

# BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Meeting was also Live Streamed at <http://www.garrettcountymd.gov/live>

#### IN ATTENDANCE

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

County Administrator Kevin G. Null

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

❖ **Board Appointment – Garrett County Ethics Commission**

Appointment – Christie Rechart. Five-year term will end in December 2031.

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 appointment.

An official letter of appointment under the signature of Chairman Edwards will be sent to Ms. Rechart outlining the terms of the appointment.

❖ **Garrett County Department of Financial Services – Fiscal Year 2025 Fund Carryover**

County Administrator Kevin Null presented to the Board of County Commissioners with Fiscal Year 2025 Fund Balance and carry-over adjustments.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards by Chairman Edwards approved the fund balance adjustments and budget amendments as presented

❖ Mr. Null reviewed a number of administrative and managerial matters under his authority and jurisdiction with the Board of County Commissioners.

#### **CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC SESSION at 4:00 PM**

#### **PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Invocation by Pastor Barbara Rexrode**

#### **PUBLIC SESSION**

1. 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 April 21, 2026.
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 April 6, 2026.
3. **PROCLAMATIONS:**
  - National Day of Pray – May 7, 2026
  - Arbor Day – Poster Contest Winners – 2026  
1<sup>st</sup> – Weston McConnell      2<sup>nd</sup> – Neva Grace Burrow      3<sup>rd</sup> – Deacon Alvarado
  - Water Safety Month
4. **RECOGNITION:** Iron Horse Logging, Inc. – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

5. **Garrett County Sanitary District, Inc.** – U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development  
The Board of County Commissioners was presented with a list of applicants whose intent was to file applications for funding through
  - **Friendsville Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project** - Study and report phase for design and Environmental impact evaluation and reports required to progress improvements plans, drawings, and schedule for construction at the facility.
  - **Crellin Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project** - Study and report phase for design and Environmental impact evaluation and reports required to progress improvements plans, drawings, and schedule for construction at the facility.
6. **Garrett County Department of Financial Services** – Applicants for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Preliminary Proposed Projects (attached). Chairman Edwards provided an overview of the ARC project process. The projects will be ranked and submitted to ARC for consideration of funding with the availability of approximately \$3 million for local projects.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**
8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
  - ❖ The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2026, 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 4:35 P.M.

**FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS** presented to the Board of County Commissioners on this date:

- ❖ Garrett County Board of Education
- ❖ Garrett College
- ❖ Garrett County Health Department

**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

## FY27 ARC Preliminary Project Descriptions – Executive Summaries

1. **The Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (AHEC West)** seeks \$500,000 in ARC funding to support the \$1.2 million acquisition and renovation of a 21,912 sq. ft. property in Oakland, MD to establish the Oakland Opportunity Hub, a multi-partner community center addressing workforce development and health-related social needs. The Hub will provide workforce training, recovery and re-entry services, life skills programming, and wellness activities, while also housing the Garrett County Health Department's 360 Food Access Hub and five affordable housing units. Key partners include the Garrett County Health Department, Garrett County Community Action Committee, Archway Station, Garrett County Sheriff's Office, and Mountain Laurel Medical Center. Additional funding has been secured or requested through multiple public and private sources to support project implementation and long-term impact.
2. **Holler to Hilltop Revival Corp** proposes to redevelop the historic 825 High Street property in Oakland, Maryland into the 825 High Street Community Workforce & Innovation Center, a regional hub for workforce training and small business incubation. The project will renovate approximately 3,000 square feet of underutilized space to support skilled trades and green jobs training, flexible classroom and credentialing programs, co-working and incubation space, and broadband-enabled training infrastructure. ARC funds (\$250,000) will support construction, code compliance, equipment, and technology upgrades, matched by \$250,000 in private, philanthropic, and in-kind contributions. The Center will address regional workforce shortages, low labor participation, and limited entrepreneurial support by aligning training with employer demand and providing direct pathways to employment, wage growth, and business creation, while advancing ARC priorities in economic diversification and adaptive reuse.
3. **Garrett County Public Utilities** is seeking \$1.5 million in FY27 ARC funding to support a \$3.0 million water and sewer line extension along the US 219 corridor between Pysell Road and Friendsville Road (Route 42), including the Springwood and Pinewood developments. The project will install approximately 9,000 linear feet of water lines and 10,000 linear feet of sewer lines, expanding service to 40 residential customers and 13 businesses. Key beneficiaries include the Maryland State Police Barracks, warehouses, restaurants, and approximately 13 acres of commercially developable property, positioning the corridor for continued economic growth and improved infrastructure reliability.