

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Paul C. Edwards
Commissioner Ryan S. Savage
Commissioner S. Larry Tichnell

County Administrator Kevin G. Null

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

No Administrative Session was held on this date.

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:00 PM

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Invocation by Pastor Kroll

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Mr. Null indicated there was one (1) addition to the Public Meeting Agenda. Addition of an appointment to the Deep Creek Watershed Board of Zoning Appeals Board. Since no Administrative Session was held on this date, the Board appointments were added to the Public Meeting Session. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Agenda for February 21, 2023.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2023.
3. **RECOGNITION:** Deep Creek Lavender Farm – 10th Anniversary
4. **Board Appointments/Reappointments** - The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, appointed/reappointed the following individuals:
 - ❖ Deep Creek Watershed Board of Zoning Appeals – 1 Position – Three(3) Year Term. Appointment of Haley Gillespie to the Garrett County Deep Creek Watershed Board of Zoning Appeals as an alternate.
 - ❖ Garrett County Planning Commission – 1 Position – Five (5) Year Term. Appointment of Julie Friend to the Garrett County Planning Commission as a secondary alternate.
 - ❖ Garrett County Department of Social Services Advisory Board. 4 Positions – Two (2) Year Terms

Appointments
Donna Bittinger
Sandy Moore
Melanie Cooper
Reanna Miller

Representing
Garrett College
Mtn. Laurel Medical Center
Melanie Cooper
Appalachian Crossroads

- ❖ Garrett County Community Action Committee Inc. Board of Directors. 1 Position – Four (4) Year Term parallel with the term of office of the Board of County Commissioners. Appointment of Robin Jones to the Garrett County Community Action Committee Inc. Board of Directors

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Question concerning Affordable Housing - Will funding for affordable house be included in the budget? Chairman Edwards stated that the Board of County Commissioners are working on several projects including a public/private partnership and that funds for an affordable housing project will be included in the budget. Discussion on the need of affordable housing, the need for quality rentals and the need to fill the gap between subsidized housing and “affordable” housing.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ❖ Chairman Edwards announced the Fiscal Year 2024 Garrett County Government Budget process is underway and public budget presentations will begin in May. The Constant Yield Public Hearing will be held in May with more information to follow.
- ❖ Chairman Edwards recapped the funding for the “George Fund” that will provide just over \$6 million for projects in the County. The committee received 30 plus applications for funding, and they are in the process of vetting projects. All are worthy projects, however, not all may qualify. The criteria for funding includes job creation and economic development for the County. The projects could be a game changer for the County.

The “George Board” as created by the legislature is a County Commissioner from each County, a representative from Economic Development each County and a representative from the Chamber of Commerce from each County.

- ❖ The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2023, 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 Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adjourned the Public Meeting at 4:31 P.M.

Attest:

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

By Order of the Board,

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners