

# BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Tuesday, February 18, 2025

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

1. **REAL PROPERTY EXEMPTION – Avilton Community Association**

Avilton Community Association – Request for Fiscal Year 2026 County Property Tax Abatement granted under the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 9-313.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved a real property exemption for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Avilton Community Association.

2. **Declaration of Surplus County Property** – In accordance with Section 8-105 - Declaration of Surplus Property of the Garrett County Purchasing Policy, the Board of County Commissioners must declare items as surplus prior to the disposition/sale.

Scott Weeks, Director, Garrett County Department of Financial Services, presented the Board of County Commissioners with a list of surplus vehicles and equipment listed below:

2013 Ford F-150	2005 Chevrolet 3500 Pickup Truck
2016 Chevrolet Tahoe	2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer
2013 Ford Focus	1984 Ford Tractor
2013 Chevrolet Silverado	1984 Bobcat 642 Skid Steer

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, declared the items presented as surplus.

3. **Coal Transportation Fee and Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund (Coal Dust Cleanup and Asthma Remediation Act) –**

The Board of County Commissioners discussed Senate Bill 882 - Coal Transportation Fee and Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund (Coal Dust Cleanup and Asthma Remediation Act). This proposed legislation would impose \$13/ton on coal transported in the state. The Board is concerned that the legislation, as proposed, could impact hundreds of jobs tied to coal and agreed to submit a letter in opposition to the legislation.

4. Mr. Null reviewed a number of administrative 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 one (1) deletion to the Public Meeting Agenda. The recognition of Callis Auto Detailing was rescheduled to a later date. 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 February 18, 2025.

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 February 3, 2024.

3. **RECOGNITION:**

- Dave and Donna Arnold – Advocates for Alzheimer’s Awareness. Chairman Edwards recognized the Arnold’s for their commitment to raise awareness of the Alzheimer disease.

4. **TUCKER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:** Angie Pase, Development Director, Tucker Community Foundation, presented a briefing on the annual “Run For It” 2K walk and 5K run event. The event helps nonprofits raise awareness and support for their respective organization. Since Garrett County began participating in 2014 with the total investment of \$17,000.00 resulting in a return of \$286,546.00 in grant funding to Garrett County non-profits. Ms. Pase asked the Board of County Commissioners to consider contributing again this year with possibly increasing its annual contribution to \$3,000 in Fiscal Year 2026.

5. The Garrett County Department of Financial Services - Purchasing Division - presented the following recommendation:

**Bid #24-1205 – Wisp Mountain Water Storage Tank**

Two (2) responses were received for this Bid: Carl Belt, Inc. (\$2,238,780.00) and BYCO Enterprises (\$2,327,233.38).

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on the feedback from the Department of Public Works – Utilities Division, the Garrett County Purchasing Department recommended awarding the Bid to Carl Belt, Inc. for \$2,238,780.00.

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 Bid Award as recommended.

6. **APPROVAL/ADOPTION – Garrett County Salary Study Ordinance – 2025**

The Garrett County Salary Study Review Commission, in accordance with Chapter 91-2 of the Code of Garrett County, Maryland, met with representative from the Garrett County Board of Education, Garrett County Board of Elections, Judges of the Orphans Court, and the Garrett County Liquor Control Board.

As part of its review, the Commission assessed current salaries/duties and submitted a letter to the Board of County Commissioners outlining its recommendations.

Chairman Edwards read each recommendation as submitted by the Garrett County Salary Study Commission. The Board of County Commissioners accepted all recommendations as presented except for the Garrett County Board of Education. Commissioner Tichnell objected to the proposed increase since the Garrett County Board of Education received an increase four years ago. Commissioner Savage agreed, thus the recommendation by the Garrett County Salary Study Commission for the salary increase of the Garrett County Board of Education was denied and salaries will remain the same. Commissioner Tichnell also expressed that members of the Garrett County Board of Education should have a formal vote at its public meeting if a salary increase is desired.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, accepted all the recommendations of the Garrett County Salary Study Commission except for the Garrett County Board of Education and enacted the Garrett County Salary Study Ordinance – 2025.(Attached).

The Board of County Commissioners expressed its appreciation to the Garrett County Salary Study Commission for its time and service.

7. **Road Name Resolution RN25-01:** Garrett County Department of Community Development of Planning & Land Development – GIS Division. Siera Wigfield, Senior Planner, requested approval of road name changes and additions listed below.

<u>Tax Map</u>	<u>Former Name</u>	<u>New Road Name</u>
67	N/A	Azalea Lane
67	N/A	Magnolia Way
49	N/A	Enclave Lane
49	N/A	Nature Run
95	N/A	Bovie Bend
29	N/A	Moon Ridge
200	Flat Street	Polk Street
200	N North Street	Polk Street

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 RN25 – 01 (attached).

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Senate Bill 399 - Wildlands Areas-Overhead Transmission Lines. The Board of County Commissioners was urged to take a position against the Bill. Individual stated there has been no transparency or public meetings from the State or NextERA on this project that could affect 21 miles of public lands.

Chairman Edwards stated that NextERA met with the Board of County Commissioners individually several months ago. The company provided an overview of the project but gave no details. The Board has not seen an official map of the proposed route and had no advanced knowledge that Senator McKay was introducing the Bill.

