

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, November 17, 2020

Meeting was Held via Video Conference

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Paul C. Edwards
Commissioner James C. Hinebaugh
County Administrator Kevin G. Null

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:07 PM

Commissioner Tichnell was not in attendance due to a personal matter.

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Mr. Null indicated there was one (1) addition to the Public Meeting Agenda. Garrett County Health Officer, Robert Stephens, will provide an COVID-19 response update. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded and carried by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Agenda with addition for November 17, 2020.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded and carried by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2020.
3. **Garrett County Health Department (GCHD) Update** – Robert Stephens, Health Officer
 - ❖ COVID-19 cases are 66.56 per thousand. This is up from 12 per thousand two weeks ago. Two weeks ago, the County's 7-day case rate average was under 12 per thousand-today it is 66.56. While the increase is not unexpected, the dramatic increase is. Contact tracing has shown that most contract the virus from friends and family at family gatherings and church.
 - ❖ Reviewed the updated orders from Governor Hogan - Executive Orders are law. Face coverings are required everywhere - public spaces, retail, churches.
 - ❖ The GCHD has issued compliance orders and in a couple of instances, quarantine orders for failure to comply with Executive Orders.
 - ❖ The GCHD is working on process and procedures for distributing the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available.
 - ❖ Health Department will have a free testing on Friday, November 20th from 9-12 at the Health Department. Additional testing is being planned. The Allegany County testing site at the fairgrounds is also open to Garrett County residents.
4. **Garrett College:** Presentation of Strategic Plan Summary. Julie Yoder, Dean of Continuing Education and Workforce Development, Garrett College, presented an overview of the Garrett College Strategic Plan.

The Board of County Commissioners thanked Dr. Midcap and Ms. