

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
Monday, March 1, 2021
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

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Invocation by Commissioner Tichnell

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Mr. Null indicated there was no addition or deletion to the Public Meeting Agenda. 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 February 16, 2021.
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 of February 1, 2021.
3. **Update on County Response to COVID-19:** Robert Stephens, Garrett County Health Officer provided an update on COVID-19 and vaccine.
 - 1,866 positive cases (3.14% positivity rate with a 7-day case rate of 4.43)
 - 60 reported deaths
 - The Garrett County Health Department is working with schools to help keep students safe as they begin returning back to school.
 - COVID virus continues to circulate and testing is still important, especially if travelling. Drive-thru testing is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-3 at the MEDCO building in McHenry with limited testing daily at the Health Department.

Vaccinations

 - 18.2% of the Garrett County population has been vaccinated. The County is to receive 300 doses of vaccine a week.
 - The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has just been approved and we anticipate receiving 100 doses this week.
 - There are no open clinics at this time, other than the previously scheduled, due to the lack of vaccine. Clinic's may be available by the middle of March.
4. Proclamation – Women's History Month – March 2021 – Lisa Thayer Welch, Chair of the Garrett County Commission for Women, provided the Board of County Commissioners with an update on the activities of the Commission. Ms. Welch stated the mission of their organization is *"to promote a positive image of women, advise county government, advance solutions and serve as a countywide resource to promote social, political, and economic equality for women"*.

5. **Avilton Community Association – Request for Fiscal Year 2022 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 Avilton Community Association for Fiscal Year 2022.

6. **Board Appointments/Reappointments** - The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, appointed/reappointed the following individuals:
 - ❖ **Garrett County Planning Commission** – Five (5)Year Terms.
 - Reappointments
 - Anthony Doerr
 - Jeff Messenger
 - William Weissgerber - Alternate

 - ❖ **Garrett Trails Advisory Committee** – Three (3)Year Terms
 - Reappointment
 - James Hinebaugh, Garrett County Commissioner
 - David Cotton, Maryland Department of Planning, Mountain Maryland Trails
 - Kim Folk, Garrett Heritage Area & Groups Director
 - Mark Weber, Garrett County Department of Planning & Land Development
 - David Ritchie, Garrett County Department of Engineering
 - Luke Mongrain, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 - Sean Nolan, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

 - Appointments
 - Joseph Rogers, Maryland Department of Planning

 - ❖ **Garrett Regional Medical Center – Board of Governors Designee Appointment** – Due to the membership modification and reduction of Garrett Regional Medical Center – Board of Governors, Dr. Karl Schwalm agreed to serve as Chairman Paul Edward’s Designee in place of Commissioner Tichnell’s appointee. This appointment will continue for the term of Chairman Edward’s.

Official letters will be sent to all appointees under the signature of Chairman Edwards outlining the terms of appointment.

7. The Garrett County Purchasing Department presented the following Bid recommendations:

Bid #21-0204 – Health Center Roof Replacement

Seven (7) Bids were received for this Bid: Vertex Roofing Contractors, Inc. (\$131,418.00), Thomas & Thomas Construction, LLC (\$159,938.00), D Project, Inc. (\$161,000.00), RPM, LLC (\$165,330.00), Ruff Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. (\$206,000.00), AEI Builders, LLC (\$217,600.00), and Hite Associates, Inc. (\$266,000.00).

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on the feedback from the Department of Facilities & Maintenance, the Garrett County Purchasing Department recommended awarding the Bid to Vertex Roofing Contractions, Inc. for \$131,418.00.

Bid #21-0211 – Courthouse Exterior Painting

Six (6) Bids were received for this Bid: Titan Industrial Services, Inc. (\$54,200.00), Hoyman Painting (\$59,635.00), Colossal Contractors, Inc. (\$79,839.00), Eastwood Painting & Contracting, Inc. (\$84,400.00), E.A.R.N. Contractors, Inc. (\$96,500.00), and Commercial Industrial Applications, LLC (\$159,113.00).

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on the feedback from the Department of Facilities & Maintenance, the Garrett County Purchasing Department recommended awarding the Bid to Titan Industrial Services, Inc. for \$54,200.00.

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 Bid Awards as recommended.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ❖ Garrett County Government Facilities Reopening - Garrett County Government Offices will reopen to the public with restrictions. Garrett County employees have continued to provide county service while facilities have been closed. While buildings will be open to the public, appointments are strongly encouraged, face covering is required, and social distancing must be maintained.
- ❖ Public Meeting - Effective with the March 16, 2021 Public Meeting, meetings will be open to the public at 50% capacity. This will allow approximately 12-15 people into the public meeting room. This will be on a first come first serve basis. Face covering and social distancing is required. Anyone who would like to comment during the public comment period must sign in before entering the meeting room and come to the front to make comments. Meeting will continue to be streamed via Zoom. Details will be provided in a press release.
- ❖ Comment/Question – The Board of County Commissioners stand on House Bill 655 - *Local Elections - County Commissioner and County Boards of Education - District Voting*. The bill requires an election of a county commissioner or members of certain county boards of education to represent a specific district and only applies to five counties.

The Board of County Commissioners submitted a letter in opposition to the legislation. In Garrett County, The Board of County Commissioners must represent a district but are voted on county-wide. Under the proposed legislation only the residents in the district could vote for the candidate in their district. The State should not have a say in how the citizens of Garrett County govern themselves. If the voters want a change, a process already exists-a referendum.

This Bill proposal has the possibility to fracture the relationships of the Board of County Commissioners. The Board needs to look out for the best interest of the entire County, not just one part.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) is also opposed to the Bill and Delegate Wendell Beitzel has testified in opposition to the Bill. If the Bill passes, the House must go to a conference committee in the Senate. At this time, we believe there is a 50/50 chance of the Bill passing.

9. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. with limited seating available and also via live stream.

ADJOURNMENT: 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 at 4:42 P.M.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners