

# BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Tuesday, January 24, 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. Board Appointments

- ❖ Garrett County Mental Health Advisory Committee. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, appointed Shanna Humphrey to the Garrett County Mental Health Advisory Committee. Ms. Humphrey will be fulfilling the unexpired term of Regina Gearhart who changed job positions at the Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.

An official letter will be sent to Ms. Humphrey under the signature of Chairman Edwards outlining the terms of appointment

- ❖ Garrett County Community Action Committee Board of Directors. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, reappointed the following individuals to the Garrett County Community Action Committee:

- Beverly Beard
- Linda Buckle
- Matthew Paugh
- Wendy Sharpless

Appointments will coincide with the Board of County Commissioners term of office. An official letter will be sent to each of the appointees under the signature of Chairman Edwards outlining the terms of appointment.

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 4:02 PM**

#### **PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Invocation by Pastor Brown**

#### PUBLIC SESSION

1. Mr. Null indicated there was one (1) addition to the Public Meeting Agenda. Kathy Shaffer, Oakland resident announced the donation of a piece of property with the memorial that honors Deputy David Livengood and K-9 partner Sarge to the County. 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 Agenda for January 24, 2023.

2. 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 Minutes of January 9, 2023.

3. **RECOGNITION:** Deep Creek Lions Club – Blind Skier Program – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary presented to Bryan Chaney, President of the Deep Creek Lions Club.

4. **Presentation and Request for Funding – Tucker Community Foundation – “Run For It “**

Hannah Snyder, Assistant Development Director, Tucker Community Foundation, reported that in 2022, the Board of County Commissioners donated \$2,000 which resulted in \$34,000 in donations to local non-profit groups and requested the Board consider donating again this year. Chairman Edwards stated that the Board would take the request under advisement. Request for consideration for a donation of \$2,500.

5. **Garrett County Department of Financial Services – Purchasing Division: Bid Award & RFP Award**

The Garrett County Purchasing Department presented the following recommendations:

**Bid #22-1201 – Garrett County Detention Center Padded Cell Conversion Project**

One (1) Bid response was received for this Bid: Cornerstone Detention Products, Inc. (\$34,000.00).

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on the feedback from the Garrett County Detention Center, the Garrett County Purchasing Department recommended awarding the Bid to Cornerstone Detention Products, Inc. for \$34,000.00.

**Contract Award – Request for Proposal # 22-0927: Design/Build Fiber Route Oakland-Table Rock Area**

One (1) Bid response was received for this Bid: Pillar Innovations (\$792,110.00).

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on the feedback from the Garrett County Department of Technology & Communications (DotCom) and concurrence from the Garrett County Department of Community Development & Planning – Economic Development Division, the Garrett County Purchasing Department recommended awarding the Bid to Pillar Innovations for \$792,110.00.

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 Bid Award and RFP Award as recommended.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ❖ Property Assessments – Chairman Edward addressed the property assessments done by the Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation that have gone up statewide. Garrett County property assessments have gone up the most in the state of Maryland with an average increase of 53%. The Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation reassesses a third of the County every year and this year the McHenry area was reassessed. Some properties doubled in their assessments.

While assessments have gone up, the County tax rate remains the same. The Board of County Commissioners will look at ways to mitigate the increase through the budget process and address it early in the budget cycle. Nothing will take effect until the new budget begins on July 1, 2023.

Garrett County Government will announce a Constant Yield Public Hearing over the next several months and the Board of County Commissioners will consider making adjustments. Citizens can

always challenge their property assessments by contacting the local Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation where they can explain the process.

- ❖ The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse.

**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 4:27 P.M.

**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