

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, March 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

- Board Appointments - Garrett County Local Emergency Planning Committee** – two (2) year terms. Members are appointed by their respective agencies.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, appointed/reappointed the following individuals for a two (2) year term to the Garrett County Local Emergency Planning Committee:

GC Local Emergency Planning Committee (A) Appointment (R) Reappointment		Representing
Primary	Secondary	
Sarah Myers (A)		Communications
Cody Kroll (A)		Community Action Committee
Paul Edwards (R)	Larry Tichnell (R)	County Commissioner
Sarah Milbourne (A)		DNR – Lake Management
Justin Orendorf (A)	David Middleton (A)	Emergency Management – GC
Stephen Smith (A)		Emergency Medical Services –
Craig Umbel (R)		Environmental Health – GC
Mark Clookie (A)		First Responders
Bryan O’Connel (A)		Hazmat Team – Garrett County
Andrew Sauder (R)		Local Official
Brenda Ruggiero		Media
Cpt. Chris Morris (A)		Natural Resources Police
Paul Harvey (R)		Roads Division – GC
Lt. Michael Sigmund (R)	F/Sgt. Bradley Williams (R)	State Police – Maryland
Bryson Meyers (R)	Colt Ruby (R)	Sheriff’s Department – GC
Alicia Streets (R)		Social Services – GC
Trip Martin (R)	Todd DeWitt (R)	State Highway Administration
Brandon Griffith (R)		Utilities – Garrett County

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

- REAL PROPERTY EXEMPTION – Backbone Housing, Inc.**

Backbone Housing, Inc. – 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 Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved a real property exemption for Fiscal Year 2026 for the Backbone Housing, Inc.

3. Mr. Ron Schartiger requested assistance from the Board of County Commissioners to address the issue of contaminated wells along Beall School Road. This contamination is attributed to salt leaching from the Maryland State Highway salt dome located on Beall School Road. County Administrator Kevin Null will facilitate a meeting with the relevant parties.
4. Request to add staff to the Southern Garrett Rescue Squad to provide for a *second due* ambulance. The call volume has increased 25% and there is need for a second ambulance. This request is to provide county staff 12 hours a day, seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
This will require two (2) full-time positions at a cost of \$166,234.00. The request was approved.
5. 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 4:02 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 Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Agenda for March 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 18, 2024.
3. **RECOGNITION:**
 - Callis Auto Detailing – 35th Anniversary
4. The Garrett County Department of Financial Services - Purchasing Division - presented the following recommendations:

Bid #25-0206 – Pump Station 1-1 / 2-1 Rehabilitation Project

Two (2) responses were received for this Bid: Beitzel Excavating & Paving, LLC (\$386,767.24) and Ridgeline Industries (\$228,676.00).

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 Ridgeline Industries for \$228,676.00.

Bid #25-0306 – Galvanized Steel Modular Panel Truss

One (1) response was received for this Bid: Acrow Corporation of America (\$157,700.00).

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on the feedback from the Department of Public Works – Roads Division, the Garrett County Purchasing Department recommended awarding the Acrow Corporation of America. for \$157,700.00.

The overall budget for this project is \$290,301 over two years. Fiscal Year 2025 - \$100,000 and Fiscal Year 2026 - \$100,000 (Design - \$92,400, Bridge - \$157,700, Installation - \$100,000). Request for a Fiscal Year

2025 budget amendment of \$59,790.00 for the Galvanized Steel Modular Panel Truss so that the bridge can be ordered by June 30, 2025.

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 Bid Awards as recommended and authorized the budget amendment.

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 4:11 p.m.

5. PUBLIC HEARING: Garrett County Water & Sewer Master Plan 2014 – Proposed Amendment #5.

The Board of County Commissioners held a Public Hearing on this date for a proposed amendment to the Garrett County Water & Sewer Master Plan 2014 as required by COMAR 26.03.01. This plan includes future utility projects for the next ten years as well as projected populations, land use, and consumption demands. For future projects to be considered for government funding, they must be included in this plan. Information on the proposed changes was posted on the County website.

Written comments will be accepted until April 4, 2025 to: Water and Sewer Plan Comments, Attn: Siera Wigfield, Senior Planner 203 South Fourth Street, Oakland, Maryland 21550 or emailed to swigfield@garrettcountymd.gov. Please include Water& Sewer Plan Comment in subject Line.

Amendment #5 Summary:

This Amendment is to incorporate map and text updates to showing changes to the following:

- Expansion of water service to Hemlock Drive in Grantsville to address well contamination issues.
- Development of a new water source for the Gorman Water System following the collapse of Mountain Road Well #2.
- Immediate extension of sewer service to Hemlock Drive in Grantsville, originally designated as a future project.
- Replacement of the failing Chestnut Ridge Pump Station to prevent service disruptions and sewer overflows.
- Infrastructure upgrades to the Jennings Sewer System, including pump station replacements, grinder pump installations, and replacement of the failing variable grade sewer main.

There were no public comments.

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 4:17 p.m.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- ❖ Comment/concern on the impact of Federal budget cuts. Request for the Board of County Commissioners to host a town hall meeting. Chairman Edwards stated the County is more concerned with state budget cuts and the impact on the County's budget. As the Board goes through the budget process there will be ample opportunity for public input.
- ❖ Question if the Board of County Commissioners would attend a town hall meeting. The Board stated if their schedules permit, they would be willing to attend a town hall meeting. However, the County would not schedule nor lead the discussion at a town hall meeting.
- ❖ Chairman Edwards stated the county cannot backfill and fund federal and state budget cuts.

- ❖ Question on Nextera’s claim of \$350 million in tax revenue – is this realistic? Garrett County Government has requested information on how Nextera calculated this figure. Taxes will come from property taxes and taxes on transmission lines

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ❖ The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse.

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 4:51 P.M.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS presented to the Board of County Commissioners on this date:

- ❖ Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.
- ❖ Garrett County Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners