

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, February 7, 2022

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. **Appointment/Reappointment – Garrett County Local Management Board – 3 Year Terms**

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, appointed/reappointed the following individuals to the Garrett County Local Management Board:

Henrietta Lease – Reappointment
Corinne Fike - Appointment

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 4:00 PM

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Invocation by Commissioner Tichnell

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 February 7, 2022.
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 3, 2022.
3. **Update on County Response to COVID-19:** Robert Stephens, Garrett County Health Officer provided an update on COVID-19 and vaccine in Garrett County.
 - ❖ Seven-day positivity rate 11.5% and Case rate is 43.4% - both are down from previous week.
 - ❖ Vaccinations are still the best defense against COVID-19
 - ❖ Garrett County continues to lack behind the rest of the state in vaccination rates
 - ❖ Great partnership with the library for distribution of K-95 and N-95 masks and home test kits
 - ❖ Testing continues from 8:30-4:00 at the Garrett County Health Department; and at the Garrett County Fairgrounds on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00-7:00 and Saturday from 3:00-5:00
 - ❖ Governor Hogan declared this week Health Care Hero's Week. Please take the time to recognize and thank our health care workers.

4. **Presentation and Request for Funding – Tucker Community Foundation – “Run For It “**

Jeffery Fellers, Assistant Development Director, Tucker Community Foundation, reported that in 2020, the Board of County Commissioners donated \$2,000 which resulted in \$11,500 in donations to local non-profit groups and requested the Board consider donating again this year. Chairman Edwards stated that the Board would take the request under advisement.

5. **Franchise Agreements**

- ❖ **QCOL INCORPORATED** - This Agreement covers the unincorporated areas of Garrett County serviced by QCOL INCORPORATED. The County grants to QCOL INCORPORATED a non-exclusive Franchise authorizing QCOL INCORPORATED to construct and operate a cable system in the Public Ways within the Franchise Area. The Term of Franchise is for ten (10) years.

QCOL INCORPORATED will pay the County a franchise fee in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of annual Gross Revenues received from the operation of the Cable System in the Franchise Area on a quarterly basis. Annual projected revenue is approximately \$4,680. Funds will be allocated for broadband expansion in the County.

- ❖ **SHENANDOAH CABLE TELEVISION, LLC (“SHENTEL”)** - This Agreement covers the unincorporated areas of Garrett County serviced by SHENTEL. The County grants to SHENTEL a non-exclusive Franchise authorizing SHENTEL to construct and operate a cable system in the Public Ways within the Franchise Area. The Term of Franchise is for ten (10) years.

SHENTEL will pay the County a franchise fee in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of annual Gross Revenues received from the operation of the Cable System in the Franchise Area on a quarterly basis. Annual projected revenue is approximately \$31,000. Funds will be allocated for broadband expansion in the County.

- ❖ **MOUNTAIN COMMUNICATIONS, LLC (“ProCom”)** - This Agreement covers the unincorporated areas of Garrett County serviced by ProCom. The County grants to ProCom a non-exclusive Franchise authorizing ProCom to construct and operate a cable system in the Public Ways within the Franchise Area. The Term of Franchise is for ten (10) years.

ProCom will pay the County a franchise fee in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of annual Gross Revenues received from the operation of the Cable System in the Franchise Area on a quarterly basis. Annual projected revenue is approximately \$16,000. Funds will be allocated for broadband expansion in the County.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adopted, and executed the QCOL INCORPORATED, SHENANDOAH CABLE TELEVISION, LLC (SHENTEL), and MOUNTAIN COMMUNICATIONS, LLC (ProCom) Franchise Agreements.

6. **GARRETT COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN - Adoption & Promulgation**

John Frank, Director - Garrett County Department of Emergency Management provided an overview of the Garrett County Emergency Operations Plan.

The Plan outlines how the County Government complies with state regulations and implements elements of the Maryland State Response Operations Plan. As all disasters are locally driven events, Garrett County engages in emergency operations before, during, and after a disaster event. The Department of Emergency Services is responsible to develop, coordinate and promote the Emergency Management Program incorporating planning, preparedness, response, and recovery activities relative to emergency disasters for Garrett County

The Board, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Plan as prepared. The Board and Mr. Null executed the promulgation signature page of the Garrett County Emergency Operations Plan - 2022.

7. DISCUSSION/OVERVIEW – GARRETT COUNTY POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

County Administrator Null provided the Board of Garrett County Commissioners with an overview of three (3) new Boards mandated by State law concerning Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures.

Chapter 59 Laws of Maryland 2021, Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 - Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures was enacted by the Maryland General Assembly on April 10, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners is now required to establish 3 new Boards: Police Accountability Board (PAB) – 5 membership, Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) – 5 membership, and a Trial Board – 3 membership.

Process

- January 2022: Process begins - determine PAB FY23 budget.
- February 2022: Advertise/appoint membership.
- July 2022: Conduct first PAB meeting.

8. **Garrett County Fair Donation** - Chairman Edwards stated that the Garrett County Fair Board had approached the Board of County Commissioners requesting \$50,000 in funding to install an electronic message board. The message board costs \$75,000 and the Fair Board has some funds available for the project.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Edwards, approved a donation of \$50,000 to the Garrett County Fair Board for an electronic message board. Commissioner Tichnell abstained from the vote since he is a member of the Garrett County Fair Board.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 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 4:29 P.M.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners