

**BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC MEETING  
DECEMBER 4, 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**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Additions/deletions to Public Meeting Agenda. Mr. Pagenhardt indicated that there was one (1) addition to the Public Session agenda for December 4, 2001.
  - ∇ Fred Thayer, President of the Deep Creek Lake Property Owners' Association and John Nelson, Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning requested to meet with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss the issue of adopting an ordinance for required representation of residents or property owners from the Deep Creek Lake watershed.
2. Minutes of the Public Meeting of November 27, 2001 and Administrative Session of November 29, 2001 were read, amended, and approved on a motion by Commissioner Beitzel, which was seconded by Commissioner Gregg, and made unanimous by Chairman Holliday.
3. Chairman Holliday expressed his sincere appreciation to Commissioners Gregg and Beitzel during his tenure as chairman. Commissioner Gregg will assume the chairmanship on December 11, 2001.
4. Gary Mullich, Director of the Department of General Services presented the Board of County Commissioners with a departmental update to include the following:
  - ∇ Court House renovation and relocation process and timetable
  - ∇ A progress report on the Garrett County Health Center and the scheduled open house on December 18, 2001
  - ∇ Other maintenance projects underway and scheduled
  - ∇ Appointments to the Garrett County Airport Advisory Commission
  - ∇ Final planning for the installation of the approved jet A fuel system at the Garrett County Airport
  - ∇ Temporary electrical service for the Pioneer Conveyor building under construction at the Southern Business and Technology Park
  - ∇ Architectural and engineering plans for fire suppression and air conditioning of old section of the Garrett County Court House
  - ∇ A financial review of local beer tax due a possible discrepancy in reporting the State of Maryland Comptroller's Office

5. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Beitzel, which was seconded by Commissioner Gregg, and made unanimous by Chairman Holliday, approved an application for manufacturers personal property tax credit on behalf of Tri-County Hardwoods, Inc. for tax years 1995 and 1996. A copy of each application is on file with the Garrett County Department of Economic Development.
6. The Board of County Commissioners met with Judge Thayer, who on behalf of the Deep Creek Lake Property Owners' Association requested consideration for an adoption of an ordinance or policy that will provide for required representation of residents or property owners from the Deep Creek Lake watershed in the membership of the Garrett County Planning Council. Mr. Nelson was also in attendance and explained the procedure for membership in the Commission by-laws. After considerable discussion, the Board decided to not take any official action to change the current membership structure of the Commission but will be cognizant of the fact that the watershed comprises fifty percent (50%) of the Garrett County real property assessable base when considering future appointments to the Commission.
7. Wendy Yoder, Director of the Department of Financial Services presented the Board of County Commissioners with a departmental update to include the following:
  - ∇ A review of the current County mileage reimbursement rate at \$0.345 to be consistent with the IRS rate of \$0.365. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Gregg, which was seconded by Commissioner Beitzel, and made unanimous by Chairman Holliday, agreed to increase the existing rate to the IRS rate to be effective July 1, 2002.
  - ∇ A review of the current language in the Code of Garrett County that will correctly state the 100% assessment for local fire tax. Legislative action will be required to change current language in the Code that was based on the 40% assessment factor. Mr. Pagenhardt and Ms. Yoder will draft a letter to the local delegation requesting the legislation be enacted that will be consistent with the new assessment factor and read t As approved by the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, December 4, the wording in Chapter 41, Section 1, Subsection A of the County Code pertaining to the Fire Tax should read "the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County is authorized and directed to levy annually a tax **not to exceed** five cents (\$0.05) per one hundred dollars (\$100) on the assessable property basis in Garrett County"
  - ∇ A review of the reporting and payment of mobile home and hotel/rental tax. The Tax Collection Office will sent notices to all filing business notifying each of the appropriate filing requirements.
8. Officers of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce met with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss the oversight and management of the Autumn Glory Festival. This session was in furtherance of prior discussions, both in public session and in general, pertaining to thoughts to create a foundation that will plan and manage this event. Chamber Chairman Jonathan Kessler and Vice Chairman Leonard Eiswert explained that it was the intent of the Chamber to continue to oversee the Festival but if it were the direction of the Festival to expand, this would require the involvement of a number of more organizations. The expansion of the Festival would include more events, a greater number of days, and broader

geographic representation. It was the consensus of the Board and the Chamber to continue to discuss this proposal.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION**

1. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Gregg, which was seconded by Chairman Holliday, and made unanimous by Commissioner Beitzel appointed Nikki Brown to the position of Coordinator of Inventory/Asset Management. Terms and conditions of this departmental transfer will be explained in an official letter of appointment from Mr. Pagenhardt.
2. A letter from the Board of Trustees of the Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett recommending nominees for appointment to the Board was reviewed. The Board of County Commissioners decided table the issue and take this appointment/nomination under advisement.
3. The remainder of the day was spent in administrative session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Attest:**

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**By Order of the Board,**

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R. Lamont Pagenhardt,  
County Administrator

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Frederick A. Holliday, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

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Date

