

January 25, 2022

The County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County met this date pursuant to its last adjournment and there were present:

Christopher M. Corchiarino
James J. Moran
Jack N. Wilson, Jr.
Stephen Wilson
Philip L. Dumenil

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

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 Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, at 5:00 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 5:15 p.m. Those in attendance were Todd Mohn, County Administrator; Margie Houck, Executive Assistant and Patrick Thompson, County Attorney and Sheriff Hofmann.

The Board discussed issues regarding a former and present county employee and the formation of a new county board.

Pursuant to State Government Law Section 3-305(b), (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; "The County Commissioners held a Closed Session on a motion of Commissioner Corchiarino, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, 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 5:30 p.m. Those in attendance were Mr. Todd Mohn, County Administrator, Ms. Margie Houck, Executive Assistant, and Patrick Thompson, Esquire, County Attorney met with the Board.

The Board discussed settlement of a law suit.

MINUTES:

On a motion made by Commissioner J. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously agreed to approve amended Agenda for the current meeting and the Regular and Closed Session Minutes of January 11, 2022.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following persons spoke to the Commissioners on subjects of interest to them:

1. Troy Alexander – in support of 21-09
2. Glen Pyle – in support of 21-09
3. Allen Boyles – in support of 21-09
4. Scott Kinnamon – in support of 21-09
5. Lisa Schrader – opposed 21-09

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 21- 10

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING the Queen Anne’s County Personnel Board;

FOR THE PURPOSE of removing the restriction on Personnel Board members serving more than three terms in office and the restriction on Personnel Board members holding other County offices; and generally revising and updating the provisions of the Queen Anne’s County Code on Personnel Board members;

BY AMENDING Section 27-112E. of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne’s County, Maryland.

Patrick Thompson, County Attorney conducted the hearing on behalf of the County and noted all legal requirements were met.

No public testimony was given.

On a motion made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, the Board unanimously adopted County Ordinance 21-10.

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

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 21-11

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING Community Cats in Queen Anne’s County;

FOR THE PURPOSE of establishing a Community Cat Program in Queen Anne’s County, adopting a Trap-Neuter-Return Policy for Community Cats; defining certain terms; exempting Community Cats from the provisions on stray and unwanted animals, animal registration, animals at large, public nuisance animals, and abandonment; providing for impounding, redemption and seizure of community cats; providing for Trap-Neuter-Return of community cats; and generally dealing with and addressing Community Cats in Queen Anne’s County;

BY AMENDING Sections 9-1, 9-11, 9-12, 9-17, 9-19, 9-21 and 9-23 of Chapter 9 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne’s County and ADDING Section 9-29 to Chapter 9 of the Code of Public Local Laws.

Patrick Thompson, County Attorney conducted the hearing on behalf of the county and noted all legal requirements were met.

Public Comments:

1. Jay Falstad – oppose
2. Ramon Villatoro - in favor
3. Jessica Tarr – in favor

The record will remain open for two weeks for any additional comments.

COUNTY ORDINANCE 22-01

A PUBLIC LOCAL LAW TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY, MARYLAND (THE “COUNTY”), FROM TIME TO TIME, TO BORROW NOT MORE THAN SEVEN MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$7,800,000)

FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF FINANCING OR REFINANCING CERTAIN PUBLIC FACILITIES, ALL AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE, AND TO EVIDENCE SUCH BORROWING BY THE ISSUANCE AND SALE AT PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SALE, UPON ITS FULL FAITH AND CREDIT, OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (THE "BONDS") IN LIKE PAR AMOUNT; EMPOWERING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 19-504(d) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (2013 REPLACEMENT VOLUME AND 2021 SUPPLEMENT) (THE "CODE") PRIOR TO ISSUING ALL OR ANY PART OF THE BONDS; EMPOWERING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY TO LEVY AD VALOREM TAXES IN RATE AND AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE MATURING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS AND PLEDGING THE COUNTY'S FULL FAITH AND CREDIT AND UNLIMITED TAXING POWER TO THE PAYMENT THEREOF; EXEMPTING THE BONDS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 19-205 TO 19-206, INCLUSIVE, OF THE CODE; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS; AND RELATING GENERALLY TO THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SUCH BONDS.

