

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
January 16, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Paul C. Edwards
Commissioner James C. Hinebaugh, Jr.
Commissioner S. Larry Tichnell

County Administrator R. Lamont Pagenhardt

1. Mr. Pagenhardt reviewed a number of administrative and personnel matters under his level of authority. This dialog included an update on County Emergency Medical Services personnel and operational services with Northern Garrett Rescue Association and Southern Garrett Rescue Association.
2. The Board of County Commissioners entered into discussion on snow removal and long-term agreement provisions for Overlook Pass.
3. The Board of County Commissioners was presented with the State of Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) proposed shale gas regulations as listed in the Maryland Register. Deborah Carpenter with the Department of Planning and Community Development reviewed this issue with the Board and asked for comments which will be accepted by MDE up to February 9, 2015.

Ms. Carpenter gave a brief synopsis of the history of the issue of Marcellus Shale Gas drilling, and spoke about the work of the state commission, the Shale Gas Advisory Committee, Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee, and current educational efforts of the Planning Commission. As part of the Planning Commission's educational efforts the Planning and Land Management Office had conducted a spatial analysis of current and proposed regulations. This analysis revealed that if all proposed best management practices were put in place, the opportunity for vertical drilling of Marcellus Shale would be extremely limited. Shortly after this analysis was presented to the Planning Commission, MDE released their draft regulations and they incorporated all of the proposed best management practices. The Board decided to draft a letter to MDE as comment to these regulations stating that though they support safe and responsible drilling, these regulations would be so prohibitive that the likelihood is great of shale gas exploration and production not being a viable enterprise in Garrett County.

In addition, Ms. Carpenter mentioned the specific request from the Deep Creek Property Owners Association (POA) to ban shale gas drilling in the Deep Creek watershed. This request was made to the previous Board of Commissioners but as yet, has not been answered. The Board discussed options within the watershed but no final determination was made.

4. The Board of County Commissioners was presented with the status of final permitting through the State of Maryland Department of the Environment and Department of Natural Resources for the Western Conveyance Water and Sewer Project. Patrick Hudnall, Division Chief with the

Department of Public Works – Utilities Division provided a detailed summary of this project status to the Board.

It was decided to schedule a special session with Garrett County Delegation and appropriate State departments as soon as feasible. This matter will be classified as a priority project.

5. County Engineer Dwight Emory presented and asked for direction from the Board on the Adventure Sports Center International Local Access Road Bridge project. The Board directed Mr. Emory to discontinue project planning and pursue redirecting Appalachian Regional Commission approved funds (\$500,000) to the Swallow Falls Bridge Project.
6. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, moved into Special Executive Session under Section 10-508 of the Maryland Open Meetings Law on this date to address economic development matters. The same motion ended the Executive Session.
7. The Board of County Commissioners, Mr. Pagenhardt, and Scott Weeks, Department of Financial Services Director discussed a number of budgetary and financial matters. On this date, the Board agreed and then directed Mr. Pagenhardt to inform all County Government departments, offices, and component units that Fiscal Year 2016 budget request should be based a 1% reduction of approved Fiscal Year 2015.

The Board and Mr. Pagenhardt will look at other plans to reduce the total operating expenditures for Fiscal Year 2016 and for impending fiscal budget years.

8. Other pending informational issues were reviewed.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

R. Lamont Pagenhardt,
County Administrator

Paul C. Edwards, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Date