

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
January 10, 2012

IN ATTENDANCE

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

County Administrator R. Lamont Pagenhardt

PUBLIC SESSION

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Additions/deletions to Public Meeting Agenda. Mr. Pagenhardt indicated there were no additions or deletions to the Public Meeting Agenda for January 10, 2012. Mr. Pagenhardt also noted matters to be discussed during the administrative session on this date.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Crawford, which was seconded by Commissioner Gatto, and made unanimous by Chairman Raley, approved the Public Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2011.
3. Donald DeWitt, Director, Garrett County Department of Social Services updated the Board of County Commissioners on the following issues:
 - a) Close out of 2011 financial audit was completed. It was noted that the budget for 2012 will again be evaluated as part of the ongoing budget deficits with the State of Maryland.
 - b) Briefing on various departmental programs to include staffing levels and reductions.
 - c) Update of Grantsville Office and operational hours for residents and clients.
 - d) Financial collection data for child support and custodial parents.
 - e) Staff with the Department participated in fund raising events for local charities and raised money and supplies for a number of disadvantaged persons.
 - f) Other departmental and agency matters
4. David Baker, Supervisor, Garrett County Department of Solid Waste and Recycling updated the Board of County Commissioners on the following issues:
 - a) Project update to include timber harvest, Cell 4 construction, King's Run Collection Site expansion project, and other information.
 - b) Update on collection site sticker sale program. Included in the sale price a customer survey is being completed to congregate public service suggestions.
 - c) Landfill and collection site operating hours are being evaluated to determine most convenient and well-located services.
 - d) Consumer, land clearing, commercial, municipal, recycling, and other waste tonnage comparison.

- e) Other departmental matters.
5. Jon Wynn, Executive Director, Western Maryland Consortium updated the Board of County Commissioners on the following issues:
- a) Update on budget actual and projections for this year and long term.
 - b) Services available to persons seeking employment to include job search, application completion, training programs, educational and occupational opportunity, and other services available to the unemployed, dislocated, or underemployed.
 - c) Applications are now being accepted for the Summer Youth Program.
 - d) Update of plant closing and employee layoff of Fecheimer Company in Grantsville and what the Consortium is doing to assist dislocated workers.
 - e) Mr. DeWitt spoke on the collaboration of parallel programs between the Department of Social Services and the Consortium.
 - f) Other departmental matters
6. Linda Lindsey, Director, Garrett County Department of Public Utilities updated the Board of County Commissioners on the following issues (list attached as Exhibit 1 of the public meeting minutes):
- a) Thayerville Water System
 - b) McHenry Water System
 - c) Pee Wee Hill Water Project
 - d) Friendsville Sewer System – Maple Street Sewer Line Extension Project
 - e) Deep Creek Lake Western Conveyance
 - f) Administrative matters to include schedule to minimize employee overtime hours.
 - g) Other departmental matters

Commissioner Crawford asked questions on the update of the Water and Sewer Master Plan and Puzzely Run Project and answers were provided by staff in attendance.

7. Mount Haven Wellness and Recovery provided an update on this mental health drop-in center located in Oakland. This organization was previously titled Harvey House.
8. The Board of County Commissioners reviewed a letter from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) on the Forest Pest Management Program for the management of gypsy moth in Garrett County. Pursuant to that document, Willie Lantz with the University of Maryland Extension was in attendance for this session and provided a history and review of the proposal for suppression and funding. MDA requested a financial commitment of \$37,480 cost share with a January 15, 2012 time line to respond. Commissioner Crawford entered a motion to appropriate the cost of \$37,480 for this purpose. Commissioner Gatto seconded the motion which was made unanimous by Chairman Raley. Mr. Pagenhardt will communicate this decision to MDA.
9. The Board of County Commissioners read a statement on land use management which is attached as Exhibit 2 of these public meeting minutes. John Nelson, Director, Department of Planning and Land Development spoke of the process the Board will undertake to review and develop a draft ordinance on countywide land use with legislative authority provided to county governmental jurisdictions under Article 66B of the Annotated Code of the State of Maryland over the forthcoming months.

10. Public Commentary. Teddy Kitzmiller requested that the Board of County Commissioners implement a public policy on employee ethics. This request is in furtherance of recent legal proceedings by the County versus Mr. Kitzmiller.
11. Carol Riley-Alexander, Executive Assistant to the Board of County Commissioners and County Administrator, reviewed the meeting and committee schedule for the forthcoming weeks.
12. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Gatto, which was seconded by Commissioner Crawford, and made unanimous by Chairman Raley, moved into Executive Session under section 10-508 of the Maryland Open Meetings Law on this date to discuss personnel and legal matters. The same motion ended the Executive Session.

