

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, July 6, 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 APPOINTMENTS:**

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:

Garrett County Department of Social Services Advisory Board – Two (2) Year Terms

<u>Appointments</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Lisa Ryan	Garrett Regional Medical Center
Shannon Haley	Garrett County Board of Education

Garrett County Mental Health Advisory Board – Three (3) Year Terms

<u>Reappointments</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Vera Dunkinson	General Public
Jodi Ellsworth	Local General Hospital
Bevian Hensley	Community Action Committee – Garrett County
Jessica Savage	Social Services – Garrett County
Angela Sisler	Local Mental Health

- ❖ **REAL PROPERTY PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES** – Accident Community Housing Corporation - Request for Fiscal Year 2027 County Property Tax Abatement granted under the Annotated Code of Maryland, Tax Property 7-502.

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 Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) for Fiscal Year 2027 for the Accident Community Housing Corporation.

- ❖ **REAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT REQUEST:** Request for Fiscal Year 2027 County Property Tax Abatement granted under the Annotated Code of Maryland, Tax Property 9-313.

Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. - Total amount exemption request \$36,166.00

- 41 High View Drive, Oakland, MD - Overlook Early Child Education Center - \$17,240.00
- Liberty Street Nonprofit Center - 360 Liberty Street, Oakland, MD – \$4,183.33
- 225 Frances Sanders Lane, Oakland, MD - Transit Maintenance Facility - \$14,742.67

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 2027 for the Garrett County Community Action, Inc. (\$36,166.00).

- ❖ **Rural Maryland Council's Fiscal Year 2027 Prosperity Investment Fund Grant Application Resolutions:**

- Crellin Street Sidewalk Improvement Phase 1
- Garrett College – Advance Stormwater Training
- Garrett County Health Department – Regional Rural Septic Pump Out Project
- Broadband Expansion Addressing Make-Ready Costs

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 grant applications and authorized Chairman Edwards and Mr. Null, on behalf of the Board, to execute all documents relative to these resolutions.

❖ **Garrett County Government – Policies & Procedures – Revision Approvals**

County Administrator Kevin Null presented to the Board of County Commissioners a list of revisions to Garrett County Government Employee Policies & Procedures. These revisions reflect current standards, operational needs, and best practices, ensuring continued efficiency, accountability, and compliance.

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 Policies & Procedures revisions as presented.

❖ **Maryland Energy Administration - Local Government Energy Modernization (L-GEM) Grant Program**

The L-GEM funding would install rooftop solar panels at the Garrett County Department of Public Works - Oakland Roads Division's Garage, Garrett County Health Center, M&T Bank, and the old Kitzmiller School. The total project cost is approximately \$1.63 million, with approximately \$900,000 in Maryland Energy Administration grants.

The funding request of \$326,462 would authorize the contractor's mobilization payment and allow the project to move forward.

The County's estimated net investment in the project is approximately \$441,000, (about 27% of the total project). The project is estimated to result in \$80,000 - \$90,000 in annual electricity savings. The County would recover the initial investment through operational savings within 5 – 6 years.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards approved funding of mobilization for the project.

- ❖ 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 Commissioner Tichnell

PUBLIC SESSION

1. 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 July 6, 2026.
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 June 16, 2026.
3. The Garrett County Department of Financial Services - Purchasing Division presented the following RFP and three (3) Bid recommendations:

PFP #26-0429 – Meadow Mountain Trail Enhancement

Three (3) responses were received for this Bid: Larder/Klein Landscape Architects (\$211,500), RK&K (\$243,699), and CRO Planning & Design (\$235,000). A five (5) member committee reviewed and scored the proposals and recommended awarding the project to CRO Planning & Design in the amount of \$235,000.

This project is funded through Appalachian Regional Commission Grant funding.

Bid #26-0603HM – Hot Mix

Three (3) Bids were received: Keystone Lime Company, Inc. – Eichorn, Keystone Lime Company, Inc. – Bishoff, and Belt Paving, Inc.

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 Department of Financial Services – Purchasing Division recommended to accept the bid prices.

The Roads Division personnel will determine the plant to purchase the hot mix asphalt from based on the bid price and hauling cost computed using the formula outlined in the bid package. Specifics of the award for types of product and brand names are on file with the Purchasing Division.

Bid #26-0611S – Crushed Stone

Seven (7) Bids were received:

Keystone Lime Company, Inc. - Eichorn
Keystone Lime Company, Inc. – Cranesville
Allegany Aggregates, Inc. – Bedrock/Short Gap
George's Creek Stone & Gravel, Inc.

