

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
May 17, 2011

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Gregan T. Crawford
Commissioner Robert G. Gatto
Commissioner James M. Raley

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 there was one addition and no deletions to the Public Meeting Agenda for May 17, 2011. The Department of Planning and Land Development will request approval for the designation of local matching funds for the Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation. Also, Chairman Crawford announced that the Board will move into Executive Session at the end of the Public Session. Mr. Pagenhardt also noted several matters to be discussed during the administrative session on this date.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Gatto, which was seconded by Commissioner Raley, and made unanimous by Chairman Crawford, approved the Public Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2011 and Administrative Meeting Minutes for May 3, 2011.
3. The Board of County Commissioners executed a Proclamation designating May as "Water Safety Month in Garrett County".
4. The Board of County Commissioners executed a Certificate of Commendation honoring Claude F. Beckman for his years of military service and his conducting military honors for over 1,000 deceased veterans since 1984. A number of VFW members and family members were in attendance for this recognition.
5. Nicole Christian, President and CEO with the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the Garrett County Heritage Area Management Plan.
6. John Nelson, Director, Department of Planning and Land Development presented the Board of County Commissioners with a recommendation that the County approve a commitment of up to \$75,000 of the retained Ag-Transfer Tax as Garrett County Government's local matching funds for the Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012 Easement Acquisition Program. The Board, on a motion by Chairman Crawford, which was seconded by Commissioner Gatto, and made unanimous by Commissioner Raley, approved the recommendation and executed a letter to the Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation which noted their approval.

7. The Purchasing Department presented a recommendation of bid award for Construction of Concrete Curb (bid # 11-0421) to the Board of County Commissioners. The Board, on a motion by Commissioner Raley, which was seconded by Commissioner Gatto, and made unanimous by Chairman Crawford, approved an award to Winters General Contractor, Inc. for \$32,700.
8. George Falter made comments on a variety of issues including Economic Development, Public Meeting dates and times, and other matters.
9. The Board of County Commissioners conducted a *Public Hearing* to receive commentary on community development and housing needs and to offer citizens the opportunity to hear and review plans for applications that the Board proposes to submit to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). These programs are:
 - a) Home Repair Program. The Board was requested to authorize the submittal of an application for funds in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.
 - b) Individual Development Account Program. The Board was requested to authorize the submittal of an application for funds in an amount not to exceed \$130,000.

The Board, on a motion by Commissioner Raley, which was seconded by Commissioner Gatto, and made unanimous by Chairman Crawford, closed the public hearing and approved Chairman Crawford and Mr. Pagenhardt to execute official Resolutions as presented on this date.

Also, public commentary was received from constituents representing the Crellin Community Center who, along with Garrett County Community Action Committee, requested support from the Board of County Commissioners for additional CDBG funds for the demolition of the Center. The Board unanimously agreed to support this request for funding.

10. Garrett County Trails Committee presented a summary of current Garrett County trail projects and specific requested actions to the Board of County Commissioners. A copy of this summary is attached to these Public Meeting Minutes as Exhibit 1.

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

1. Mr. Pagenhardt reviewed a number of administrative correspondence and other matters with the Board of County Commissioners.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Chairman Crawford, which was seconded by Commissioner Raley, and made unanimous by Commissioner Gatto, re-appointed Beverly Beard and Barbara Baker to the Garrett County Department of Social Services Advisory Board. Official letters of appointment will be sent to each appointee under the signature of Chairman Crawford specifying the terms of appointment.
3. Discussion on the decision by the Garrett County Board of Education on Bloomington Elementary School relative to status and ownership of the building and grounds when declared surplus.
4. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Chairman Crawford, which was seconded by Commissioner Raley, and made unanimous by Commissioner Gatto, approved a request by

the Mayor and Town Council of Grantsville for a waiver of taxes due from Yoder's Locker Plant in the amount of \$16,033.87 (real property, interest, and Landfill ad valorem). The Mayor and Town Council are in the process of acquiring the property with plans of demolition and all liens against the property need to be released.

5. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Chairman Crawford, which was seconded by Commissioner Gatto, and made unanimous by Commissioner Raley, moved into Executive Session under section 10-508 of the Maryland Open Meetings Law on this date to discuss personnel matters. The same motion ended the Executive Session.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

R. Lamont Pagenhardt,
County Administrator

Gregan T. Crawford, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Date

EXHIBIT 1 – PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES – MAY 17, 2011

Short Summary of Current Garrett Trails Projects and Specific Requested Actions

Garrett Trails' origins were in a Task Force appointed by the County Commissioners in 2002. In 2008, Garrett Trails reorganized as a private nonprofit to help raise funds and mobilize volunteers in the efforts to develop an outstanding, well-used network of trails in the county.

The County is a critical player in the development of trails. Among many other reasons, the county is eligible for different funding sources than 501c3s, has grant management capacity and can accept property easements. Over the past several years, the county has:

1. Accepted easements from property owners willing to have trails built on their land
2. Entered into maintenance agreement with Garrett Trails to maintain those trails
3. Recommended County Staff to serve on Garrett Trails advisory board
4. Accepted funds, and allocated funds for trail design
5. Provided in-kind county staff labor

In the last 6 months, there has been considerable interests in the Continental Divide Loop Trail and several "log jams" that had hampered our ability to secure trail construction funding seem to have broken free. Consequently we have several projects ready to move forward. Below we review these projects and the actions we are requesting of the board of commissioners.

Mid County Connector—Visitor Center Trail

Funding Status: Funded with National Recreational Trails (NRT) which has been awarded and ARC Construction Funding which has preliminary approval.

Work Complete: Garrett Trails has secured all easements which were accepted by the county, has received NEPA (environmental) review, and permits; County and Garrett Trails have paid for design work; Garrett Trails cleared the trail corridor last year; coordinated with chamber on trailhead. Also related to work planned by ASCI, Garrett Trails and GCCAC this summer in Fork Run.

Specific Action Requests

- a. Commissioners sign NRT MOU and with that obligate the county to bid the contract and inspect project on completion, and enter separate MOU with Garrett College to secure the equipment (as required by SHA)
- b. Gravel, asphalt and/or cash contribution of up to \$24,900
- c. Cooperate in placement of trailhead outside visitor center as a county owned building

Meadow Mountain Trail Extension and Improvement—New Germany Road to Route 495.

Funding Status: National Recreational Trails Funding Request for \$316,000 has been submitted and we have had favorable discussions. Matching funds of \$250,000 from ARC have been submitted as a part of FY 2013 requests. Without ARC funding we could still probably move forward on a smaller scope of work with NRT funds.

Work Complete: County paid for design documents, these are 90% complete; two 'easements' are needed; we have had years of negotiation with University of MD and DNR about construction and they are on the verge of providing agreements; NEPA letters have been sent; significant work on getting agreement from SHA to consider a much larger request for NRT funds so that this project did not have to meet TEP's design requirements (TEP design requirements would not have been acceptable to DNR); assessment of existing trail condition and need for improvement; flagging of new construction component and DNR review.

Action Requests

- d. Review and sign two "Easement" documents
 - i. University of MD License Agreement (has been reviewed once by M. Ghetty; latest copy is attached)
 - ii. DNR Agreement (being drafted, but will have similar items as the University of MD license)
- b. Be willing to act as grant manager for ARC and NRT funds for this project

Glendale Road Path

With both the increase bike and pedestrian traffic and the new water line scheduled to be put in place along Glendale Road, this project is being pushed forward. The current approach to this project is as follows:

- Garrett Trails is seeking meetings with property owners and is seeking to secure agreement to sign easements for the path. A letter has been sent to property owners and meetings are to be held in June.
- Garrett Trails has selected Glendale Path as one of 2 focus areas for the design work being done by Thrasher Engineering and consequently will be providing alignment and profile of the trail to Public Utilities.
- Public Utilities will move forward with design plans assuming a "zero fill" bench cut and burying of the waterline at least 4 ft below the new cut.
- Assuming Garrett trails is able to secure easements then the Roads department could come in and lay gravel and asphalt.
- Garrett Trails can write NRT grant proposals for retaining wall work and if necessary to pay for supplies.

Action Requests

- e. Ongoing support for Public Utilities and County Roads working together with Garrett Trails on this project
- f. Allocate up to \$20,000 for the completion of construction documents for the trail after easements are secured.