

**BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING**

Tuesday, December 22, 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 for December 22, 2020.
2. 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 Minutes of December 7, 2020.
3. **Update on County Response to COVID-19:** Robert Stephens, Garrett County Health Officer provided an update on COVID-19 and vaccine .
 - ❖ Garrett County Positivity Percentage is 15.3% (twice the State’s Average).
 - ❖ 36 deaths - average age 85 years old - 75% in long term care.
 - ❖ Testing for symptomatic patients at the Garrett County Health Department, Monday-Friday 8-4.
 - ❖ Testing for public on Tuesday 9-12:30 and Thursday 10:00-2:00 at the McHenry Business Park. Test results are generally back in 2 days. Thanks to Board of Education nurses and EMT staff for their assistance in testing.
 - ❖ The initial surge has been traced to family gatherings during Autumn Glory.

Vaccine

- ❖ Garrett Regional Medical Center received their first 100 doses on December 21, 2020 and have started vaccinating medical staff.
- ❖ Long term care facilities (patients and staff) will receive their vaccinations through Walgreens or CVS.
- ❖ The Garrett County Health Department is schedule to receive 100 doses on Thursday.
- ❖ Distribution – First round to health care providers, EMT’s, and persons providing vaccines.
- ❖ Working with Primary Care providers to schedule most at risk patients. The Garrett County Health Department will not maintain a “list” of people to get vaccine.
- ❖ Unlike “traditional” vaccines, this vaccine does not contain the virus. While there can always be a reaction everyone needs to weigh the risk. The vaccine is the fastest way to get to herd immunity and return to normal. Without the vaccine we will be wearing face mask for a long time.

- ❖ Question on the “new” strain of the virus that has recently identified. No additional information to add at this time.

4. Comments:

- ❖ Chairman Edwards reminded the public that the meetings are broadcasted on Zoom via Facebook and the Board cannot see any comments that may be posted. Please go to gccomments@garrettcounty.org to leave comments.
- ❖ Garrett County Government has received several comments on the allegation of a recent racist incident. While the Board of County Commissioners cannot directly comment on the on-going investigation by the Garrett County Sheriff’s Department, Maryland State Police, and the Garrett County State’s Attorney’s Office are conducting a joint investigation, the Board of Garrett County Commissioners disavows all forms of hate and racism – all are welcome here.

5. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. via live stream. **Merry Christmas!**

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 4:35 P.M.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners