

**BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 3, 2024**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Chairman Paul C. Edwards**  
**Commissioner Ryan S. Savage**  
**Commissioner S. Larry Tichnell**  
  
**County Administrator Kevin G. Null**

**ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION**

- ❖ **BOARD APPOINTMENTS:** Garrett County Mental Health Advisory Commission - Four (4) Year Terms  
The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, appointed the following individuals:

Appointments

Jamie Bell  
Kimberly Clem-Uphold  
Mary Martin

Official letters will be sent to each appointee under the signature of Chairman Edwards outlining the terms of the appointment.

- ❖ Grantsville Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) – Discussion on the funding for the purchase of a self-contained breathing apparatus to replace their outdated SCBA. Cost is \$78,645.66. Request for the County to advance GVFD \$50,000 towards the purchase. Garrett County will be reimbursed the funds provided to GVFD.  
  
The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, authorized the payment of funds to the Grantsville Volunteer Fire Company for the SCBA replacement.
- ❖ Discussion concerning assisting with traffic control for the Autumn Glory Parade. The Board of County Commissioners approved providing assistance with traffic control (flaggers) during the parade. Additional costs may be pay from the County’s donation in support of the parade.
- ❖ Mr. Null reviewed a number of administrative and managerial matters under his authority and jurisdiction with the Board of County Commissioners.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, the Board of County Commissioners closed the Administrative Session and met in Executive Session under General Provisions Article 3-305(b) of the Maryland Open Meetings Law on this date at 3:38 PM to discuss personnel matters and economic development opportunities. The Executive Session ended at 3:55 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:03 PM**

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Invocation by Pastor Kroll**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Mr. Null indicated there was one addition to the Public Meeting Agenda – National Preparedness Month - 2024. 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 Agenda for September 3, 2024.

2. 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 Minutes of August 20, 2024.
3. Chairman Edwards announced that prior to the Public Meeting on this date, the Board of County Commissioners met in Executive Session under General Provisions Article 3-305(b) of the Maryland Open Meetings Law to discuss personnel matters and economic development opportunities. The Executive Session ended at 3:55 PM.
4. **PROCLAMATIONS:** Recovery Week – September 8 – 14, 2024  
Garrett County National Preparedness Month – September 2024
5. **Garrett County Department of Community Development & Planning – GIS Division**
  - Local Highway Safety Plan Presentation – Siera Wigfield, Senior Planner, Garrett County Department of Community Development & Planning presented the Board of County Commissioners with a Garrett County Local Roadway Safety Plan presentation. This Plan is grant funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation - State Highway Office for Allegany and Garrett Counties.
  - Road Name Resolution #RN24-1
    - Bumblebee Camp Road
    - Ham Ridge
    - Whittaker Lane
    - Storey Lane

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adopted Resolution RN 24-1.

6. The Board of County Commissioners, during its July 1, 2024 meeting, received a report from the Garrett County Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee with recommendations including the following:
  - A. Adopt a “Welcoming Resolution/Statement” to foster an inclusive environment.
  - B. Establish a county-level position responsible to lead diversity and inclusion initiatives.
  - C. Maintain the Diversity & Inclusion Committee in an advisory role.
  - D. Encourage and support training events to educate various entities on the importance of diversity and inclusion to the County.
  - E. Encourage the public school system to support students who are marginalized.
  - F. Encourage support for festivals and other activities/events that promote inclusion of marginalized groups by various government, business, nonprofit entities and others.
  - G. Support a network of communication dissemination for the County.

The Board of County Commissioners took the recommendations under advisement and advised it would respond to each recommendation.

A. ***Adopt a welcoming resolution/statement to foster an inclusive environment.***

Chairman Edwards noted that the Board of County Commissioners issued a Diversity and Inclusion Resolution in July, 2021, before the Committee even met. The Board agreed to reaffirm and reissue the Resolution.