Damian Mark, Esquire, conducted the hearing on behalf of the County and noted all legal requirements were met.

No public testimony was given.

The record will remain open for two weeks for any additional comments

PROCLAMATION:

22-08

The Commissioners read and presented the following proclamation to Ms. Kelly Huber Character Counts Coach Specialist:

WHEREAS, Queen Anne's County was declared a "Character Counts! Community, and

WHEREAS, all community members have been called upon to embrace the "Six Pillars of Character" and incorporate these traits of good character into their daily lives and

WHEREAS, the Character Counts! Pillar of the Month for January is "Fairness".

WHEREAS, Fairness is a value all members seek to uphold for the betterment of the community and Fairness is Characterized by openness, equity, justice, accountability, integrity, and responsibility.

WHEREAS, members listen to one another and take into consideration the needs and desires of the community, ensuring that all have equitable access to available and necessary resources and

WHEREAS, community members also share their knowledge, talents, and time for the benefit of the community.

WHEREAS, all members strive to act with integrity, as individuals, partners, and organizations, we hold ourselves and each other accountable in the face of missteps, righting our wrongdoings and

WHEREAS, community members work together to heal the wounds of the past as they impact the conditions of our community's present and future.

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of experienced community members to teach fairness and all Character Counts! pillars to the youth, guiding them and modeling these values, fostering the spirit of mentorship and community care in future generations.

NOW THEREFORE, the Queen Anne's County Commissioners do hereby designate the Character Counts! pillar for January to be "Fairness".

OVERVIEW OF JUVENILE DIABETES:

Dr. Michael Pallone met with the Board and gave an overview on Juvenile Diabetes. He noted that it is a difficult disease to treat and detect. He reviewed the new technology that can be used to check your blood sugar and how expensive insulin cost.

2022 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN INTRODUCTION:

Ms. Lauren Good and Mr. Ray Moravec with Wallace Montgomery introduced the Planning Commission's recommended Final Draft Plan 2022 Queen Anne's County Comprehensive Plan and the Kent Narrows Community Plan. These final drafts include all recommendations made by the Planning Commission at their January 13, 2022 meeting.

WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNATURE:

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

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH:

January 25, 2022

Commissioner J. Wilson read the following proclamation for Human Trafficking Prevention Month:

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking is a serious problem on the Eastern Shore, where traffickers use violence, threats, deception and other manipulative tactics to force and coerce young and adult individuals to engage in commercial sex acts or to provide labor or services against their will;

WHEREAS, between June 2013 and May 2020 there were reports of child sex trafficking in every Eastern Shore County and since 2017 throughout Maryland 127 human trafficking victims have been rescued;

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking is the second highest criminal enterprise in the United States grossing \$9.5 billion every year. The increased use of drugs, focus on social-media, changes brought by Covid-19 have increased the level of Human Trafficking. The Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force is engaged in Anti-Human Trafficking actions by encouraging and promoting awareness and prevention of Human Trafficking;

WHEREAS, January, across the nation, is Human Trafficking Prevention Month, which formally recognizes that human trafficking consistently occurs in the United States and emphasizes the need for the public and private sectors to come together to focus on prevention, prosecution, partnerships and support for survivors;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Queen Anne’s County, Maryland, hereby recognizes January as “HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH”

RURAL LEGACY – PRIORITY AREA:

Donna Landis Smith, Soil Conservation Aide presented the following to the Board for their review and consideration. Queen Anne’s County has two existing Rural Legacy (RL) Areas, Lands End and Foreman Branch. When applying for grant funding in both RL areas the Department of Natural Resources requests that a priority be given for one of the two areas.

In 2021 the County Commissioners designated the Lands End Rural Legacy area as priority over the Foreman Branch Rural Legacy Area.

On a motion made by Commissioner J. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Moran, the Board unanimously agreed to chose the Foreman Branch Rural Legacy Area as priority for FY23 funding.

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

MALPF Matching Funds Program:

Donna Landis Smith, Soil Conservation Aide presented the following for review and consideration by the Board. Queen Anne’s County is a certified County which means 80% of all Agricultural Transfer tax collected is retained by the County and 20% is remitted to the State of Maryland. The Agricultural Transfer Tax is used for easement acquisitions. Queen Anne’s County also participates in the Matching Funds Program which would enable the County to receive monies from the State. Queen Anne’s County has participated in the Matching Funds Program since 2001.

