

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Meeting was also Live Streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/garrettcountygovernment/>

IN ATTENDANCE

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

County Administrator Kevin G. Null

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

1. Garrett County Fire & Rescue Association – Jeremy Whitacre, representing the Garrett County Fire & Rescue Association (Association), made a request for the Board of County Commissioners to consider providing a property tax credit to volunteer fire and EMS personnel as authorized in House Bill 721. Mr. Whitacre stated that the Association believes this would be a recruit and retention tool to help keep current volunteers and attract new members.

House Bill 721 provides for up to a maximum of \$2,500 or the amount of the property tax. Currently the Association identified approximately 205 volunteers who may be eligible.

The Board of County Commissioners requested a more detailed review of the financial impact of this tax break and asked Mr. Whitacre to work with the Garrett County Department of Financial Services to obtain more information.

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

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:05 PM

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Invocation by Pastor Jeff Kroll

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 October 19, 2021.
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 October 4, 2021.
3. **Update on County Response to COVID-19:** Robert Stephens, Garrett County Health Officer provided an update on COVID-19 and vaccines.

Update on COVID cases

- Garrett County is currently number one in the state with a 13.44% Positivity Rate and 45.99 Case Rate with five new deaths reported last week, for a total of 76 deaths.
- Employees with the hospital, medical practices, the health department, schools, and healthcare providers, are very tired. Restaurants are still closed as of this date due to outbreaks. The solution is being vaccinated. It is very important that people get the vaccine.

Vaccine Boosters.

- There are a lot of people interested in the booster. Currently only those who need the third dose because they are immunocompromised are eligible.
- The only vaccine approved for a booster dose is Pfizer. That is an issue because much of the early distribution of vaccines by the Garrett County Health Department was Moderna, which cannot be used for boosters.
- If and when Moderna boosters are approved they will be available in half-doses and most likely recommended only for those over the age of 65, residents of long-term care facilities, people over the age of 18 with medical conditions like asthma and diabetes, and those who work in high-risk infection settings such as education, medical care, transportation, or law enforcement.
- Question - Can vaccines be mixed? Research is showing that mixing vaccines may be just as effective but check with your health care provider.

Opioid Epidemic

- Garrett County is one of the few counties in Maryland where overdose deaths have been reduced; however, we are beginning to see an increase in Fentanyl overdoses. Remember treatment works.

4. Garrett County Department of Financial Services – Purchasing Division – Bid Award Bid #21-0930WA – Winter Abrasives and Road Salt

Ten (10) Bids were received for this Bid:

George's Creek Stone & Gravel, Inc.	Maryland Minerals, Inc.
Keystone Lime Company, Inc. - Eichorn	Cargill, Inc.
Keystone Lime Company, Inc. – Cranesville	Laurel Aggregates
Fairfax Concrete Products (Petersburg, WV)	Government MLO Supplies
Allegany Aggregates	Belmont Aggregates, Inc.

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on feedback received from the Garrett County Department of Public Works – Roads Division, the Garrett County Purchasing Department recommended accepting the bids from the following vendors.

George's Creek Stone & Gravel, Inc.	Allegany Aggregates
Keystone Lime Company, Inc. (Eichorn)	Belmont Aggregates, Inc.
Keystone Lime Company, Inc. (Cranesville)	Cargill, Inc.
Maryland Minerals, Inc.	Government MLO Supplies
Fairfax Concrete Products (Petersburg, WV)	

The Roads Division will determine the quarry to purchase winter abrasives and Road Salt based on garage location, hauling cost, and availability.

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 Bid Award as recommended.

5. RESOLUTION 2021 – 10: DEEP CREEK WATERSHED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

A Public Hearing on the proposed Zoning Amendments was held on October 4, 2021. No comment was received on the proposed amendments.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved Resolution 2021 – 10.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Board of County Commissioners are accepting Letters of Interest for appointment to the Garrett County Diversity Committee. The Committee shall serve for one (1) year and will:

- Conduct Listening Tours around Garrett County to understand and develop solutions to improve communication and disseminate information about the diverse population in the County.
- Prepare and present a report to the Board of County Commissioners on the results of the Listening Tour.
- Membership - Committee members will service at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners. Committee members will consist of:
 - Representative of the Garrett County Board of Education
 - Representative of Garrett College
 - Representative of Community Action Committee, Inc.
 - Representative of Appalachian Crossroads
 - Three (3) Community Members selected from a list of interested persons who submitted a letter of interest/application.
- The Board of County Commissioners will conduct a **PUBLIC HEARING** on Thursday, November 4, 2021, at Garrett College GEIC - ROOM 111 to review the proposed amendments to the Deep Creek Watershed Zoning Ordinance concerning Solar Energy Generating Systems.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None

8. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, November 1, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse.

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 4:22 P.M.

Attest:

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

By Order of the Board,

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners