

**BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Monday, April 6, 2020**

**Meeting was Held via Video Conference**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Chairman Paul C. Edwards**  
**Commissioner James C. Hinebaugh**  
**Commissioner S. Larry Tichnell**

**County Administrator Kevin G. Null**

**CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:00 PM**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Mr. Null indicated there two (2) additions and no deletion to the Public Meeting Agenda.
  - Appointment to the Garrett County Commission for Women
  - Accommodation Tax Deferral Program

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 amended Public Meeting Agenda for April 6, 2020.

2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioners Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2020.

**3. CONTRACT OF SALE – PURCHASE OF PROPERTY - EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER BUILDING**

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 purchase of property located at 32 Outfitters Way, McHenry, Maryland for the new Garrett County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The 10,746 square foot building, which is currently operated as a hardware store, will be converted into the Garrett County Emergency Operations Center and will able to house all emergency management activities in one location.

This Agreement, between Robert F. Browning DBA Browning Associates and Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, Maryland, is based upon two (2) certified appraisals. This project is funded with \$800,000 in state bonds.

Garrett County Government has been working to establish an Emergency Operations Center since 2015 and is the only county in the state of Maryland that does not have an established Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to handle full-scale activation or provide backup 911 communications capabilities. The current Emergency Operations Center is housed in a temporary office trailer and a conference room at the Garrett County Airport.

**4. Catholic Charities Senior Communities – Backbone Housing, Inc. – Request for Fiscal Year 2020**

**County Property Tax Abatement.** The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved a real property tax exemption for Catholic Charities Senior

Communities – Backbone Housing for Fiscal Year 2021, as authorized in the Maryland Tax Code, Section 7-502.

**5. Board Appointments/Reappointments – Garrett County Commission for Women**

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, appointed the following individuals to the Garrett County Commission for Women:

- Pamela Trickett – fulfilling the unexpired term of Michelle Harman
- Melita Friend – County Commissioner Appointee
- Juliet Sanders – County Commissioner Appointee

**6. Accommodation Tax Deferral Program**

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Transient Vacation Rental Unit market, as well as the vacation rental market in general, the Board of County Commissioners for Garrett County authorized the following deferral for any business, group, or individual who rents vacation property and remits an Accommodation Tax to Garrett County.

Effective immediately, accommodation tax payments may be deferred as follows:

<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Normal Due Date</u>	<u>Deferral Date</u>
March 2020	April 21, 2020	June 30, 2020
April 2020	May 21, 2020	July 31, 2020
May 2020	June 21, 2020	August 31, 2020

Should individuals opt for the deferral plan, no interest or penalties will be applied; however, no discounts will be applied. Payments should be received in the Garrett County Tax Office on the deferral due date.

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 Accommodation Tax Deferral Program.

**7. Update on County Response to COVID-19:**

Brief updates on Garrett County Government’s response to COVID-19 was given by the Garrett County Health Department, Garrett County Department of Emergency Management, and the Garrett County Department of Economic Development.

8. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Please check the County’s website at [www.garrettcounty.org](http://www.garrettcounty.org) for meeting information.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 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 at 4:35 P.M.

**Attest:**

**By Order of the Board,**

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**KEVIN G. NULL**  
County Administrator

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**PAUL C. EDWARDS**, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners