

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
MAY 25, 2004

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 was one addition to the agenda for May 25, 2004. Local residents from the Mountain Lake Park area requested to meet with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss annexation.
2. Minutes of the Public Meeting of May 18, 2004 and Administrative Session of May 20, 2004 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 recognized the Garrett College Lady Lakers Basketball Team as the 2004 Maryland JUCO Women's Basketball State Tournament Champions and NJCAA Division II Region XX and NJCAA District 1 Champions. Team members and coaches were in attendance for this session.
4. The Board of County Commissioners conducted the Departmental Staff meeting for May. Agency supervisors and department heads from the following offices were in attendance:

Department of Social Services
Garrett County Health Department
Department of Financial Services
Western Maryland Consortium
Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County
Department of Economic Development
Garrett College (Dr. Stephen Herman, President, presented an overview of the
proposed Garrett College Athletic and Community Recreation Center)
Garrett County Community Action Committee
Garrett County Extension Office
Department of Planning and Zoning

Garrett County Roads Department
Garrett County Chamber of Commerce
Department of General Services

5. The Board of County Commissioners conducted a Public Hearing to receive comment on Agricultural Preservation District Applications for Jerry and Mikal Zimmerman and Oren and Fannie Bender. The Garrett County Planning Commission and the Garrett County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board approved both application requests and forwarded this action to the Board of County Commissioners. The Board, on a motion by Commissioner Holliday, which was seconded by Commissioner Beard, and made unanimous by Chairman Gregg, approved the applications as presented.
6. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Holliday, which was seconded by Commissioner Beard, and made unanimous by Chairman Gregg, approved easement applications to the Maryland Agricultural Preservation Foundations for Eugene and Mary Shreve, Ray and Claretta Ridder, and Jeffrey Kepple.
7. The Board of County Commissioners met with the Garrett County Recreational Trails Task Force to discuss a number of issues including finances, liabilities, State Highway Administration commitment, Garrett College involvement, maintenance, grant funds, and other matters. Task Force Member Charlie Ross addressed the question of liability as it applies to the State of Maryland statute for use of public land for recreational purposes. The law reads that Garrett County Government would be absolved of any liability, as it would apply to the recreational trails. The Task Force explained that the issue of maintenance was minimal and that it could be compensated out of fund raising initiatives and other sources. The Task Force informed the Board that a legal document would be required to be executed between easement landowners and the County. Mr. Pagenhardt will communicate with the county attorney on this requirement. Janna Naylor, a member of the Task Force stated that if the Board of County Commissioners do not commit to full support for the countywide trail concept, the Task Force would disband. Ms. Naylor requested a commitment within a week from the date of this meeting. Mr. Pagenhardt reiterated that he would be corresponding with the county attorney and that a deadline to the Board does not need to be issued. The Board of County Commissioners is committed to proceeding with the countywide recreational trail system. Many questions that were unanswered prior to this session had been addressed and answered.
8. Local residents met with the Board of County Commissioners to voice their opposition to proposed annexation of certain parcels by the Mayor and Town Council of Town of Mountain Lake Park. These individuals were vehemently against this annexation and requested that the Board support their opposition. The issue of possible legislative action to change current annexation law was suggested.
9. Carol Riley, Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners and County Administrator reviewed the meeting and committee schedule for the forthcoming week.

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

1. Mr. Pagenhardt reviewed a number of correspondences with the Board of County Commissioners.

2. The Board of County Commissioners conducted a departmental and agency session to address the issue of Court House Security. In attendance were Chief Deputy Gary Berkebile; Gary Mullich, Director, Department of General Services; Linda Lindsey, Risk Manager, Department of General Services; Debra Stemple, Circuit Court representative; and Ginny McGann, Planner, Department of Emergency Management. The focal point of the discussion of liability and responsibility of the Sheriff as the constitutional officer of the State of Maryland charged with courthouse security. The Board determined that securing of all court related and judicial system functions would be a priority. The Board will approve all purchases for the expenditure of funds under the Homeland Security Funds.

3. 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