

**BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Monday, December 7, 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**

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Invocation by Commissioner Tichnell**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Mr. Null requested that the order of items on the Agenda be changed to change the order for the Health Department Update with the 2021 Legislative Request. 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 December 7, 2020.
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 November 17, 2020.
3. **2021 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS – SENATOR GEORGE EDWARDS AND DELEGATE WENDELL BEITZEL**
  - ❖ Liquor Control Board Request
  - ❖ Garrett County Commissioners Request
  - ❖ Legislative Updates
  - ❖ Senator Edwards stated the legislature would most likely override the veto of the “Kirwan” veto. This is good for Garrett County due to the provision of the 89/11 construction funding split. The Bill will most likely be amended to change some of the spending options.
  - ❖ Highway User Funding - no concerns this year; however, in future mass transit may receive a larger share of the fund.
  - ❖ Rural Broadband – Governor Hogan plans to continue to fund the program
  - ❖ Revenue estimates have been higher than estimated. New estimates are due next week.
  - ❖ Deep Creek Lake dredging project - working with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on potential funding through the Great American Outdoor Act.

The Board of County Commissioners thanked the Delegation for funding the athletic fields. The community appreciated the new fields. Senator Edwards stated that the funding for the fields came from the Capital Budget not school construction funds. The funds could not be used for school related projects. If the funds were not allocated to Garrett County they would have gone to another County.

#### 4. Board Appointments

**Garrett County Department of Social Services Advisory Board – 3 Year Terms** (terms will begin retroactively on July 1, 2020)

Appointments

Kurt Lear – Garrett College Representative

Penny Proudfoot – Community Representative

Jennifer VanPelt – Community Representative

**Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County – 5 Year Terms – January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025**

Reappointments

Tina Buckel

Fred Fox

Christian Mash

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, appointed/reappointed these individuals.

Official letters will be sent to all appointees under the signature of Chairman Edwards outlining the terms of appointment

#### 5. **Resolution 2020 – 6: Maryland Department of Community Development Block Grant Program – Community Development & Homeless Round** – Resolution Granting Authorization to Apply

The Board of County Commissioners held a Public Hearing on November 17, 2020 to solicit applications for eligible jurisdictions to apply for funding under the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program. Projects include engineering for a regional wastewater treatment plant, a home repair program, kitchen equipment for a senior center, and a homeless initiative project.

The submission of applications to the Department for Community Development Block Grants for Program funds awarded through the Federal Cares Act, not to exceed Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000.00), is approved.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved and executed Resolution 2020 – 6.

#### 6. **RESOLUTION 2020 – 7: CONTRACT OF SALE – McHENRY BUSINESS PARK – 3 ACRES**

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 sale of Lot 16 at the McHenry Business Park, consisting of 3.00 acres, for the sum of Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000), to Timber Ridge Holdings, LLC, and authorized Chairman Edwards and Mr. Null, on behalf of the Board, to execute all documents relative to this transfer of property to include Resolution 2020 - 7 and Right of Entry Agreement.

#### 7. The Garrett County Purchasing Department presented the following recommendation:

**Bid #20-1105FP – Fire Prevention Systems Services**

Three (3) Bids were received for this Bid: ARK Systems Inc., Pillar Innovations, and Fire Protection Products.

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on the feedback from the Department of Facilities & Maintenance, the Garrett County Purchasing

Department recommended awarding the Bid to ARK Systems Inc. Specifics of this bid award to include locations are on file with the Purchasing Department.

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 Award as recommended.

**8. GARRETT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE - Robert Stephens, Health Officer**

- ❖ 1,044 COVID cases and 9 deaths reported as of this date
- ❖ Positively rate of 17.7% - second highest in State
- ❖ 122 cases per 100,000 - third highest in State
- ❖ Garrett Regional Medical Center is prepared and trains for potential surges

**Enforcement**

- ❖ State Tip Line – information is forwarded to the Garrett County Health Department/Maryland State Police for investigation
- ❖ Garrett County Liquor Control Board has contacted license holders - compliance has been very good
- ❖ Food service/restaurants - compliance has been very good
- ❖ Most complaints are concerning face coverings –
  - Face Covering - covering that fully covers a person’s nose and mouth but is not a medical-grade mask. The term “Face Covering” includes, without limitation, scarves, bandanas, and plastic full-face shields.
  - All persons in Maryland over the age of five (5) years old are required to wear a Face Covering
  - All Retail Establishments, shall, in good faith and to the extent possible Post signage at each entrance advising customers about the requirements to wear face coverings. Staff does investigate complaints. Not finding spread through retail establishments.

**Testing**

- ❖ Conducted twice a week: Tuesday 9:00-12:30 and Thursday 10:00-2:00 at the McHenry Business Park.
- ❖ Drive-thru and walk in
- ❖ Thanks to MEDCO and the County for arranging use of the building. Also, school nurses and Garrett County Public Works – Roads Division
- ❖ Tests will be sent to a new lab. Results are anticipated within 2 days instead of the current 4 day turn around.
- ❖ Last week approximately 170 people tested
- ❖ Volunteers are needed. Sign-up on the Garrett County Health Department website
- ❖ Spread is coming from homes, churches (who do not encourage face coverings and distancing), bars, and social gatherings.

**Quarantine**

- ❖ CDC recently changed guidance from a 14-day quarantine period to 10 days but must remain cautious and wear face covering
- ❖ 7 days with testing within 48 hours of stopping quarantine, i.e. if stopping quarantine on day 7 must be tested on day 5.
- ❖ Still recommend 14-day quarantine.

**Vaccine**

- ❖ In the first round of vaccinations, Maryland will receive approximately 50,000 doses which will be split between hospitals, for front line medical providers and nursing homes
- ❖ Vaccine requires two (2) doses two to three weeks apart
- ❖ Vaccine was approved under “emergency authorization” and you cannot require a person to get vaccinated.
- ❖ Anticipate first round of vaccines will be available beginning Christmas week. Phase 2 will begin in late January.

**9. COMMENTS**

Reminder that comments/questions may be submitted to [gccomments@garrettcountry.org](mailto:gccomments@garrettcountry.org) or to any of the County Commissioners. Meetings are held on Zoom and broadcast on Facebook. The County Commissioners cannot see any comments posted on Facebook during the meeting but appreciate comments and suggestions.

Maryland TV – Unless the FCC rules will allow the County to receive television from both Pittsburg and Baltimore, the Board of County Commissioners will not support a market modification. Currently the County is working with Congressman Trone’s Office and are seeking funds to file a petition for a Market Modification if the FCC approves the exemption.

COVID Pandemic - From the beginning of the COVID Pandemic, the Board of County Commissioner has followed, and will continue to follow, the Executive Orders issued by Governor Hogan.

Commissioners Hinebaugh stated that he personally knew two people who have died due to COVID and encouraged everyone to follow CDC guidance - wear a mask, frequent hand washing, and social distancing.

Commissioner Tichnell stated that churches have been identified as a source of the outbreak. He challenged pastors and leaders to try and limit the number of people at programs, especially Christmas programs.

School Issues - The Board of County Commissioners has zero authority over the policies and procedures in the school system. If you have questions on school issues you should contact the Garrett County Board of Education.

10. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. via live stream. However, the meeting may be postponed a week due to COVID updates. Please check the website.

**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 5:58 P.M.

**Attest:**

**By Order of the Board,**

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**KEVIN G. NULL**  
County Administrator

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**PAUL C. EDWARDS**, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners