

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
Tuesday, April 21, 2020
Meeting was Held via Video Conference

IN ATTENDANCE

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

County Administrator Kevin G. Null

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:00 PM

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 Tichnell, which was seconded and carried by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Agenda for April 21, 2020.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioners Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2020.
3. **Update on County Response to COVID-19:** Brief updates was provided on Garrett County Governments response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Garrett County Health Department - Robert Stephens

- COVID-19 Cases - Reported 4 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Garrett County, with no active cases. The number of confirmed cases is listed at 4 but we know there may possibly be more who have tested positive. The Garrett County Health Department only receives test results of individuals who live here and are aware of possibly three other people who have tested positive elsewhere and are in the area. To date every case has been brought here with none through community transmission.
- Testing - Several providers are providing tests as well as the Garrett Regional Medical Center drive-up facility. Test results are dependent on where the test are sent for processing. Most providers use a commercial, out-of-state lab for testing.

There has been concerns on the length of time to get test results. Currently most tests are sent to out-of-state commercial labs and results are taking 3-4 days. These results go directly to the provider.

The test kits that the Governor obtained will be made available to Garrett County. The 500,000 kits will provide an option to test 1 in 12 Marylanders. As some point we will be able to test people with minor symptoms.

- At this time, vacation rental properties have been ruled as non-essential. The local realty companies have been very cooperative. The Health Department is working with law enforcement on the enforcement of violators. The Governor's order requires out of state visitors to self-quarantine.

4. **Update on Garrett County Board of Elections – Steve Fratz**

Election 2020 Update:

- The Primary Election has been moved from April 28, 2020 to June 2, 2020. The Governor has mandated the vote by mail.
- Ballots will be mailed on May 1, 2020 to all registered voters, with prepaid return envelopes. Ballots must be mailed, and post marked on or before June 2, 2020.
- There will be one (1) walk-in site at the Oakland Armory that will be open from 7:00 am - 8:00 pm on June 2, 2020. There will be no early voting.
- Reminder to check your registration and call the Election Office if you have any questions.

5. **Garrett County Government – Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Process.** The Garrett County Department of Financial Services.

County Fiscal Update

Revenue is projected to be down approximately \$5 million over the next six (6) months. Plans have been put in place to mitigate the projected loss. The Budget is in good shape and while the potential loss of revenue is a concern, the County can manage the Budget without major impacts.

The Fiscal Year 2021 Budget process continues. The proposed Budget will be reviewed with the Board of County Commissioners in early May. The Public Hearing on the Constant Yield Rate and Fiscal Year 2021 Budget is scheduled for May 19, 2020 and is scheduled to be adopted on June 1, 2020.

6. **Discussion – TV Market Modification – Maryland TV Availability:**

Market Modification

The Board of County Commissioners were approached by a group who requested a market modification of television channels to remove Pittsburg as our local market and replace with Baltimore or Washington. No decision has been made to file a request.

This change would be a lengthy process. Many comments have been received to keep Pittsburgh stations or keep Pittsburgh and just add a Maryland station. Under FCC regulations, the County cannot have both. The Board of County Commissioners will request a change in the FCC rules.

Commissioners will accept comments through May 4, 2020. Send comments to gccomments@garrettcourtuy.org.

7. **Second Amendment Sanctuary:** The Board of County Commissioners has received several inquiries concerning status of Second Amendment Sanctuary. A tremendous amount of input has been received; however, the Board agreed not to make any decisions until a meeting can be held in a public session, with people present.
8. The Board of County Commissioners expressed a **THANK YOU** to everyone who has continued to work and provide services to the citizens during these difficult times.
9. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Please look for a notice for meeting location or live stream.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adjourned the Public Meeting at 5:02 P.M.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners