

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
February 19, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Paul C. Edwards
Commissioner James C. Hinebaugh, Jr.
Commissioner S. Larry Tichnell

County Administrator Kevin G. Null

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

The Administrative Session was opened at 3:05 P.M.

1. **BOARD APPOINTMENT - DEEP CREEK WATERSHED BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS** - The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the reappointment of Michael Beard as Alternate on the Deep Creek Watershed Board of Zoning Appeals.

An official letter of appointment will be sent to Mr. Beard under the signature of Chairman Edwards.

2. **AVILTON COMMUNITY CENTER** - The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Chairman Edwards, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Commissioner Hinebaugh, approved a real property tax exemption for Avilton Community Association for Fiscal Year 2020, as authorized in the Maryland Tax Code, §9-313.

3. **FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET REQUESTS:** The Board of County Commissioners established a Public Meeting schedule for review of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget requests. The Garrett County Board of Education will present its budget request on March 19, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. Outside agencies may present their budget requests on April 1, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. and County Departments will present their budget requests on April 16, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

4. **ACCOMMODATION TAX:** Representatives from the real estate community presented their concerns with a possible increase in the accommodation tax and the impact such an increase would have on tourism. Chairman Edwards stated that the legislation, as introduced, is enabling legislation. The legislation would give the Board of County Commissioners the authority to increase the accommodation tax up to 8% from the current 6%. While the County is working through the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, the Board of County Commissioners has not made a decision on increasing the Accommodation Tax.

The group provided written comments and recommendations to increase revenue without raising the Accommodation Tax.

5. Mr. Null reviewed a number of administrative, non-privileged personnel, and managerial matters under his authority and jurisdiction with the Board of County Commissioners.

The Administrative Session was closed at 4:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:10 PM

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Invocation by Commissioner Tichnell

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Mr. Null indicated there was one addition and no deletion to the Public Meeting Agenda - Purchase of property (31.861 acres) along Hoyes Run Road. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Agenda for February 19, 2019.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2019 and the Administrative Session Minutes of February 4, 2019.

3. The Garrett County Purchasing Department presented the following recommendation:

Bid Rejection - Bid # 18-1115 – Garrett County Emergency Operation Center

Five (5) bids were received – Harbel, Inc. (\$4,751,055), Callas Contractors, LLC (\$4,819,000), Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. (\$5,336,000), Daystar Builders, Inc. (\$5,614,655) and Gosnell, Inc. (\$5,616,194).

After reviewing the Bids and based on feedback from the Department of Emergency Services, the Garrett County Purchasing Department recommended that all Bids be rejected due to the lack of available funding. The Bid specifications will be revised/re-engineered and then re-advertised.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Bid Rejection as recommended.

4. **GARRETT COUNTY ETHICS ORDINANCE – UPDATE**

County Attorney, Gorman E. Getty, III, presented an update to the Garrett County Ethics Ordinance for compliance with the provisions and requirements of the State of Maryland. Specifically, prohibitions that have been placed on certain state-wide offices that prohibits their lobbying efforts at county government for a certain period of time.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved Resolution 2019 – 1 amending and restarting the provisions of Chapter 34 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Garrett County, Maryland.

5. **RUN FOR IT** - Kelly Stadelman, Director, Tucker Community Foundation, presented a briefing on the annual "Run For It" 2K walk and 5K run event. The event helps nonprofits raise awareness and support for their respective organization. Last year, four (4) teams with 85 racers participated from Garrett County. Since 2014 Garrett County's investment of \$5,000.00 has returned \$42,000.00 in grant funding to County non-profits. Ms. Stadelman asked the Board of County Commissioners to consider increasing its annual contribution to \$2,000 in Fiscal Year 2020.
6. **GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Strategic Initiatives Task Force – Final Report.**
Nicole Christian, CEO, Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, and Jan Russell, Chair, Strategic Initiatives Task Force, presented the Final Report (Exhibit 1) and recommendations from the task force to the Board of County Commissioners.

Summary of Recommendations:

- ❖ Create a county-wide long-term vision plan for growth that looks more than 10 years into the future.
- ❖ Intensify and support advocacy efforts for state and federal funding of broadband development in the County.
- ❖ Expand TIF financing to fund projects.
- ❖ Chamber should form an exploratory committee to consider referendum by 2020 Presidential Election on home rule and expanding Board of Commissioners to five (5) members by adding two (2) at large Commissioners.
- ❖ Conduct a county-wide study on housing in Garrett County.

The Board of County Commissioners thanked the members for their work and effort on the project.

7. **2019 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PRIORITY:** Deborah Carpenter, Director, Garrett County Department of Planning & Land Management presented the Board of County Commissioners with the Garrett County 2019 Maryland Department of Transportation Priority Letter (Exhibit 2) to be submitted to the Maryland Department of Transportation for consideration in the upcoming project list.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Transportation Priority List as presented and authorized the submittal to the Maryland Department of Transportation.

