

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2003

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ernest J. Gregg
Commissioner David C. Beard
Commissioner Frederick A. Holliday
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 were no additions or deletions to the agenda for January 14, 2003. Mr. Pagenhardt noted that Timothy Mcgrath, Western Maryland Meeting Field Representative for United States Senator Paul Sarbanes would be in attendance for several sessions of the January 14, 2003 public meeting.
2. Minutes of the Public Meeting of December 31, 2002, Administrative Minutes for January 2, 2003, and Administrative Session Minutes for January 7, 2003 were read and approved on a motion by Commissioner Beard, which was seconded by Commissioner Holliday, and made unanimous by Chairman Gregg.
3. The Board of County Commissioners, at the request of local resident Russell Bounds, listened to opposition from a number of individuals to the wind generating operation proposed by Clipper Windpower, Inc. Everyone who spoke about the project voiced a concern that the project should be continually reviewed by Clipper to explore alternative locations for the wind towers. Many who spoke indicated that they will be providing public comment to the Maryland Public Service Commission and requested that the Board of County Commissioners reverse their support for the project. A number of letters were read into the public record, many questioning the location of the towers, the potential hazard for the migrating bird population, and possible liability for dismantling of the towers after the depreciated production life. The Board of County Commissioners indicated that all issues and concerns would be taken under advisement at this time. A formal position and communication to the Clipper Windpower and the Public Service Commission will be addressed.
4. Department of Economic Development staff, including Director Jim Hinebaugh, reviewed the following issues with the Board of County Commissioners:

- “Maryland Advantage”, a business retention program designed to promote the growth and viability of Western Maryland’s existing businesses. Departmental staff has prepared a first quarter 2003 schedule, which was presented to the Board of County Commissioners.
 - Website upgrade status
 - Southern Garrett Business and Technology Park shell building
 - Status of sale options for property to be designated for the Keyser’s Ridge/I68 Industrial Park.
 - Geo-technical testing for the Keyser’s Ridge/I68 Industrial Park
 - ClosetMaid project
 - Adventure Sports, Inc. funding application to MDEAF
 - Taking points for the upcoming PACE reception
 - Business occupancy report for the GIEC center
 - Possible recruitment of Cabela
 - Exhibit Hall memorandum of understanding between the Board of County Commissioners and the Garrett County Fair Board
 - Computer adoption program
 - USDA broadband telecommunication grant application
5. Members of the Garrett County Electrical Mechanical Association met with the Board of County Commissioners to request that an electrical licensing board be created. The actual formulation of such a board would require official action by the Board of County Commissioners and the Department of Planning and Zoning, Division of Building Permits and Inspections, would be involved with the enforcement process. Contractors in attendance spoke in support of such a board that, in their opinion, would assure of competent, trained contractors who would be accountable for their work. The Board of County Commissioners requested a listing of total membership who would be in favor of this proposal. The point of suggestion was made to include the licensing and certification for electrical, plumbing, and heating, air conditioning, and ventilation be incorporated in this board. The Board of County Commissioners will take this issue under advisement and secure the opinion of Department of Planning and Zoning staff prior to official action.
6. Sheriff P. Richard Sanders briefed the Board of County Commissioners on a number of departmental issues to include a joint search warrant operation with Preston County, West Virginia and Garrett County, appointment process for the position of deputy sheriff, and status of employment of one additional correction officer.
7. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Beard, which was seconded by Commissioner Holliday, and made unanimous by Chairman Gregg, moved into Executive Session under section 10-508 of the Maryland Open Meetings Law on this date to address financial and economic development. The same motion moved back to public session.

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

1. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Beard, which was seconded by Commissioner Holliday, and made unanimous by Chairman Gregg, appointed Jane Avery, Beverly Beard, William Welch, Lowell Bender, and Michael Annarelli to the Board of Directors of Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. Official letters of appointment will be sent to each appointee under the signature of Chairman Gregg.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Beard, which was seconded by Commissioner Holliday, and made unanimous by Chairman Gregg, appointed Cathy Ashby to the Garrett County Commission of Women. An official letter of appointment will be sent to Ms. Ashby under the signature of Chairman Gregg with a request that several names be submitted for consideration for appointment and that the request for appointment be submitted on a timely basis
3. In furtherance of the action taken by the Board of County Commissioners to request enabling legislation from the Maryland General Assembly that would permit setting the weight limit on County roads to be consistent with the of State roads and the public session with residents of Sand Flat Road on January 9, 2003 who opposed this action, the Board agreed to not amend the request. A letter by Mr. Pagenhardt will be sent to Delegate George Edwards and Senator Hafer indicating that there would be no change in the original legislative request.
4. The Board of County Commissioners, under the signatures of Chairman Gregg and Mr. Pagenhardt executed a resolution between the County and the Town of Loch Lynn Heights that would allow the County to enforce the provisions of the floodplain ordinance adopted by the Town. This action by the Board on this date is consistent with agreements with all other County municipalities.
5. Mr. Pagenhardt recommended that the County employ Stephen Eiswert as a summer intern to work with the municipal assistance program administered by the Department of Economic Development and Tri-County Council for Western Maryland. Mr. Eiswert will work the summer months on projects planned and ongoing with all local municipal governments. The Board unanimously agreed with this recommendation.
6. The remainder of the day was spent in administrative session.

ADJOURNMENT

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

R. Lamont Pagenhardt,
County Administrator

Ernest J. Gregg, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Date