The initial allocation from the State will provide approximately \$880,000 to each County for easement acquisition.

Currently, there is \$85,108 of Agricultural Transfer Tax available for commitment towards the MALPF Matching Funds Program.

The initial allocation from the State will provide \$880,000 to each County plus the matching funds for the \$85,108 of the Ag Transfer Tax would be approximately \$1,007,662.

If Queen Anne’s County would dedicate \$1,333,334 towards the matching funds program, the State match would be an additional \$2,000,000.

On a motion by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner J. Wilson the Board unanimously agreed to commit \$85,108 of the Agricultural Transfer Tax and \$1,248,226 from the Personal Property Tax and General Fund for a total of \$1,333,334 to be committed towards the MALPF Matching Funds Program.

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

Sudlersville School Study Grant Agreement and Program Forms:

Mike Clark, Chief of Housing and Family Services, submitted to the Board for their review and approval, CDBG MD-22-CD-5 Sudlersville School Study Grant Agreement and Program Forms. Funds through this grant will be used for an Adaptive Reuse Feasibility Study for the Former Sudlersville Middle School.

On a motion made by Commissioner J. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Moran, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize President Corchiarino execute the grant agreement and the certification section of the Authorized Signature form as presented for CDBG Grant Number MD-22-CD-5, as described and recommended by the Department of Community Services Housing Division.

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

MOU WITH CITY OF ANNAPOLIS- PASSENGER FERRY FEASIBILITY STUDY:

The Economic Development and Tourism staff has been collaborating with Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County on determining the feasibility of a passenger ferry with a focus of tourism promotion and asset development. Queen Anne’s County signed an MOU with Visit Annapolis in October 2021 to formalize the collaboration and further defining roles and responsibilities in the grant application process. They are now seeking approval to execute an MOU to include the City of Annapolis. They plan to once again play a supportive role in the grant application process for the EDA Tourism Grant application. The City of Annapolis will take the lead and Visit Annapolis will also play a supportive role when applying for the EDA Grant. They will be applying for an 80% grant to fund a feasibility study for a passenger ferry with a tourism focus which is due on 1/31/2022. It has been suggested that the 3 parties split the 20% funding requirement which results in Queen Anne’s County funding \$16,666 of the feasibility study should the grant be awarded

On a motion made by Commissioner J. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dumenil, with Commissioner S. Wilson opposing the Board agreed to support the QAC Department of Economic and Tourism Development in signing the MOU with the City of Annapolis to collaborate in the Ferry Project feasibility study and support funding a portion of the feasibility study in the amount of \$16,666 should the overall EDA grant be awarded. As part of the motion, Commissioner J. Wilson asked questions and/or made comments on this topic.

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

LR906 – QAC – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – LICENSE APPLICATION – EXCEPTIONS:

This is a support letter for a House Bill to authorize the Board of License Commissioners to exempt up to four (4) licenses held by corporations and limited liability companies from ownership requirements and will prohibit the Board from granting such an exemption in the Kent Narrows Commercial Management and Waterfront Improvement District.

On a motion made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner J. Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to execute the support letter for LR906 – QAC Alcoholic Beverages – License Application – Exceptions.

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

LR2236 – QAC – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – LICENSE APPLICATION – EXCEPTIONS:

This is a support letter for (*NOW*) Senate Bill 340 to authorize the Board of License Commissioners of Queen Anne’s County to exempt up to four (4) licenses held by corporations and limited liability companies from ownership requirements and will prohibit the Board from granting such an exemption in the Kent Narrows Commercial Management and Waterfront Improvement District.

On a motion made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner J. Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to execute the support letter for LR2236 – QAC Alcoholic Beverages – License Application – Exceptions.

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

LR472 – QAC NATURAL RESOURCES – SUNDAY HUNTING:

This is a support letter for a House Bill to authorize the Department of Natural Resources to expand hunting on Sundays in Queen Anne’s County for designated game bird and game mammal seasons. This provision applies only to private property and does not authorize hunting of geese, ducks, dove or other migratory game birds.

On a motion made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner J. Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to execute the support letter for LR472 – QAC Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting.

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

LR904 – KENT NARROWS BRIDGE – STATE HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY FISHING PROHIBITION

This is a support letter for a House Bill to prohibit a pedestrian from catching fish, by any means, within the State highway right-of-way at the Kent Narrows Bridge in Queen Anne’s County. This bill would prohibit fishing under or around the Kent Narrows Draw Bridge along MD Route 18 where this activity is hazardous to both the boating public and to the fishing patrons. In addition, the bill would allow for enforcement of a fine/penalty to individuals that willfully violate this activity.

On a motion made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner J. Wilson, the Board unanimously agreed to execute the support letter for LR904 – Kent Narrows Bridge – State Highway Right-of-Way Fishing Prohibition. As part of the motion, Commissioner J. Wilson asked questions and/or made comments on this topic.

Commissioners	Yes	No

Moran	x	
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	x	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

SB342 – QAC NATURAL RESOURCES – SUNDAY HUNTING:

This is a support letter for Senate Bill 342 to authorize the Department of Natural Resources to expand hunting on Sundays in Queen Anne’s County for designated game bird and game mammal seasons. This provision applies only to private property and does not authorize hunting of geese, ducks, dove or other migratory game birds.

On a motion made by Commissioner J. Wilson , seconded by Commissioner Moran, the Board unanimously agree to execute the support letter for SB342 Natural Resources – Sunday Hunting.

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

LR2178 – QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY – PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDINGS USED FOR AGRITOURISM:

This is a letter of support for a House Bill that adds Queen Anne’s County to the list of counties where an existing agricultural building used for agritourism for up to 200 persons is not considered a change of occupancy that requires a building permit. This is a change from the 50-person capacity currently in place.

On a motion made by Commissioner J. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Moran, with Commissioners Moran and S. Wilson abstaining the Board agreed to execute the support letter for LR-2178 QAC Public Safety Buildings Used for Agritourism. As part of the motion, Commissioners J. Wilson, Moran and S. Wilson asked questions and/or made comments on this topic.

Commissioners	Yes	No
Moran	abstained	
J Wilson	x	
S Wilson	abstained	
Dumenil	x	
Corchiarino	x	

BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUEST TO TRANSFER BETWEEN MAJOR STATE CATEGORIES:

Dr. Saelens, Superintendent, submitted to the Board for their approval a request to transfer funds between major state categories.

In accordance with Section 5-105(b) of the Annotated Code of Maryland the Board of Education requests County Commissioners approval of the transfers listed between major state categories. Cost of additional fixed charges for December’s bonus \$ 80,919 from fund balance

Major Category: Mid-Level Administration

Instructional Salaries and Wages to Mid-Level Salaries- \$135,000

To account for leave pay outs and budget adjustment for budgeted school secretaries.

Funds transferred from Tutoring Savings.

Major Category: Transportation

Instructional Salaries and Fringe Costs to Transportation Salaries \$ 125,000

To account for substitute bus drivers and bus attendant’s salary. Funds transferred from Tutoring and Fixed Charges.

On a motion made by Commissioner J. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Moran, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the Board of Education’s transfer between major state categories as presented.

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

NUMBER OF EARLY VOTING CENTERS:

Ms. Christine Jones, Election Director submitted to the Board for their review and approval a request for an optional early voting center at the Kent Island Fire Department.

Under section 10-30 1.1 of the Election Law Article sets the number of early voting centers each county is required to have. Based on our current number of registered voters, Queen Anne’s County is required to have one early voting center and may have an optional second early voting center. We first used our optional early voting center in Kent Island in 2014. Since that time, our optional site at the Kent Island Fire Department has been a fully funded — including in the FY 22 budget and provides our county with a high voter turnout percentage during early voting. In each election, more voters have voted at the Kent Island Fire Department during early voting than the other early voting center (located at our offices in Centreville). In 2021, the State law was amended to clarify the State Board of Elections’ approval process for the optional early voting centers. Before the State Board can approve a local board’s optional early voting center the governing body of the county government must approve it.

On a motion made by Commissioner J. Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Moran, the Board unanimously agreed to approve an optional early voting site at Kent Island Fire Department.

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

There being no further business, they adjourned at 7:10 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

PRESIDENT