8. Patrick Hudnall, Director, Garrett County Department of Public Works – Utilities Division, presented the Board of County Commissioners with a request for the purchase of 31.861 acres along Hoyes Run Road from North Camp Ridge (NLP) Properties in the amount of \$100,000. The purchase is part of the development of the Hoyes Run Well Project for existing wells. The values assigned to the parcel by the appraisals are \$139,000 and \$154,000 respectfully.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the purchase of the 31.861 acres of land along Hoyes Run Road in the amount of \$100,000.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**

- Pastor Egtvedt spoke in support of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce efforts for market rate housing and senior housing and will make a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners in the near future.
- Request to add a safety issue to the Transportation Priority List – Installation of a right-hand turn lane on Route 219 at Kings Run Road.
- Committee working on new Sign Ordinance. Request for Public Hearing concerning the Sign Ordinance in order to have the changes effective before the beginning of the season to allow businesses to take advantage of the changes.

10. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adjourned the Public Meeting at 4:43 P.M.

Attest:

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

By Order of the Board,

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT

In August 2017, the Garrett County Chamber launched the Strategic Initiatives Task Force to help generate ideas to foster growth of the county. The defined purpose of the Strategic Initiatives Task Force (SITF) is to identify opportunities and eliminate barriers to the future growth of the community. The goals are to:

- Identify public/private partnership models that may be established locally to cultivate development.
- Through a hub and spoke model, connect and amplify regional development organizations (i.e. GOBA, GGBA, Friendsville Way, Frostburg Forward, Development Corp.) to share ideas and leverage resources.
- Conduct a S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses & Threats) Analysis.
- Coordinate inter-city visits to similar communities to learn from their successes.

From September thru November 2017, local organizations were asked to complete a S.W.O.T. Analysis of Garrett County's Position for Economic Growth with their Boards of Directors or members. Based on all of the responses from 16 local organizations representing over 200 individuals, the SWOT Analysis was compiled and filtered into 10 categories: Education/schools, Recreation, Health and Safety, Housing, Infrastructure, Tourism, Culture and Heritage, Business and Industry, Government, and Demographics and Lifestyle. Under each category, the top strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified.

The SITF then refined list and identified initiatives and programs under each category to improve on the strengths, mitigate weaknesses and expound on opportunities by working with local organizations, agencies and partners in the community. They then voted on that list and determined the top initiatives that will be recommended to the Board of County Commissioners, the Chamber Board of Directors and the organizations that completed the S.W.O.T. Analysis





The Strategic Initiatives Task Force Recommends These Initiatives to Foster Growth in Garrett County:

- Create a county-wide long-term vision plan for growth (i.e. GC 2030) that includes measurable goals and benchmarks, and looks more than 10 years into the future. The plan must include the creation of a public/private partnership that will implement the plan. The County Commissioners should appoint a leader to develop the plan.
- Intensify and support advocacy efforts for state & federal funding of broadband development in the County. The community should engage regularly with law makers and state officials in Maryland. County should provide continual updates on broadband development including an annual report. The Chamber should lead regular trips to D.C. to advocate for funding of broadband development.
- Expand TIF financing to fund future projects.
- Chamber should form an exploratory committee to consider a referendum by the 2020 Presidential Election on home rule and expanding the Board of County Commissioners to five individuals by adding two at large Commissioners with staggered terms.
- Conduct a county-wide study on housing in Garrett County to consider affordability, availability of subsidized, market rate availability, inventory of long-term rentals & single-family homes, existing need, future needs, recommendations for funding and incentivizing housing development – market rate and subsidized – and recommendations for attracting developers. Study should include the number of people that work in the County but commute from outside.



**Priority Capital Projects
Secretary's 2019 Annual Tour
MD Department of Transportation**

MAJOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS (over \$5 Million)

Evaluation Phase

- 1) Oakland Alternative Truck Route
- 2) Loch Lynn Bridge Project
- 3) Friendsville Pedestrian and Bike Bridge

 Municipal Request
 Garrett Trails Request

Construction Phase

- 1) US 219 N Reconstruction/Relocation
 - A. Breakout Project
 - B. Right-Of-Way Acquisition

MINOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS (less than \$5 Million)

Planning Priorities

- 1) Truck Corridor Feasibility Study – MD 135 & MD 495
- 2) MD 495 & Durst Road – functional improvements

Safety Priorities

- 1) Crosswalk on Rt. 40 at Penn Alps to the Casselman River
- 2) MD 495 and Glendale Road intersection – safety improvements
- 3) US 219 & Kings Run Road & Builders Way intersections – safety improvements
- 4) MD 135 & Sand Flat Road intersection – safety improvements
- 5) MD 135 & Turkey Neck Road intersection – safety improvements
- 6) Roadway Safety Audit – MD 42
- 7) Speed Reduction US 219 North to PA Line

System Preservation Priorities

- 1) Stormwater Drain Repair on US 219 at Burger King
- 2) Stormwater Drain Repair on Oakland Drive

Sidewalk/Streetscape Priorities

- 1) Oakland Streetscape Project
- 2) Sidewalk on Rt. 40 from Casselman Bridge Park to River Road

Trail & Pedestrian Priorities

- 1) Pedestrian Crossing at US 219 and Mosser Road; McHenry Trail system – Phases I, II & III
- 2) Evaluate pedestrian crossings at (a) UNO's and (b) Traders Landing for safety improvements
- 3) Meadow Mountain Connecting Deficits

Transit Priorities

- 1) Transit Service expansion
- 2) Oakland Passenger Train Feasibility Study

Regional Transportation Priorities

- 1) Regional Transportation Committee