

**BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2001**

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Frederick A. Holliday
Commissioner Wendell R. Beitzel
Commissioner Ernest J. Gregg, Jr.
County Administrator R. Lamont Pagenhardt

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Additions/deletions to Public Meeting Agenda. Mr. Pagenhardt indicated that there were two (2) additions to the Public Session agenda for November 20, 2001.
 - ∇ Duane Yoder, President of Garrett County Community Action Committee will present the option of seeking CDBG funds for the "Hot Meals Program" and also request approval from the Board of County Commissioners for a real property tax abatement for the Adventure Sports Institute Center.
 - ∇ Dr. Wendell Teets, Superintendent of Schools, will review an anticipated budget shortfall for the Garrett County Board of Education in Fiscal Year 2002.
2. Minutes of the Public Meeting of November 13, 2001 and Administrative Session of November 15, 2001 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Beitzel, which was seconded by Commissioner Gregg, and made unanimous by Chairman Holliday.
3. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Gregg, which was seconded by Commissioner Beitzel, and made unanimous by Chairman Holliday, issued a Proclamation declaring December 1, 2001 as "World Aids Day in Garrett County". A brief presentation by Pandora's Box was included.
4. Brad Frantz, Director of the Department of Emergency Management, updated the Board of County Commissioners on the following issues:
 - ∇ The County Court House communication tower relocation process
 - ∇ Shallmar Buyout Program
 - ∇ Crellin Buyout Program
 - ∇ Countywide Disaster Plan
 - ∇ "Code Red" Alerting System
 - ∇ Winter Operations
5. The Board of County Commissioners executed a Resolution authorizing bond financing through Rural Development Administration for the Garrett County Health Center. This action was approved on a motion by Commissioner Beitzel, which was seconded by Commissioner Gregg, and made unanimous by Chairman Holliday.

6. The Board of County Commissioners executed a Declaration which will identify and subject Shallmar properties to all grant terms and conditions which will be recorded in the Office of the Circuit Court – Land Records. This action was approved on a motion by Commissioner Beitzel, which was seconded by Commissioner Gregg, and made unanimous by Chairman Holliday.
7. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Beitzel, which was seconded by Commissioner Gregg, and made unanimous by Chairman Holliday, appointed Edgar Uphold, Jr. to the position of maintenance worker II with the Department of General Services – Maintenance Division. Mr. Pagenhardt will send an official letter of appointment outlining all terms and conditions of employment.
8. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Gregg, which was seconded by Chairman Holliday, and made unanimous by Commissioner Beitzel, appointed Philip Frantz to serve as an alternate to the Garrett County Planning Commission. All terms of this appointment will be explained in an official letter of appointment.
9. Mabel Blamble met with the Board of County Commissioners to request that traffic lights be installed at the Route 219 and Wal-Mart intersection. Commissioner Gregg, who is a member of the Garrett County Traffic Advisory Committee will present this issue at the next meeting. Mr. Pagenhardt will also direct a letter to Wal-Mart listing this safety concern.
10. Commissioner Gregg, serving in the capacity of President of the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, met with staff personnel from this office. Commissioner Beitzel, who is a member of the Upper Potomac River Commission, attended a meeting of this board to discuss the closing of the Savage River Dam area due to possible security concerns.
11. Staff personnel from the Department of Solid Waste and Recycling updated the Board of County Commissioners on the following issues:
 - ∇ The operation of the newly acquired compactor
 - ∇ The operation and usage of other equipment and the maintenance of each
 - ∇ The possible purchase of an excavator (previously discussed) versus the purchase of additional land to expand and improve the Weber Collection Site. The Board directed the Department to proceed with having two (2) appraisals completed by the Department of General Services to determine if this project should be completed.
 - ∇ A briefing on Countywide recycling efforts
12. Mr. Yoder informed the Board of County Commissioner of the option of seeking CDBG funds for the “Hot Meals Program”. These funds would be at the discretion of the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and would require official action by the County, to include a public hearing. The Board of County Commissioners directed Mr. Yoder to proceed with the application process and advise Mr. Pagenhardt. County resident David Moe spoke in support of the Program and demanded that the Board of County Commissioners fund the shortfall that this program was experiencing and provide an answer within a week. Community Action had not requested that local funds

be appropriated for this program. The Board of County Commissioners will respond appropriately to Mr. Moe within the time frame demanded. A copy of the response letter will be on file with the Office of the Board of County Commissioners.

13. Mr. Yoder also requested that the Board of County Commissioners approve a real property tax abatement for the Adventure Sports Institute Center. The Board had previously approved an abatement for tax year 2001 and the request on this date was for tax year 2002. The Board, on a motion by Commissioner Beitzel, which was seconded by Commissioner Gregg, and made unanimous by Chairman Holliday, approved this request. Official notification of this action will be sent to all responsible State and County departments.
14. The Board of County Commissioners met with Dr. Wendell Teets, Superintendent of Schools to discuss financial and budgetary issues. The Garrett County Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2002 Budget was based on the assumption that \$842,738 would be received from the State of Maryland Tax Amnesty Program, funding that was not collected and subsequently not directed. Dr. Teets informed the Board of County Commissioners that Fiscal Year 2001 carryover funds for the Board of Education would be \$473,483 and this amount would be allocated to this shortfall in funding. Dr. Teets asked that the County appropriate the difference (\$368,955) to fully fund the 2002 Budget request. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Beitzel made a motion to read that the Garrett County Board of Education continue to operate as fiscally efficient as possible and if there is a clear need for additional County funds, that the Board of County Commissioners will appropriate additional funds, not exceed \$200,000. This motion did not receive a second. Mr. Pagenhardt suggested that the County and the Board of Education continue to monitor this financial issue and analyze the year to date expense status at the end of the second and third quarter. The Board of County Commissioners agreed with this direction.
15. The Board of County Commissioners met with John Nelson, Director of the Department of Planning, to discuss a letter from the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce that requested that the County retain an outside professional planning consultant to reevaluate the County's land use plan. It was the consensus of the Board, Mr. Pagenhardt, and Mr. Nelson to reply to the Chamber and indicate that there is now and has been a process in place that evaluates the issues that the Chamber addresses in your letter. The Garrett County Planning Commission and the Deep Creek Lake Zoning Appeals Board do in fact review the Comprehensive Plan on a six-year cycle and also accept suggested changes and modifications to the Plan. At this time the Planning Commission has nearly completed its six-year review of the Plan and there are a number of proposed amendments that will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioner for their appraisal.
16. The remainder of the day was spent in administrative session.

ADJOURNMENT

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

R. Lamont Pagenhardt,
County Administrator

Frederick A. Holliday, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Date

