

# BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Meeting was also Live Streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/garrettcountygovernment/>

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Paul C. Edwards  
Commissioner James C. Hinebaugh  
Commissioner S. Larry Tichnell  
  
County Administrator Kevin G. Null

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

- Catholic Charities Senior Communities – Backbone Housing, Inc. – Request for Fiscal Year 2023 County Property Tax Abatement**  
The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Chairman Edwards, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Commissioner Hinebaugh, approved a real property tax exemption for Backbone Housing, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2023.
- Economic Development - Proposal for Strategic Plan.** Garrett County Department of Community Development & Planning Department - Economic Development Division requested authorization to enter into a contract with M3 Synergies, LLC to provide consultation services to develop a Strategic Plan for the Economic Development Division at a cost of \$12,425.  
  
Garrett County Government obtained three proposals: M3 Synergies, LLC (\$12,425), Thomas P Miller & Associates, LLC (\$75,000-\$150,000) and International Economic Development Council (\$30,000). After reviewing the plan M3 Synergies, LLC previously developed for Caroline County, Maryland's economic department, the Economic Development Division recommended awarding the contract to M3 Synergies, LLC.  
  
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 contract with M3 Synergies, LLC as recommended.
- 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 4:03 PM

#### PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Invocation by Commissioner Tichnell

#### PUBLIC SESSION

- Mr. Null indicated there was no addition or deletion to the Public Meeting Agenda. 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 22, 2022.
- 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 of March 7, 2022.
- The Garrett County Purchasing Department presented the following Bid rejections:  
**Bid #22-0127 – Emergency Operations Center Sound Dampening Analysis & Implementation**

The high ceilings in the Emergency Operations Center cause an echo effect that is noticeable but not unreasonable. Garrett County Government solicited an analysis of the sound issues and recommendation to correct the problem. Two (2) Bids were received for this Bid: DSL Sound, Inc. (\$24,806.03) and Oeler Industries, Inc. (\$50,404.00) with an alternative bid of \$77,057.00.

The Garrett County Department of Financial Services – Purchasing Division recommended rejecting all Bids for this project due to cost.

**Bid #22-0210 – McHenry Lions Club Pump Track Design and Construction**

This is a Program Open Space project. One (1) Bid was received for this Bid: Ruby’s Industrial Contracting, Inc. (\$94,500.00). The Garrett County Department of Financial Services – Purchasing Division recommended rejecting the bid since the bid price was considerably higher than the \$45,000.00 in Program Open Space funding available for the project.

Based on discussions with the McHenry Lions Club, the Purchasing Division will be revising some of the construction specifications in hopes of reducing the project cost so the project can be re-bid.

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 recommendations to REJECT Bid#22-0127 and Bid#22-0210.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- REMINDER - Garrett County Government is seeking applications for:

**Garrett County Police Accountability Board (GCPAB).** The GCPAB will be composed of five (5) members who will serve a three-year term.

- One (1) individual to serve as the Board Chairperson who shall have familiarity with the criminal justice system;
- One (1) retired, sworn law enforcement officer; and
- Three (3) citizens with familiarity or experiences with human resources, the operation of a government agency, criminal justice agency, or community service organization.

**Administrative Charging Committee** - The Administrative Charging Committee will be composed of five (5) members who will serve for a three-year term. The Board of County Commissioners will appoint two (2) citizens as members of the Garrett County Administrative Charging Committee.

All applicants must be Garrett County residents and registered to vote; at least 25 years of age, have familiarity or experience with human resources, the operation of a government agency, criminal justice agency, or community service organization, and submit to a vetting process that includes intensive in-person interviews by the Board of County Commissioners or their designee and appropriate criminal background research; and complete training on matters related to police procedures from the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

- The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**

Mr. Chuck Schardong spoke about the proposed community solar project off Garrett Highway and behind his property on Paradise Ridge Road. Mr. Schardong stated that commercial solar projects should not be permitted in the watershed due to the impact on residents and homeowners. He requested that the Board of County Commissioners consider modifying the ordinance and made seven recommendations:

1. Cap the total number of solar systems allowed.
2. Homeowner Associations should have a voice in the process to approve/oppose a project.
3. Landscape/tree buffers – Require a bond to ensure that the required buffer area remains.

4. Ensure compliance with existing scenic protected areas, viewshed, wetland, and other sensitive designated areas.
5. Restriction on the size (megawatts)
6. Restriction on the number of projects on a parcel.
7. Consideration for increase in noise pollution.

**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 4:24 P.M.

**Attest:**

**By Order of the Board,**

---

**KEVIN G. NULL**  
County Administrator

---

**PAUL C. EDWARDS**, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners