

Minutes of the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland

June 5, 2018

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

Following a motion by Commissioner Bertino, seconded by Commissioner Bunting, the Commissioners unanimously voted to meet in closed session at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room to discuss legal and personnel matters permitted under the provisions of Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and to perform administrative functions. Also present at the closed session were Harold L. Higgins, Chief Administrative Officer; Kelly Shannahan, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer; Maureen Howarth, County Attorney; Kim Moses, Public Information Officer; and Stacey Norton, Human Resources Director. Topics discussed and actions taken included: hiring Yasmine Jenkins, Yashawn Cuffee, and Tamara Taylor as Correctional Officer Trainees for the Jail; posting to fill vacancies for a Roads Worker II for the Roads Division and a Mosquito Control Foreman Trainee for Public Works, a Safety Coordinator for Human Resources, a Deputy Sheriff - School Security for the Sheriff's Office, Office Assistant III for Emergency Services, and a Correctional Officer for the Jail; acknowledging the hiring Tyvonnia Braxton as Branch Manager within the Ocean City Branch Library, and Kathleen Callan as a part-time Library Services Assistant I and promotion of Alice Paterra from Branch Manager I to Branch Manager II within the Berlin Branch Library; acknowledging the promotion of Brian Trader from Deputy First Class to Corporal within the Sheriff's Office; receiving legal advice from counsel; and performing administrative functions.

After the closed session, the Commissioners reconvened in open session. Commissioner Purnell called the meeting to order and announced the topics discussed during the morning closed session.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved their open and closed work session minutes of May 8, 2015 as corrected and their regular session meeting minutes of May 15, 2018 as presented.

The Commissioners presented a proclamation to Jamie Manning, Assistant Director of Services within the Department of Social Services (DSS), Commission on Aging (COA) Director Rob Hart and others recognizing June 2018 as Elder Abuse Awareness Month and June 5 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Worcester County.

The Commissioners, joined by Worcester Preparatory Lower School Head Laura Holmes

and Coastal Association of Realtors (CAR) Executive Vice President Page Browning and President Joel Maher, presented a commendation recognizing student Maxi Ruggerio for her poster "Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act," depicting community members coming together to celebrate fair housing, which was selected by CAR and the Maryland Association of Realtors to be featured in the statewide 2019 Fair Housing Calendar.

Ivonne Lomax, Youth Program Coordinator for the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance (LSWA) updated the Commissioners on the Youth Standing Committee Strategic Plan, which serves youth and young adults between the ages of 16-24 and which has been expanded to further serve the needs of workforce development and sensitive populations. She stated that the focus of the program is on youth who have disengaged from or are at risk of dropping out of the school system and have not succeeded in finding or maintaining employment. She stated that the plan includes providing training focus groups, occupational skills, career pathway skills, and much more to help youth re-engage with the community. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Lomax for the update.

Pursuant to the request of Housing Program Administrator Jo Ellen Bynum and upon a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the Commissioners unanimously approved bid specifications for general housing rehabilitation work to be performed on two properties in the Pocomoke and Bishopville areas, which are to be funded through the County's current Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation Grant.

Pursuant to the request of Ms. Bynum and upon a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the Commissioners unanimously approved the following Worcester County plan updates for continued Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) eligibility: Citizen Participation Plan, Minority Business Plan, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Plan, and Section 3 Plan.

Pursuant to the recommendation of Budget Accountant Kim Reynolds in response to a request from Health Department officials and upon a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the Commissioners unanimously committed a local match of \$57,151 or 25% from the FY19 budget to match the Maryland Department of Health Administration-Sponsored Capital Program grant of \$171,453 or 75% for a total estimated project cost of \$228,604 for a renovation project to add 1,103 square feet of space to the second floor of the Worcester Addictions Cooperative Services (WACS) Center.

Pursuant to the request of Tourism Director Lisa Challenger and upon a motion by Commissioner Bertino, the Commissioners unanimously authorized Commission President Purnell to sign the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) Grant Agreement, awarding Worcester County Tourism a grant of \$5,000 to design a new website for Tourism Arts & Development - Eat. Drink. Buy Art (EDBA) program. Ms. Challenger advised that the EDBA campaign is a consortium of towns that have an Arts & Entertainment District and/or a designated Main Street Community, as well as marketing professionals from each county that collectively promote the arts and shop local initiative. She concluded that all matching funds will come from participating jurisdictions, which include Berlin, Snow Hill, Ocean City, Cambridge, Princess Anne, Denton, Elkton, Salisbury, Centerville, and Stevensville.

Pursuant to the recommendation of Environmental Programs Director Bob Mitchell and a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the Commissioners unanimously authorized Commission President Purnell to sign the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland First Amendment to Grant Agreement to Administer and Enforce Onsite Sewage Disposal System Regulations for Systems that Utilize Best Available Technology (BAT) for Nitrogen Removal. Mr. Mitchell stated that, subject to State budget appropriation and approvals and contingent upon the continuance of the Enabling Act, MDE will award the County \$50,000 annually to administer this program in Worcester County.

Pursuant to the request of Recreation and Parks Director Tom Perlozzo and upon a motion by Commissioner Church, the Commissioners unanimously agreed to waive the standard bid process, declared Industrial Bulb & Lighting of Baltimore, Maryland to be the sole source for the provision of Maxlite light-emitting diode (LED) lighting in the Worcester County Recreation Center (WCRC) gymnasium, and accepted their proposal for Option HP 180 for the purchase of Maxlite lighting at a total cost of \$11,994. Mr. Perlozzo explained that Maxlite LED lighting will reduce electric usage within the WCRC gymnasium by approximately 60%, resulting in an anticipated savings of \$10,000 in electric costs annually. In response to a question by Commissioner Bertino, Chief Administrative Officer Harold Higgins advised that roughly \$700,000 (which was later confirmed to be \$420,365) is available within a special revenue account from the PEPCO lawsuit, to cover such energy improvement expenses.

Pursuant to the request of Mr. Perlozzo and the recommendation of the Worcester County Recreation Advisory Board and upon a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the Commissioners unanimously approved the list of projects for park acquisition and development as recommended and agreed to allocate FY19 Worcester County Program Open Space (POS) funding of \$564,790, with 50% of funding to be allotted for park acquisition and 50% for park development. These projects include Bishopville water-front park engineering services for Phase I development planning and permitting; John Walter Smith Park in Snow Hill multi-purpose field development and WCRC development Phase 7; Newtown Park in Pocomoke development for tennis and pickleball courts; Northern Worcester Athletic Complex in Berlin for field development and park improvements to address both multi-purpose fields and parking deficits; and Stockton Park playground replacement. Mr. Perlozzo advised that the POS grants are awarded by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at a 90% State and 10% County cost-share for development projects and a 100% State reimbursement for park acquisition; however, the Worcester County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (the Plan), which must be updated every five years to identify the needs of current and future populations for recreation lands and programming and to remain eligible for POS funding, did not meet the State requirements for land acquisition. He advised that the State has amended its match to 75% State 25% County until the County can justify a return to the former 90%/10% cost-share. He stated that Recreation and Parks staff have worked with Environmental Programs and the Board of Education (BOE) to develop a Land Use Agreement to identify additional County land and facilities not included in the original submission, and the amended Plan will be resubmitted to the State by June 30, 2018.

Pursuant to the request of Emergency Services Director Fred Webster and upon a motion by Commissioner Bertino, the Commissioners unanimously accepted the proposal in the amount of \$49,423.72 from Absolute Security of Salisbury, Maryland to replace eight control panels for the existing Keyscan Access Control System, which were damaged during an electrical storm on May 12, 2018. Mr. Webster stated that the County, which must fund the initial cost of the repairs, should be reimbursed for all or a portion of these costs by Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) upon processing of this claim.

The Commissioners met with Mr. Webster to review a request from Ocean City Emergency Services Director Joe Theobald to continue using the Worcester County portion of the legacy Enhanced Digital Access Communications System (EDACS) radio system by Ocean City first responders until fall 2018, to resolve unanticipated challenges with the new Harris Corporation P25 system technology that requires additional diagnosis, engineering, software development, field testing, and reprogramming by the Town of Ocean City. Mr. Webster confirmed that Worcester County terminated its EDACS maintenance contract with Harris Corporation as of February 2018, which included decommissioning the EDACS system. However, he stated that P25 project delays have created a situation that could be detrimental to interoperability and public safety.

In response to a question by Commissioner Bertino, Mr. Webster stated that it may cost roughly \$24,000 at \$8,000 to decommission each of the three EDACS radio system sites, utilizing in-house personnel if not completed by Harris under the existing P25 system contract with the County. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bertino, the Commissioners unanimously approved the request as presented.

The Commissioners conducted a public hearing on the proposed FY18/19 Water and Wastewater Enterprise Fund operating budgets, assessments, user charges, and other charges for each of the 11 Sanitary Service Areas (SSA) and sub-areas operated by the Worcester County Department of Public Works, Water & Wastewater (W&WW) Division, with individual rates set to cover the operating and maintenance costs for each SSA. Ms. Wilson reviewed the proposed budgets for the County's various service areas, advising that user charges cover the operation and maintenance of these facilities, and while an attempt is made to keep the rate structures similar among the service areas, these rates are SSA specific. In addition to user fees, a debt service assessment is levied to repay bonds and loans for capital water and sewer infrastructure that is financed by the County, and all assessments are based per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU), with increases proposed as follows: a debt service increase for Mystic Harbour, and a debt service reduction for Ocean Pines.

Ms. Wilson stated that there are no proposed rate increases in the Lighthouse Sound, Newark, or West Ocean City SSAs. She then reviewed the proposed rate increases in the other service areas. Assateague Point would see an increase from \$80 to \$85 per park trailer, per quarter water and sewer flat charge, increase from \$127.50 to \$135.50 per EDU per quarter domestic sewer flat charge, and a new grinder pump flat surcharge of \$10 per lot; Briddletown would see an increase in commercial water base rates ranging from \$45 to \$375 at present to \$49.50 to \$412.50 based on total EDUs; Edgewater Acres would see an increase from \$150 to \$160 per EDU per quarter domestic water and sewer base fee, an increase from \$88 to \$93 per

EDU per quarter domestic water flat rate, and an increase from \$135 to \$140 per EDU per quarter domestic sewer flat rate; The Landings would see an increase from \$215 to \$230 per EDU per quarter domestic water and sewer base fee, and increase from \$210 to \$220 per EDU per quarter accessibility fee; Mystic Harbour would see an increase from \$163 to \$168 per EDU per quarter domestic water and sewer base fee, increase Sunset Village domestic water flat rate from \$43.75 to \$47.50 per EDU per quarter, increase from \$164.25 to \$168 per EDU per quarter domestic sewer flat charge, increase in commercial water and sewer base fees ranging from \$180 to \$1,500 at present to \$198 to \$1,650 based on total EDUs, and increase from \$54 to \$66 per EDU per quarter debt service; Ocean Pines would increase from \$154 to \$170 per EDU per quarter domestic water and sewer base fee, increase from \$146 to \$158 per EDU per quarter domestic sewer flat charge, increase White Horse Park domestic water and sewer flat rate from \$122 to \$134 per lot per quarter, increase in commercial water and sewer base fees ranging from \$180 to \$1,500 at present to \$198 to \$1,650 based on total EDUs, and decrease from \$47 to \$37 per EDU per quarter debt service; Riddle Farm would see an increase in commercial water and sewer base fees ranging from \$180 to \$1,500 at present to \$198 to \$1,650 based on total EDUs; and River Run would increase from \$48.13 to \$53.13 per EDU per quarter domestic water base fee. In addition to user fees, assessments will be levied in the Newark, Ocean Pines, Snug Harbor, Oyster Harbor, and Mystic Harbour SSAs or sub-areas to make debt payments, with all assessments to be made on an EDU basis. In closing, Ms. Wilson thanked members of the Ocean Pines, Mystic Harbour and West Ocean City Water and Sewer Advisory Councils for their assistance in developing balanced budgets.

Commissioner Purnell opened the floor to receive public comments.

