

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
March 17, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Paul C. Edwards
Commissioner James C. Hinebaugh, Jr.
Commissioner S. Larry Tichnell

County Administrator R. Lamont Pagenhardt

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

1. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, moved into Executive Session to review and address economic development, personnel, and financial matters.
2. The Board of County Commissioners met with Members of the Board of County Commissioners Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Advisory Group. Chairman Edwards, on behalf of the Board, expressed his appreciation to the Group Members for committing their time. The Board's Mission Statement was reviewed and the Group will schedule a meeting date and time. Chairman Edwards addressed the Group and
 - Asked the Group to consider selecting a chair
 - Determine specific meeting days, location, and time
 - Operate on the principle that the Maryland Open Meetings Act applies to the Group as it is body appointed by the Board. Public commentary is not a requirement.
 - Asked that the Group approve a methodology for reporting back to the Board
 - Notify the Office of the County Commissioners when meetings will be scheduled so public notification can be sent to the media and posted on the County Government website
 - Stated that County Government staff will be made available to provide input and administrative support
 - Consider scheduling a visit to a drilling site
3. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, moved into Executive Session to review and address economic development and financial matters.
4. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, appointed William DeVore (Zoning Administrator, Department of Planning and Land Management) to the State of Maryland Land Reclamation Committee. Mr. DeVore will be the Garrett County Government representative on the Committee.
5. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded and carried by Commissioner Tichnell, appointed Chairman Edwards as secondary representative of

the Board of County Commissioners to the Garrett County Local Emergency Management Planning Committee. Commissioner Hinebaugh is the primary representative. Appointment term will be for the term of Office of the Board of County Commissioners.

6. Mr. Pagenhardt 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

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Additions/deletions to Public Meeting agenda. Mr. Pagenhardt indicated there were no additions or deletion to the Public Meeting Agenda for March 17, 2015. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Agenda for March 17, 2015.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Minutes for March 2, 2015 and Executive Session for March 2, 2015.
3. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, executed a Resolution setting the date, time, and location of the 2015 Tax Sale for May 1, 2015, at 10:00 AM, in the Board of County Commissioners Public Meeting Room.
4. Donald DeWitt, Department of Social Services briefed the Board of County Commissioners on issues with this State of Maryland office.
5. Sheriff Robert Corley briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the matters with the Patrol Division, Detention Center, and 911 Dispatch Center.
6. Carol Riley-Alexander, Executive Assistant to the Board of County Commissioners and County Administrator, reviewed the meeting and committee schedule for the forthcoming week.
7. Annie Bristow appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to show a presentation on Public Health Effects of Natural Gas Development and Production. This presentation will be placed on the County Government website for public review. The Board expressed their appreciation to Dr. Bristow and accepted public commentary and input on matters related to this presentation.
8. Maryland Rural Counties Coalition presented the Board of County Commissioners with a summary of this organization.

The Maryland Rural Counties Coalition is a non-partisan organization comprised of 11 county governments working cooperatively to advocate for and represent the needs of our state's rural communities. Our member counties make up nearly half of Maryland's land mass. Rural Maryland is also the home of the State's primary industries – agriculture.

Goals of the Coalition are to:

- *Promote the development and implementation of effective legislation and regulations that benefit Maryland's rural communities and economies.*
- *Foster effective and cooperative working relationships between the member jurisdictions and the agencies and departments of the State government and the General Assembly.*
- *Serve as an information resource for the State government and members of the General Assembly on rural issues.*
- *Cooperatively share knowledge between member counties in order to develop innovative best practices to address the challenges facing rural communities.*

The Maryland Rural Counties Coalition is an affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo). MACo is a non-partisan organization that serves Maryland's counties by articulating the needs of local government to the Maryland General Assembly. There is currently 13 counties serving 1.3 million constituents.

The Board will take under advisement joining and becoming a member of the Coalition.

9. Constituent Input and Public Commentary.

- Lisa Jan asked the Board to consider having a countywide town hall meeting.
- Linda Herdering presented the Board with a letter from The Wicklein Group, LLC asking that the Board schedule time to discuss issues related to the production of **Fracking Western Maryland**. Ms. Herdering also supported the idea of having a countywide town hall meeting.
- Pat Kane spoke to the issue of real property values as it related to tourism and the potential for natural gas fracking in Garrett County.
- Patrick Riley voiced his opinion on shale gas development and respect for neighboring land owners and disturbing the peace.
- Eric Robison stated that he supported the points made by other constituents at this time.
- Charles McLaughlin asked that the Board rescind their letter sent to Maryland Department of the Environment.
- Mary Leighton voiced her opinion on the development of Deep Creek Lake and in her view on how it ruined the County.
- Leesa Townes questioned the Board on their letter sent to Maryland Department of the Environment and based her opinion that residents of Garrett County were opposed.
- Dana Shimrock voiced her opinion on the development of natural gas in Garrett County and reconsider rescinding the letter to the Maryland Department of the Environment.
- Jerry Plauger voiced his support for fracking and that it can be done in a safe way.

10. The Board, on motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adjourned the Public Meeting for this date.

11. In compliance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act under section 10-509, a record of the Executive Session for March 2, 2015 is hereby documented on this date, the next open/public meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, moved into Executive Session to review and address economic development and personnel matters. There will be no public disclosure of those topics discussed at this time.

12. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, moved into Executive Session to review and address personnel matters.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

R. Lamont Pagenhardt,
County Administrator

Paul C. Edwards, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Date