for 20 minutes.

The commissioners, with outgoing Commissioner Nordstrom absent, reconvened at 12:22 p.m.

Finance Officer Phil Thompson informed the commissioners that staff just confirmed that at 10:45 a.m. that morning the County obtained a 3.439702% effective interest rate from UBS Financial Services, Inc. for the Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds, 2022 Series. He advised that the County received 15 bids ranging from 3.439702 to 3.609341, and the County secured a premium, lowering the bond from \$28.6 million to \$26.5 million. This represents the highest number of bids for public improvement bonds received by any Maryland county in 2022.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bertino, the commissioners unanimously adopted Resolution No. 22-27, approving the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds, 2022 Series, contingent upon receipt of a good faith deposit of \$286,000 or 1% of the bond amount.

The commissioners answered questions from the press, after which they adjourned to meet again on December 6, 2022.