- B. *Establish a county-level position responsible to lead diversity and Inclusion Initiatives.***  
The Board of County Commissioners is not looking to create another position as the Board has been trying to cut costs without cutting services. Motion to establish a county-level DEI position failed due to a lack of a second.
- C. *Maintain the Diversity & Inclusion Committee in an advisory role.***  
The Board of County Commissioners stated that the DEI Committee met the charge given to them. If there was a desire to continue a DEI Committee the committee would need to be reauthorized. Commissioner Tichnell stated that Committee is welcome to continue to meet but not as a Garrett County Committee. Motion to appoint a County level DEI Committee failed due to lack of a second.
- D. *Encourage and support training events to educate various entities on the importance of diversity and inclusion to the County.***  
Commissioner Savage stated that this recommendation is hard to address since there is no specific task but overall, the Board of County Commissioners will support and encourage.
- E. *Encourage the public school system to support students who are marginalized.***  
The Board of County Commissioners agreed that the school system should support all students. Any comments or suggestions should flow through school administration or the elected Garrett County Board of Education.
- F. *Encourage support for festivals and other activities/events that promote inclusion of marginalized groups by various government, business, nonprofit entities and Others.***  
Community events are important to all groups and the Board of County Commissioners supports inclusion at all community activities.
- G. *Support a Network of Communication Dissemination for the County.***  
Communications can always be improved. The County utilizes Facebook, websites, newspapers and similar forms of social media as well as working with community partners and municipalities to keep citizens informed.

#### Public Comments

Many comments concerned the recommendation to not reappoint a DEI Committee as an official County Committee. General comments “Don’t care-need to listen, without a committee you don’t care”. “ As leaders to the county you’re under pressure from two sides-need to take a stance”. “A committee could go a long way in leadership”. “Why is this meeting not a Public Hearing”. Response-a Public Hearing is required by law. This Public Meeting provides the opportunity to provide input.

“How do you rationalize the actions you took?” Response from Chairman Edwards – the Board supported everything except adding staff and reappointing the committee. Response from Commissioner Savage - disappointed the recommendations are very general. Working on community grant to enable businesses to address DEI issues. Response from Commissioner Tichnell - not in favor of a county committee. The committee can continue to meet and can make recommendations.

DEI Committee Chairman Duane Yoder stated that the Committee recommendations were tied to committee findings. There was a concern that the committee would have too many findings. The Committee’s recommendation for a staff person was intended to follow-up on findings. Mr. Yoder asked if the committee would continue to function would a County Commissioner sit on the committee?” Response – The Board of County Commissioners would consider the request.

#### **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ❖ The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse.

**MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC MEETING AND OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

On a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, the Public Meeting was closed and the Public Hearing opened at 5:47 p.m.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposed Amendments to the Deep Creek Watershed Zoning Ordinance

On July 1, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners discussed and decided to hold a Public Hearing concerning a request from the Garrett County Planning Commission for an amendment to the Deep Creek Watershed Zoning Ordinance to allow for Farm Wineries. Proposed changes are below:

PROPOSED FARM WINERY AMENDMENTS

1. Add a new Definition to read as follows: 157.007.B.(29)B “*FARM WINERY* – A winery operation having an approved Maryland Class 3 or 4 winery license and conducted on property classified as agricultural by the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation. A Farm Winery may conduct wine tastings that include accessory food sales and have retail sales of wine and winery-related products.”
2. Amend Section 157.024 Table of Use Regulations by adding a new Section 157.024(E)29 “Farm Winery, subject to the following provisions:
  - a) A maximum of 500 square feet of floor area may be devoted to retail sales of wine and winery-related products.
  - b) At least two acres of the ingredients used in the production of beverages must be grown on-site. The growing area must be established within two years of approval.” The use shall be permitted by Special Exception in all zoning districts
3. Amend Section 157.041 Table of Dimensional Requirements by adding a new section “157.041.E.4 Farm Winery (Minimum Yard Widths shall be for any structures used for retail sales or tastings)”. The Table columns shall be completed as follows: Zoning District: Anywhere Permitted; Minimum Total Lot or Land Area Per Use: 20 acres; Minimum Average Lot Area Per Dwelling Unit: Blank; Minimum Lot Width: Blank; Minimum Front Yard Width: 75; Minimum Side Yard Width: 100; Minimum Rear Yard Width: 100.

There were no public comments during the Hearing. Comments will be accepted through September 16, 2024 via e-mail at [gcomments@garrettcounty.md.gov](mailto:gcomments@garrettcounty.md.gov) . All comments will be made part of the record.

**MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING AND OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

On a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, the Public Hearing was closed and the Public Meeting reopened at 6:04 p.m.

County Administrator Null advised that during the meeting, the Facebook video experienced technical issues and was not broadcast completely. This was an issue with the Facebook connection and not intentional.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adjourned the Public Meeting at 6:04 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