

Minutes of the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland

May 19, 2026

Theodore J. Elder, president
Madison J. Bunting, Jr., vice president
Caryn G. Abbott
Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
Eric J. Fiori
Joseph M. Mitrecic
Diana Purnell

Following a motion by Commissioner Fiori, seconded by Commissioner Bertino, 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 (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, Senior Budget Accountant Lynn Wright, Warden Tim Mulligan, Deputy Warden Shytina Drummond, Human Resources Director Stacey Norton, and Human Resources Deputy Director Pat Walls. Topics discussed and actions taken included the following: a personnel update, request to hire Parks Worker, Recreation Program Manager, WWW Plant Operator Trainee, Grounds Worker, and Building Administrator, and other matters with Human Resources; receiving legal advice from counsel; and performing administrative functions, including discussing potential board appointments.

Following a motion by Commissioner Bertino, seconded by Commissioner Bunting, the commissioners unanimously voted to adjourn their closed session at 9:43 a.m.

After the closed session, the commissioners reconvened in open session. Commissioner Elder called the meeting to order, and following a morning prayer by Pastor Eugene Nichols of Elzey United Methodist Church 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 regularly scheduled meeting on May 5, 2026.

The commissioners presented a years-of-service commendation to Derek Jarmon, Sr. who is retiring following 39 years of service to the Water and Wastewater Division of Public Works.

The commissioners presented a proclamation recognizing May 17-23, 2026 as Public Works Week in Worcester County. Public Works plays a vital role in maintaining and improving County infrastructure, facilities, and essential services that safeguard public health and safety,

support economic vitality, and ultimately enhance the quality of life.

Commissioner Elder opened the floor to receive public comments.

Kathy Kater stated that it is vitally important to fund the requested FY27 Board of Education budget in its entirety.

There being no further public comments, Commissioner Elder closed the floor.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Abbott, the commissioners unanimously approved by consent agenda item numbers 2-14 as follows: a BJA Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant and Substance Grant for \$90,375 and an FY27 Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network/Overdose and Drug Awareness Coordinator Grant for \$75,357 for the Sheriff's Office; scheduling a second public hearing prior to the expiration of the CDBG CVC2 grant agreement expires; out-of-state travel for one employee in Emergency Services to attend Incident Response and Management Training in Colorado from July 20-31, 2026, and for a second employee to attend the same training from August 23-29; certifying the FY27 Tax Ditch Roll; a change order for \$36,419.49 expanding the Countywide camera replacement project to include Sunset Marina (\$13,966.88), Worcester County Government Center additions (\$13,527.81), and Public Landing (\$8,924.80); repairs totaling \$82,558.03, with a \$10,000 contingency, to repair an existing Solid Waste excavator; awarding the contract for housing rehabilitation inspector to Authority Inspections, LLC for \$11,405 annually for three years totaling \$34,215; the Master Service Agreement between Worcester County and Securus Technologies for continued incarcerated individual communications services at the Jail; amending the Snow Hill Arts and Entertainment District resolution; a proposal from Davis Bowen & Friedel, Inc. totaling \$21,600 for master planning services for the Northern Worcester Athletic Complex; and a resolution naming private lanes in the Riverview Mobile Home Park in Bishopville as Riverview Point, Oyster Shell, Crab, and Saltwater Lanes.

Pursuant to the request of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Annett Wallace and upon a motion by Commissioner Bertino, the commissioners unanimously authorized the Board of Education to reallocate \$440,989.25 in BOE funding remaining from the Pocomoke Elementary School (PES) roof replacement project to help fund the PES rooftop unit replacement project.

Development Review and Permitting Director Jennifer Keener presented a request from the Town of Snow Hill to annex approximately 2.494 acres at the southeasterly intersection of U.S. Rt. 13 and MD Rt. 366, owned by Wayne T. Brittingham, Sr. and Flora S., and identified on Tax Map 84 as Parcel 168. This is the proposed site for the future WaWa. Ms. Keener advised that the proposed B-2 zoning is consistent with existing area zoning and State sustainable growth principles. The annexation is a logical progression of the growth area that adheres to all relevant Maryland legal standards.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Abbott, the commissioners unanimously concurred with the rezoning upon annexation of the subject property.

Pursuant to the request of Emergency Services Director Chris Shaffer and upon a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the commissioners unanimously approved an over-expenditure of

\$28,951 to cover the cost of additional mobile radios across various departments that were not included in the FY26 project budget.

Pursuant to the request of Procurement Officer Ed Welch and upon a motion by Commissioner Abbott, the commissioners unanimously awarded the best bid for the George Island Landing project to Bay Coastal Contracting, LLC for \$577,714.

Pursuant to the request of Mr. Welch and upon a motion by Commissioner Purnell, the commissioners unanimously awarded best bid for the Berlin Homeowner Convenience Center improvement project to AJT Homes, LLC for \$496,750 and awarded construction and administration and part-time inspection services to EA Engineering for \$47,916.

Pursuant to the request of Mr. Welch and upon a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the commissioners unanimously awarded the best bid for the Central Landfill pump station upgrade to TK Construction, Inc. for \$971,000.

Commissioner Mitrecic requested an update on the status of the next landfill cell. Public Works Director Dallas Baker advised that the design contract has been awarded and a well driller is currently onsite. He explained that the project requires one year of monitoring and is approximately 40–50% through the design phase, with completion anticipated in about a year and a half. Commissioner Mitrecic noted concerns that the current cell is nearing capacity. Mr. Baker responded that previous projections estimated the current cell would reach capacity by March 2028; however, that timeline has since been extended to August 2028. He added that the County remains in good shape to have Cell 6 operational before the current cell reaches capacity.

Pursuant to the request of Mr. Baker and upon a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the commissioners unanimously awarded the best bid for the Glenn Riddle water tower rehabilitation project to Tank and Tower Restoration, LLC for \$613,000.

Pursuant to the request of Mr. Welch and upon a motion by Commissioner Bertino, the commissioners unanimously approved a request for proposals for professional services to prepare a rate study of the water and wastewater service areas.

Enterprise Fund Controller Quinn Dittrich provided the commissioners with additional information requested during the April 14, 2026 meeting regarding potential refunds to water and wastewater customers with multiple Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) affected by the FY26 usage fee structure. Mr. Dittrich advised that issuing refunds or credits would reduce revenues and available fund balances within affected service areas, all of which are either projected to operate at a deficit in the proposed FY27 budget or are already heavily supported by the General Fund. Based on current estimates, approximately 142 customers across five service areas could receive a combined total of about \$462,000 in refunds or credits, though estimates remain subject to change pending completion of FY26 billing activity.

Pursuant to the request of Recreation and Parks Director Kelly Rados and upon a motion by Commissioner Abbott, the commissioners unanimously approved a request from Brothers Pyro Fireworks for special use of the Isle of Wight Park on June 5, 2026.

Pursuant to the request of Environmental Programs Director Bob Mitchell and upon a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the commissioners unanimously agreed to refer the updated Critical Area Maps to the Planning Commission recommendations prior to the commissioners' public hearing.

The commissioners answered questions from the press, after which they adjourned to conduct a budget work session and to meet again on June 2, 2025.