

**BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING**

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Meeting was Held via Video Conference

IN ATTENDANCE

**Chairman Paul C. Edwards
Commissioner James C. Hinebaugh
Commissioner S. Larry Tichnell**

County Administrator Kevin G. Null

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:00 PM

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Mr. Null indicated there was no addition or deletion to the Public Meeting Agenda. 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 with addition for May 19, 2020.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioners Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2020 and May 14, 2020.
3. **Real Property Exemption – Accident Community Center**
The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved a real property exemption, as authorized by Section 9-313 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, for Fiscal Year 2021 for the Accident Community Center.

CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE – FISCAL YEAR 2021

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, closed the Public Meeting at 4:04 P.M. and opened the Public Hearing on the Garrett County Government Constant Yield Tax Rate – Fiscal Year 2021.

4. CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE – FISCAL YEAR 2021.

Scott Weeks, Director, Garrett County Department of Financial Services, presented the Constant Yield Tax Rate Notice that had been published in the Republican newspaper on May 7, 2020. (attached)

As of this date and time, no comments have been received. Comments will be accepted until the Public Meeting on June 1, 2020.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, closed the Public Hearing at 4:07 PM and reopened the Public Meeting.

5. **Garrett County Government – Fiscal Year 2021 Operating & Capital Budget Presentation.**

Scott Weeks, Director, Garrett County Department of Financial Services presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Operating & Capitol Budget.

Comments will be received until the Public Meeting June 1, 2020 at gccomments@garrettcounty.org or directly to any of the Commissioners.

6. **COMMENTS:**

- CARES Act Funding. Garrett County was allocated \$5 million; \$2.5 million directly to the Health Department as reimbursement for health-related cost incurred related to COVID-19. The County and Health Department will enter into an Memorandum of Understanding to enable the County to process payments and fund COVID-19 related projects. Funds may be used for a wide range of COVID-19 related projects but may not be used to cover loss of revenues.
- The Board of County Commissioners congratulated all the graduating Seniors and wished them much success in their future endeavors.
- The Board of County Commissioners has received calls concerning problems with unemployment insurance. This concern has since been elevated to Senator Edward and Delegate Beitzel's offices as well as the Governor's office.
- The Board of County Commissioners thanked Scott Weeks and Kevin Null for their efforts in presenting a balanced budget.

7. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, June 1, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. via live stream.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adjourned the Public Meeting at 4:38 P.M.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, Maryland proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2020, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 0.8%, from \$4,286,554,091 to \$4,319,679,541.
2. If Garrett County maintains the current tax rate of \$1.056 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 0.8% resulting in \$349,804 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$1.0479, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The County is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The County proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$1.056 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 0.8% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$349,804 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 4:00PM on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 in room 209 of the Garrett County Courthouse, 203 South Fourth Street, Oakland, Maryland 21550.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in lieu of public appearance, the meeting will be held remotely via video teleconference. The meeting will be streamed live on Garrett County's Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/garrettcountygovernment>

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Public Comment may also be submitted in advance by email to gcccomments@garrettcounty.org or in writing received on or before 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on Monday, May 18, 2020 in the County Commissioners' Office Room 207 at 203 South Fourth Street, Oakland, Maryland 21550. All commenters must identify themselves by their full name and address to be included in the public record. Written comments received by the deadline will be read into the record by Garrett County staff during the public comment portion of the meeting. Public comment will remain open after the hearing until the budget adoption on June 1, 2020.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-334-8970 for further information. The assessments, revenues, and tax rates above are for Garrett County outside of the municipality of Mountain Lake Park. The following chart provides the estimated assessable base and tax rates for that municipality.

	Percentage Increase (Decrease) in Base	Previous Assessable Base	New Assessable Base	Current Tax Rate	Percentage Increase (Decrease) in Revenue
Countywide Excluding Mountain Lake Park	0.8%	\$4,286,554,091	\$4,319,679,541	\$1.0560	0.8%
Mountain Lake Park	1.2%	\$107,458,964	\$108,782,391	\$0.9907	1.2%

	Increase (Decrease) in Revenues	Constant Yield Tax Rate	Proposed Tax Rate	Percentage Higher (Lower) than Constant Yield	Additional (Loss) Property Tax Revenues
Countywide Excluding Mountain Lake Park	\$349,804	\$1.0479	\$1.0560	0.8%	\$349,804
Mountain Lake Park	\$13,111	\$0.9786	\$0.9909	1.3%	\$13,380