Maryland Minerals, Inc.
Fairfax Concrete – Scherr
Fairfax Concrete – Oakland

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on feedback received from the Garrett County Department of Public Works – Roads Division, Utilities Division, and Solid Waste & Recycling Division, the Garrett County Department of Financial Services – Purchasing Division recommended accepting the bids from all the vendors.

Each Division personnel will determine the plant to purchase the hot mix asphalt based on the bid price and hauling cost computed using the formula outlined in the bid package. Specifics of the award for types of product and brand names are on file with the Purchasing Division.

Bid #26-0521 – Garrett County Administration Building Flooring Project

One (1) Bid was received: Success Floor Covering, LLC (\$113,302.94).

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on the feedback from the Department of Public Works – Facilities & Maintenance Division, the Garrett County Department of Financial Services – Purchasing Division recommended to award the bid to Success Floor Covering, LLC for \$113,302.94.

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 RFP and Bid Awards as recommended.

4. **Program Open Space – Fiscal Year 2027 Program Open Space Project Requests** – Siera Wigfield, Senior Planner, Garrett County Department of Community Development & Planning – Planning & Land Management Division, presented requests for Fiscal Year 2027 Program Open Space Funding for approval. Eight (8) development projects were submitted from three (3) municipalities, two (2) community organizations, one (1) college, and one (1) Garrett County Government.

Program Open Space funding available for Fiscal Year 2027 totaled \$336,154.73.

The Board of County Commissioners approved funding for the following projects:

1. Town of Friendsville	Stage Placemaking	\$ 63,000.00
2. Garrett College	Inclusive Pavilion	\$ 23,850.00
3. Town of Deer Park	Park Amenities	\$ 4,000.00
4. Town of Grantsville	Tennis Court Safety Improvements	\$100,000.00
5. Avilton Civic Association	Playground Refresh	\$ 13,000.00
6. Town of Accident	Ballpark & Connectivity Improvements	\$ 52,000.00
7. Eastern Garrett VFD	Lacrosse Field Conversion	\$ 61,294.76
8. Garrett County Government	Fork Run Trail Development Phase 1	\$ 19,000.00

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 Fiscal Year 2027 Program Open Space Project funding.

5. ROAD NAME RESOLUTION

Garrett County Department of Planning & Land Management – Siera Wigfield, GIS Specialist, requested approval of a name for new road and a name change of former road: Resolution RN26-2

- Nobles Way – New Road
 - Mayhew Inn Manor – Remove - Use Mayhew Inn Road
- Residents that may be affected approved this change

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adopted Resolution RN 26-2.

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 4:21 p.m.

6. PUBLIC HEARING – Maryland Department of Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) – Community Development & Homeless Round – Resolution Granting Authorization to Apply.

Marissa Kling, Accountant, Garrett County Department of Financial Services, reported that citizens were invited to express their views on community development, economic development, housing and homeless needs, in preparation for the submission of an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's - CDBG Program.

A public notice was placed in *The Republican* newspaper advising of the draft Applications for MD CDBG funding consideration was made available for public review June 23 – 26, 2026.

The project proposed for submission included the Friendsville Water Improvement Project Requests for funding may not exceed a total of \$800,000. Applications are due to MD DHCD on the due date of July 6, 2026.

No Public Comments were received or presented at the Hearing.

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 4:24 p.m.

7. Resolution 2026 - 12: Authorizing the submittal of an application for Community Block Grant Funds.

The Board of Garrett County Commissioners conducted a Public Hearing on this date for projects proposed to be considered for submission seeking Community Development Block Grant Funds. No public comments were received.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved and executed a Resolution 2026 - 12 that authorized the submittal of an application for Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$800,000 to include the Friendsville Water Improvement Project.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTARY: Residents from the Mayhew Inn Road area expressed ongoing concerns regarding persistent sewer odors from the Mayhew Inn Road and Lakeshore Drive sewer pump stations. Residents noted that this issue has existed since 2019 was getting worse, and asked what measures have been implemented to address the odor problem and what additional actions are planned.

A list of questions was submitted to the Board. The Board of County Commissioners advised that written responses would be provided by the end of the week. The Board also stated that staff would prepare a timeline outlining the actions taken to mitigate the odor issue and would meet with residents to discuss the matter further. The community was to provide an email distribution list to facilitate communication and updates.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department.

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 4:56 P.M.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners