

**BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

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 – Catholic Charities Senior Communities – Backbone Housing, Inc.**  
Request for Fiscal Year 2024 County Property Tax Abatement granted under the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 7-502.

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 2024 for the Catholic Charities Senior Communities – Backbone Housing, Inc.

There was a question on how the decision is made to grant a property tax exemption. Exemptions are granted in compliance with §7-592 of the Maryland Property Tax Code.

2. Mr. Null reviewed a number of administrative, non-privileged personnel, and managerial matters under his authority and jurisdiction with the Board of County Commissioners.

**CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:04 PM**

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

**PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Mr. Null indicated there were no additions or deletions 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 April 18, 2023.
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 April 3, 2023.
3. **PROCLAMATIONS:** National Library Week – April 23-29, 2023  
Garrett County Recovery Week – May 7-13, 2023
4. **RECOGNITION:** Garrett County Habitat for Humanity – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
5. **APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC)** - Garrett County Department of Financial Services - Applicants for ARC funded projects made presentations to the Board of County Commissioners. The projects will be ranked and submitted to ARC for consideration of funding.

The following four (4) projects were presented for the ARC Fiscal Year 2024 Project Requests:

1. EntreEd - "Center for Youth Entrepreneurship – Maryland"
2. Garrett County Lighthouse, Inc. – "IT Modernization Initiative"
3. HUBZone Council, Inc – "Garrett County HUBZone Workforce Program"
4. Garrett County Government will also submit projects

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**

Discussion on affordable housing and what defines affordable housing? Chairman Edwards stated it depends on who you ask, and that's part of the discussion. Commissioner Tichnell stated that housing in the range of \$150,000 is affordable to someone making \$45,000-\$50,000.

Chairman Edwards stated that the Spring Project is a public/private partnership with the County helping with the infrastructure. The goal is to have affordable housing in the range of \$150,000-\$175,000 for duplexes and \$225,000 for single family.

Question on rental property, especially for the younger population. At this time, the Board of County Commissioners is focused on owner-occupied housing.

Commissioner Tichnell stated that part of the solution is to work with banks to develop programs.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ❖ The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse.
- ❖ **BUGET PRESENTATIONS** – Chairman Edwards announced budget presentations of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce and Garrett College will be held on this date directly following the Public Meeting.
- ❖ **CONSTANT YEILD HEARING:** Chairman Edwards announced that the Garrett County Government's Constant
- ❖ Chairman Edwards announced that the Board of County Commissioners is proposing changes to the Off-Road Vehicle Ordinance to conform to State Law. The current Ordinance allows ATV's and snowmobiles to travel up to two (2) miles on a County Road. Last year the State Law was changed to allow an ATV, snowmobiles, or off-road motorcycles to travel up to five (5) miles. The proposed Ordinance allows off-road vehicles to travel up to five (5) miles and defines and allows off-road motorcycles. A Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 1, 2023.

**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 5:02 P.M.

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Presentations presented to the Board of County Commissioners on this date:

- ❖ Garrett County Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Garrett College

**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