

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE

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

County Administrator Kevin G. Null

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

1. John Frank, Director, Garrett County Department of Public Safety & Emergency Management, updated the Board of County Commissioners on the EMT staffing provided by the County. The County currently provides 10 full-time and 3 part-time paid EMT's to supplement the volunteer rescue squads. Even with paid staff, the rescue squads are failing to respond to emergency calls. The Garrett County Emergency Services Board has requested the Board of County Commissioners send a letter to the Northern Garrett Rescue Squad requesting they submit a plan to address the squads staffing issues and high failed call rate.
 - The Board, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edward, authorized a letter to be sent to the Garrett County Northern Garrett Rescue Squad requesting a plan outlining how they will address the staffing issues. The plan may be submitted after their October Membership meeting. A letter will be sent to the Northern Garrett Rescue Squad under the signature of Chairman Edwards.

1. Scott Weeks, Director, Department of Financial Services updated the Board of County Commissioners on the Keyzers Ridge Investment Agreement. Pursuant to the Investment Agreement all net proceeds generated from the sale of the property in the park is remitted back to the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) until DBED's \$2.5 million investment is recovered. According to Mr. Weeks' understanding of the agreement, any remaining balance owed to DBED after 25 years would be forgiven. When the County invested \$1.658 million for the construction of a building for Strata Safety Products, the County never disbursed any funds to DBED for the 6.35 acre parcel. Therefore, any lease payments generated off of the 6.35 acre parcel would need to be remitted to DBED annually. Annual lease payments from Strata equate to \$61,596. Pursuant to the Investment Agreement the property value has to sell at a minimum value of \$13,749.11/acre for DBED to recover their \$2.5 million for 181.83 acres. Mr. Weeks recommended the County disburse \$86,700 to DBED for the 6.35 acres of property, an amount consistent with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation assessment. If approved, all lease payments would be retained by the County and not remitted to DBED. Mr. Weeks noted that the break-even point for this transaction was 1.4 years.
 - The Board, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, authorized Mr. Weeks to proceed with the purchase of the property at the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation value of \$86,700.

2. Mr. Null reviewed a number of administrative, non-privileged, personnel, and managerial matters under his authority and jurisdiction with the Board of County Commissioners.

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Additions/deletions to Public Meeting agenda. Mr. Null indicated one addition and no deletions to the Public Meeting Agenda for September 1, 2015. The Elks, USA requested a Proclamation in recognition of Patriotism Week. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Agenda for September 1, 2015.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Minutes August 24, 2015.
3. The Board of County Commissioners issued a Proclamation to the Elks, USA in recognition of Patriotism Week, September 7-13, 2015.
4. Mountain Maryland Energy Advisory Committee (MMEAC). Mr. Evan Hansen, President of Downstream Strategies presented a summary of the Mountain Maryland Energy Advisory Committee Final Report. Created in November 2013, the MMECA has advised the Commissioners on local and state policy, regulations, programs, and legislation. The Committee' recommendations focused on solar power, biomass energy, and home emergency efficiency.
5. The Garrett County Local Management Board requested an extension of the membership term to the Local Management Board for member Henrietta Lease for a second term effective July 16, 2015 through July 16, 2018.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the reappointment of Ms. Lease. An official letter of appointment will be sent to Ms. Lease under the signature of Chairman Edwards outlining the term of appointment.

6. Public Commentary

- A Resident asked each Commissioner to comment on their response to the letter from Maryland Department of the Environment denying the Hoyes Run wells water appropriation permit. Commissioners indicated that they would be meeting with the Department of Public Utilities to determine what option may be available.

Chairman Edwards stated the Garrett County has high quality and quantity water, and need to get the water to the areas that need it. The denial of the Hoyes Run Wells water appropriation may affect the expansion plans at the WISP and a planned development that will need water. The cost of servicing the area is also a concern.

Resident asked if the County has an impact fee that developers are required to pay in order to connect to the County system. The County currently does not have an impact fee.

7. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adjourned the public meeting.
8. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adjourned the public meeting

and moved into Executive Session under Section 10-508 of the Maryland Open Meetings Law on this date to address financial matters. The same motion ended the Executive Session.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

Kevin G. Null
County Administrator

Paul C. Edwards, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Date