

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
August 23, 2011

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Gregan T. Crawford
Commissioner Robert G. Gatto
Commissioner James M. Raley

County Administrator R. Lamont Pagenhardt

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Additions/deletions to Public Meeting Agenda. Mr. Pagenhardt indicated there were no additions or deletions to the Public Meeting Agenda for August 23, 2011. Mr. Pagenhardt also noted matters to be discussed during the administrative session on this date.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Raley, which was seconded by Chairman Crawford, and made unanimous by Commissioner Gatto, approved the Public Meeting Minutes for August 2, 2011, Administrative Session Minutes for August 9, 2011, and Administrative Session Minutes of August 15, 2011.
3. The Purchasing Department presented the following recommendation of bid award and contract update to the Board of County Commissioners:
 - a) Invitation to Bid – Ditch Witch Mini Skid Steer (bid #11-0804). The Board, on a motion by Chairman Crawford, which was seconded by Commissioner Gatto, and made unanimous by Commissioner Raley, approved an award to Ditch Witch of Roanoke, Inc. for a total bid of \$22,729.00.
 - b) Contract Amendment #1 – Electricity Purchase Agreement – Frederick Area Cooperative Purchasing Committee. The Board, on a motion by Chairman Crawford, which was seconded by Commissioner Gatto, and made unanimous by Commissioner Raley, approved the amendment as presented.
 - c) Update on vehicle and mobile equipment potentially to be declared surplus and placed on the auction List. The Board will take this matter under advisement and look at combining County property with other governmental agencies.
4. Prior to the commencement of the *Public Hearings*, Chairman Crawford provided those in attendance with a summary of what he believes to be the purpose of the hearings and why Garrett County Government and the Board of County Commissioners are looking now more than ever at long-term financial planning and alternative revenue sources. Chairman Crawford recommended that the Board nominate and appoint an Efficiency Task Force that will seek to identify and implement "the concept of lean". It was proposed that the committee be comprised of 9 members - 5 from County Government and 4 appointees from the public. The Board would like for the committee to be in place by

October 1, 2011 and have their first meeting no later than October 21, 2011. They would also like for the Committee to present their first recommendations to the Board by January 31, 2012. Commissioner Gatto and Commissioner Raley agreed with the proposal.

Commissioner Gatto and Commissioner Raley provided their thoughts on the financial position of the County as of now and for the next 3 to 5 years. Mr. Pagenhardt then provided an overview of what steps Garrett County Government has taken to reduce personnel, reduce expenditures, and alter work schedules to avoid any curtailment in public services all under the reality of less revenue.

5. The Board of County Commissioners conducted five (5) *Public Hearings* to receive and consider commentary on the following County Tax Rates:
 - a) Proposed Tax Rate Increase – Recordation Tax
 - b) Proposed Tax Rate Increase – Admissions and Amusement Tax
 - c) Proposed Legislation - Tax Rate Increase – Hotel Rental Tax
 - d) Proposed Legislation - Tax Rate Increase – County Transfer Tax
 - e) Proposed Legislation – Tax Rate Increase – Rate of Interest for Overdue Property Taxes

Wendy Yoder, Director, Department of Financial Services provided a brief financial summary of each tax rate and a historical report on revenue received.

Public commentary was received by a number of persons on each tax rate. The Board, on a motion by Chairman Crawford, which was seconded by Commissioner Raley, and made unanimous by Commissioner Gatto, closed the *Public Hearings* and determined to keep the public commentary period open for 30 days. Those in attendance were encouraged to forward comments to the Board, Mr. Pagenhardt, and the Department of Financial Services.

6. Carol Riley-Alexander, Executive Assistant to the Board of County Commissioners and County Administrator, reviewed the meeting and committee schedule for the forthcoming weeks.
7. Public Commentary. None on this date.
8. The Greater Oakland Business Association (GOBA) met with the Board of County Commissioners to voice their opinion on the recent dialog by the Board to resurrect plans to construct a Detention Center/Public Safety Center. Fred Gregg, President of GOBA expressed his opinion that this facility, if plans to construct proceed to approval, should be placed within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Oakland. A map of current parcels and properties for sale within the municipal limits was presented. The Board explained that this capital project has been placed under advisement and plans will be for future fiscal year budget considerations.

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

1. Mr. Pagenhardt reviewed a number of informational administrative issues with the Board of County Commissioners. No action was taken on these matters.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Chairman Crawford, which was seconded and carried by Commissioner Gatto, approved a real property tax abatement for Habitat for Humanity for Map 79, Parcel 450. House Bill 558 – Property Tax Credit – Habitat for Humanity provides that the governing body of a county or municipal corporation to grant, by law, a property tax credit

against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on certain real property owned by Habitat for Humanity. Commissioner Raley was not in attendance for this motion.

3. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Raley, which was seconded by Commissioner Gatto, and made unanimous by Chairman Crawford, re-appointed the following members to the Garrett County Health Planning Council. Official letters of appointment will be sent to each appointee under the signature of Chairman Crawford specifying the terms of appointment.
 - a. Ann Sherrard
 - b. Cindy Richardson
 - c. Lesa Whittemore
 - d. Frances Gnegy
 - e. Duane Yoder

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

R. Lamont Pagenhardt,
County Administrator

Gegan T. Crawford, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Date