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

1. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Crawford, which was seconded by Commissioner Gatto, and made unanimous by Chairman Raley, appointed Michele Dale and Julie Yoder to the Local Management Board. Official letters of appointment will be sent to each appointee under the signature of Chairman Raley.
2. Mr. Pagenhardt provided an update on the vacant Bloomington Elementary School and possible sale of the building and grounds.
3. Mr. Pagenhardt presented a suggestion that the Board of County Commissioners consider including a representative from the Garrett County Mayors Association on the Salary Review Commission. The Board had recommended amending current legislation on the membership of the Commission that reads that a member of the Garrett County League of Women Voters should be included. The League is no longer in place and the Board had presented legislation for consideration that would add a "member at large" on the Commission to replace the League. The Board agreed to the designation of a member of the Garrett County Mayors Association on the Commission.
4. The Board of County Commissioners executed a revised Garrett County Forfeiture Agreement between the Board of Garrett County Commissioners, Garrett County State's Attorney Lisa T. Welch, Sheriff Robert Corley, and Maryland State Police (MSP) Superintendent Colonel Marcus Brown. (The reason for the revised draft is due to the appointment of Colonel Brown as MSP Superintendent).
5. Mr. Pagenhardt reviewed a number of other informational, administrative and pending issues.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

R. Lamont Pagenhardt,
County Administrator

James M. Raley, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Date

Department of Public Utilities

Departmental Update

January 10, 2012

Water:

a. **Thayerville Water System**

Letters have been sent to parties from which easements are required. DPU is currently working on negotiating and obtaining the easements.

b. **McHenry Water System**

Substantial Completion was issued to Robert D. Beitzel Excavating on November 18th. Minor punchlist and clean-up items will occur in the spring. Connection letters have been sent to all affected property owners.

c. **Pee Wee Hill Water Project**

Construction work on Contract 1, Water Line Extension and Booster Station, is basically complete. The contractor is waiting on electric service to be installed by Potomac Edison to the booster station so that start-up can occur. Contract 2, Water Storage Tank, is complete except for testing. Installation of the security fence around the tank site occurred on January 5th and 6th. Testing and disinfection of the infrastructure will occur once power is supplied to the booster station and water pumped to the water storage tank. Minor punchlist items and final clean-up will occur in the spring.

Sewer:

a. **Friendsville Sewer System – Maple Street Sewer Line Extension Project**

ARC has approved utilizing remaining grant funds in the amount of \$487,565.33 for construction of Phase II of the project which consists of extension of sewer service to residents on Maple Street. DPU and the Purchasing Department are preparing to solicit proposals for engineering services.

b. **Deep Creek Lake Western Conveyance**

Easements/agreements with Brookfield/Brascan Power and the Sandy Beach Development are being worked on by the County Attorney. Due to a pipeline realignment along Marsh Hill Road, an easement is needed from the Rahuba Group. The design engineers are completing the plat for the acquisition.

Administrative:

- a. In an attempt to minimize overtime related to after-hours call-outs, we have revised the work schedule for “on-call” maintenance personnel. The “on-call” employee will now work 2nd shift along with the permanent 2nd shift employee in order to address emergency calls. Second shift operates from 2:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and the shift begins on Thursday and runs through Wednesday of the following week. Calls received after 10:00 p.m., unless for a commercial establishment or if sewage is backing-up into a dwelling, will be addressed the following morning.

THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

203 South Fourth Street - Courthouse - Room 207 Oakland, Maryland 21550

www.garrettcounty.org . countycommissioners@garrettcounty.org

301-334-8970

301-895-3188

FAX 301-334-5000

Board of Commissioners

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

County Administrator
R. Lamont Pagenhardt

County Attorney
Gorman E. Getty III

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 10, 2012

The on going interest in the development of shale gas, industrial wind energy, and even junkyards brings to light the concerns that exist for property owners. The absence of any reasonable and prudent land management policy for Garrett County leaves the citizens, visitors, businesses, and property owners of Garrett County vulnerable to what many view as an exploitation of our lands.

The Commissioners have requested that a land use policy be explored, and drafted by staff, that can be shared with the planning commission, organizations and the general public. The direction will be to take into consideration the on going changes to land use in Garrett County and discussing potential reasonable standards for what are viewed as potential harmful effects of said usages. The continuing absence of a comprehensive approach, and the insistence of the State that we have statutory authority to enact regulations to help address basic issues affecting the County, have lead the County Commission to share the concern of many citizens. Citizens, organizations and stakeholders have also expressed apprehension about the lack of a responsible ability to manage areas of concerns regarding the potential for changing land uses on a large scale basis throughout the County.

Many feel the failure to act will only allow other institutions and entities to shape and control the future of Garrett County, which may not necessarily balance the interests of all of the stakeholders. The purpose is to have an open dialogue about land use and allow for input from all citizens through open forums and public meetings. Once the draft proposal is complete, the document will be shared on the County website, at public libraries, and citizens who desire a print copy will have one made available.