To be clear, this Bill does not permit transmission lines, if approved it would only allow transmission lines to go through Wildlands. Approval of the transmission line will be determined by the Public Service Commission. NextERA has stated that they will hold public meetings in Garrett County.

- The Garrett County Farm Bureau stated it is in favor of the proposed legislation because it preserves farmland over forest. The Farm Bureau supports the ability for farmers to lease their property not just payment for Right-of-Ways and easements.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ❖ The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse.
- ❖ The Special Olympics Deep Creek Dunk - The community and school dunk will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2025, and the regular dunk is on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

**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 5:35 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

**THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

203 South Fourth Street - Courthouse - Room 207 Oakland, Maryland 21550

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**Board of Commissioners**

Paul C. Edwards

Ryan S. Savage

S. Larry Tichnell

**County Administrator**

Kevin G. Null

**County Attorney**

Gorman E. Getty III

**GARRETT COUNTY  
SALARY ORDINANCE – 2025**

ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND, a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of Maryland (the "Board"), relating to the recommendations of the Garrett County Salary Study Commission.

CIR CT GARRETT CO, MD  
2025 FEB 19 AM 11:48

**Explanation**

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 32-40 of the Garrett County Code, the same being Article 11 of the Code of Public Local Laws of the State of Maryland (the "County Code"), a Garrett County Salary Study Commission (the "Commission") was established to study the existing salaries of the Board of County Commissioners, Judges of the Orphans' Court, Board of Supervisors of Elections, Board of Education, and the Liquor Control Board, and make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners concerning those salaries. The Commission made a study of each of the salaries under their review and made recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. In accordance with the provisions of the County Code, the Board of County Commissioners, in the exercise of its independent judgment, has declined to accept all the recommendations of the Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND, THAT THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, JUDGES OF THE ORPHANS' COURT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND THE LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD BE SET, AS FOLLOWS:

**The Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County**

No increase in annual salary was requested or approved. Salary remains at \$32,500.

**Judges of the Orphans' Court for Garrett County**

The Judges of the Orphan's Court for Garrett County requested consideration for an increase of \$500 from \$6,500 to \$7,000 for Chief Judge and from \$6,200 to \$6,700 for Associate Judge. The Salary Study Commission did not recommend an increase.

**No increase in annual salary. Salary is to remain the same.**

**Garrett County Board of Election Supervisors**

The Garrett County Board of Election Supervisors requested an increase in salary. The Salary Study Commission recommended a salary increase from \$3,300 to \$3,800 for the President and from \$3,000 to \$3,500 for Board Members.

**An increase in annual salary is approved.**

**Garrett County Board of Education**

The Garrett County Board of Education requested an increase in salary. The Salary Study Commission recommended a salary increase from \$5,000 to \$5,700 for the President and from \$5,000 to \$5,300 for a Board Member.

**No increase in annual salary is approved. Salary is to remain the same.**

Garrett County Liquor Control Board

The Garrett County Liquor Control Board requested consideration for a salary increase. The Salary Study Commission recommended a salary increase from \$2,500 to \$3,000 for Board Members.

An increase in annual salary is approved.

WITNESS the corporate name of the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND, by Paul C. Edwards, Chairman, and attested by Kevin G. Null, County Administrator, with the seal attached and effective this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

By:   
PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman

ATTEST:


  
KEVIN G. NULL  
County Administrator

GARRETT COUNTY

STATE OF MARYLAND  
COUNTY OF GARRETT, to-wit:

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared PAUL C. EDWARDS, and acknowledged himself to be the Chairman of the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND, a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of Maryland, and that he, as such Chairman, being authorized so to do, executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained by signing the name of the Board by himself as Chairman.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

  
Carol A. Riley  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

CAROL A. RILEY  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
GARRETT COUNTY  
MARYLAND  
My Commission Expires 07-08-2025

# THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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## Board of Commissioners

Paul C. Edwards

Ryan S. Savage

S. Larry Tichnell

Resolution #RN2501

## County Administrator

Kevin G. Null

## County Attorney

Gorman E. Getty III

February 18, 2025

CIR CT GARRETT CO, MD  
2025 FEB 19 AM 11:48

### RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland empowers the County to provide for an Enhanced 911 Emergency Telephone System; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County has formally adopted the Garrett County Address Ordinance as the initial step to enhance the 911 system; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Ordinance requires the establishment of the Garrett County Road Name Index that shall include the names of all streets and/or roads within the County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners have duly adopted said Garrett County Road Name Index; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County does hereby adopt the following changes to road names within the County to be included on the Garrett County Road Name Index:

<u>Tax Map</u>	<u>Former Name</u>	<u>New Road Name</u>
<u>67</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Azalea Lane</u>
<u>67</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Magnolia Way</u>
<u>49</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Enclave Lane</u>
<u>49</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Nature Run</u>
<u>95</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Bovie Bend</u>
<u>29</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>Moon Ridge</u>
<u>200</u>	<u>Flat Street</u>	<u>Polk Street</u>
<u>200</u>	<u>N North Street</u>	<u>Polk Street</u>

Duly adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, Maryland this 18th day of February 2025; and it is further resolved that the effective date of these road names shall be February 18th, 2025.

BY   
Paul C. Edwards, Chairman

BY   
S. Larry Tichnell, Commissioner

BY   
Ryan S. Savage, Commissioner

Attest:   
Kevin G. Null  
County Administrator