There being no public comments, Commissioner Purnell closed the public hearing.

Following some discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Bertino, the Commissioners conceptually approved the proposed FY19 W&WW Enterprise Fund operating budgets, assessments, user charges, and other charges, and agreed to adopt the formal resolution at their next meeting on June 19, 2018.

The Commissioners conducted a public hearing on the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund FY19 Requested Operating Budget of \$6,021,661, which projects a decrease in tipping fee revenues of \$195,000 and General Fund grants of \$1,033,339 for recycling and \$664,984 for Homeowner Convenience Centers (HOCCs) to cover direct and indirect overhead costs, Other Revenue of \$225,000 for capital lease expenses for an articulated loader; and transfer from Reserves of \$268,538. Ms. Wilson reviewed operational issues, stating that the Solid Waste Division consists of a Central Landfill and recycling drop-off in Newark, three Homeowner Convenience Centers (HOCCs) located in Berlin, Pocomoke and Snow Hill, and five unmanned recycling centers throughout the County that are open 24 hours a day. She reviewed the proposed budget, which maintains the current solid waste tipping fee of \$70 per ton for municipal waste and \$80 per ton for construction and demolition debris. HOCC permits remain at \$100 for the first two vehicles and \$100 for each additional vehicle within each household, and the optional "Pay-As-You-Throw" system at a cost of \$1 per bag for each 33-gallon bag disposed at any HOCC. Ms. Wilson thanked the Solid Waste Advisory Board members for their review during the budgeting process and for the input they bring from the community.

Commissioner Bunting expressed concern that the Solid Waste Advisory Board had not recommended any rate increases to cover the actual Solid Waste operating costs of this enterprise

fund. In response to this and other questions by Commissioner Bunting, Ms. Wilson stated that the current fees are already higher than those of surrounding jurisdictions, and increasing fees would likely result in further reductions in HOCC permits being issued. She stated that this year roughly 3,400 residents purchased 4,500 HOCC permits, which generated revenues of approximately \$340,000. She agreed to provide the amount of commercial permit fee revenues generated by private haulers.

Commissioner Purnell opened the floor to receive public comments.

There being no public comments, Commissioner Purnell closed the public hearing.

A motion by Commissioner Bunting to increase fees to cover the actual Solid Waste Operating Budget for FY19 failed for lack of a second. Following further discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the Commissioners voted 6-1, with Commissioner Bunting voting in opposition, to conceptually approve the proposed FY19 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Operating Budget and agreed to adopt the formal resolution at their next meeting on June 19, 2018, with the further understanding that staff would meet with the Commissioners to provide a comprehensive review of Solid Waste operations to determine if future changes can be made to resolve the ongoing deficits, which require regular subsidies from the County's General Fund to sustain operations.

The Commissioners conducted a public hearing to receive comment on the proposed Liquor Control Enterprise Fund FY19 Operating Budget of \$915,000. Ms. Wilson reviewed the budget, noting that this is the last remaining facet of the former Department of Liquor Control (DLC), as wholesale operations ceased in 2016, and all of the other Shore Spirits Retail Liquor Stores (RLS) were transferred to private ownership. The proposed budget allows for continued operations of the Pocomoke retail liquor store until ownership is transferred to Kalpesh Patel at the conclusion of the license appeal process.

Commissioner Purnell opened the floor to receive public comments.

There being no public comments, Commissioner Purnell closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the Commissioners conceptually approved the proposed Liquor Control Enterprise Fund Requested FY19 Operating Budget and agreed to adopt the formal resolution at their next meeting on June 19, 2018.

Chief Administrative Officer Harold Higgins reviewed the final proposed FY18 Operating Budget of \$190,030,719 for the coming fiscal year, which reflects a decrease of \$8,901,956 or 4.7% less than the FY18 budget, while requested expenditures of \$211,611,999 have been reduced by \$21.5 million. He stated that the approved FY19 budget maintains tax rates at their current levels of 83.5¢ per \$100 of assessed value for Real Property Taxes and 1.75% for the County's local Income Tax Rate, and due to increasing assessments, Real Property Tax Revenue is projected to increase by \$2,880,921 or 2% in FY19. He stated that this fiscally conservative budget maintains funding for valuable public services, such as public safety, education, and infrastructure. He noted that the County will again use Local Impact Grant (LIG) funds from the Casino at Ocean Downs, which decreased by \$254,206, to fund the annual Worcester Technical High School debt service payment, and includes an increase of \$32,000 in the Transfer-In through budget stabilization from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund of \$1,033,339 to help cover operating costs for the Recycling Center and \$664,984 to help cover operating costs for the Homeowner Convenience Centers. He advised that the County

budget includes funding to the Board of Education (BOE) in the amount of \$87,199,775, which is an increase of \$2,286,999 over the FY18 budget, plus debt service of \$10,396,581 for total County funding of \$97,596,356 or 51% of the County's total estimated revenue. He stated that the BOE budget includes a \$1,752,315, which includes a step, longevity step for those eligible, and salary scale adjustments as negotiated with a 1% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for teachers and a 1.5% COLA for support staff, an additional \$85,000 to support a new position for school safety, a 1% increase to Bus Contractors' hourly rates and mileage rate, and an additional \$48,664 for contractors purchasing new buses and \$45,000 for high school athletics transportation. Mr. Higgins further stated that the overall County budget for County Government employees also includes a 1% COLA and Step increment of 2.5% in July 2018 for those eligible.

Commissioner Mitrecic applauded staff for their work on the budget, but advised that he cannot support the budget based on his fellow Commissioners' denial of Ocean City's requests for an additional \$100,000 tourism advertising grant, as Ocean City's advertising of the area was directly responsible for generating \$350,000 in new room tax revenues to West Ocean City, for \$300,000 for year one of a two-year bollard installation project to improve public safety on the boardwalk, and for making haphazard cuts to certain nonprofit agencies, including the Art League of Ocean City, Delmarva Discovery Museum (DDM), Furnace Town Living Heritage Museum, and the Mar-Va Theater.

Commissioner Church stated that he would support the budget because it is a good budget, but that he shared Commissioner Mitrecic's concerns that the Commissioners were short-sighted in their cuts to certain nonprofits, specifically the DDM and the Art League of Ocean City, and their denial of funds for the Worcester County Humane Society. He stated that the reductions they made to the DDM has resulted in the DDM's director opting to take a 50% pay cut, which he felt was a travesty based on the tremendous good she is doing to grow the DDM and tourism in general in the County.

Commissioner Purnell stated that she will vote for the budget. She noted that she appreciates nonprofits because they meet needs in the community, and she is not happy that the Commissioners flat-funded the Food Bank, which provides food for children living in poverty to eat during the weekends. However, this budget year was a difficult one due to a high deficit, and County staff and the Commissioners did the best job they could do to meet the greatest number of needs, including covering Solid Waste deficits, while remaining accountable for how they spend tax dollars.

Commissioner Elder stated that the nonprofits in Worcester County are good causes, and do outstanding work to meet a diverse range of needs in the community. However, many private citizens live paycheck to paycheck, and it is their right, and not that of elected officials, to dig into shallow pockets to determine which if any nonprofit organizations they may opt to support. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Commissioners to draw a line on spending, and he will vote for the budget.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bertino, the Commissioners voted 6-1, with Commissioner Mitrecic voting in opposition, to adopt Resolution No. 18-12 adopting the FY19 General Fund Expense Budget in the amount of \$190,030,719 and establishing tax rates for FY18, which reflects a real property tax rate of \$.835 per \$100 of assessed value and a local income tax rate of 1.75%, both of which remain unchanged for FY19.

The Commissioners recessed until 11:45 a.m.

Pursuant to the recommendation of Mr. Webster and upon a motion by Commissioner Bunting, the Commissioners unanimously adopted Resolution No. 18-11, authorizing the naming of a private lane off of Old Bridge Road in West Ocean City and serving properties identified on Tax Map 26 as Parcel 423, Lots A, B, and C as Hideaway Lane. Mr. Webster stated that a third home was added to this parcel of land, thus requiring the lane to be named; however, the property owners could not agree on a name, so the County assigned the name.

Pursuant to the recommendation of Development Review and Permitting Director Ed Tudor and upon a motion by Commissioner Bertino, the Commissioners unanimously adopted the Findings of Fact and Rezoning Resolution No. 18-1, for the rezoning of approximately 0.372 acre of land located on the west side of Golf Course Road at the southerly side of the intersection with Townsend Road north of the intersection with Sunset Avenue in West Ocean City (WOC), and more specifically identified on Tax Map 27 as Parcels 309 and 485 - Lots 12, 14, and 15 in the Tenth Tax District of Worcester County, Maryland, from R-3 Multi-Family Residential District to C-2 General Commercial District, as conceptually approved on April 17, 2018.

Pursuant to the recommendation of Mr. Tudor and upon a motion by Commissioner Elder, the Commissioners unanimously adopted the Findings of Fact and Rezoning Resolution No. 18-2, for the rezoning of approximately 7.517 acres of land located on the westerly side of MD Rt. 611 to the north of Sinepuxent Road and south of Sunset Avenue, and more specifically identified on Tax Map 26 as Parcel 274 - Lots 1A and 1B in the Tenth Tax District of Worcester County, Maryland, from C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District to C-2 General Commercial District, as conceptually approved on April 17, 2018.

Pursuant to the request of Public Works Director John Tustin and upon a motion by Commissioner Lockfaw, the Commissioners unanimously approved bid specifications for continued generator preventative maintenance through the Fleet Management Division of Public Works, with funds of \$30,000 available within the FY19 budget for this expense. This preventative maintenance insures that all County-owned generators are reliable and ready to provide power as needed during emergencies or power outages.

Pursuant to the request of Mr. Tustin and upon a motion by Commissioner Church, the Commissioners unanimously accepted the proposal from Whiting-Turner Contracting Company of Salisbury, Maryland for Construction Management Services for the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) renovation project at the Court House at a fixed fee of \$8,000 for pre-construction phase services, estimated hourly services not to exceed \$27,200 for the construction phase, plus estimated reimbursable expenses of \$4,000 for a total cost of \$39,200. Mr. Tustin advised that funds for this project are available from the Assigned Fund Balance. In response to a question by Commissioner Bertino, Mr. Tustin stated that Whiting-Turner, which is doing fantastic work overseeing the new Berlin Branch Library construction project, is one of the only contractors in the area qualified to complete this type of work.

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed various board appointments.

Upon a nomination by Commissioner Bunting, the Commissioners unanimously agreed

to appoint John F. Collins, Jr. to the Water and Sewer Advisory Council for the Ocean Pines Service Area for the remainder of a four-year term expiring December 31, 2021 to replace Michael Reilly who resigned.

Upon recommendations by Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (DAAC) Chairman Doug Dods and upon a motion by Commissioner Bunting, the Commissioners unanimously agreed to appoint Reverend Matthew J. D'Amario to a four-year term expiring December 31, 2021 and Health Department Prevention Director Mimi Dean as the Substance Abuse Prevention Provider for the remainder of a four-year term expiring December 31, 2019 to the DAAC, to replace Reverend Bill Sterling whose term expired and Kat Gunby who resigned, respectively. They further agreed to appoint the following individuals as advisory members of the DAAC for indefinite terms: Local Management Board Director Jessica Sexauer, Shane Ferguson, and James McQuire.

The Commissioners reviewed a memo from Wor-Wic Community College President Ray Hoy advising that, in response to a recent determination by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Wor-Wic Local Advisory Council (LAC) for Career and Technical Education for the three Lower Eastern Shore counties will be dissolved and a new council will be created under the umbrella of the local public schools instead of the college and will include representatives from all three counties. Therefore, since the existing LAC has been dissolved, local appointments to the LAC will no longer be needed by the County Commissioners.

The Commissioners answered questions from the press, after which they adjourned for lunch and to attend a ribbon cutting at Stephen Decatur High School (SDHS) in Berlin for the newly-installed bollards, which are part of an ongoing initiative to improve school safety.

The Commissioners then adjourned to meet again on June 19, 2018.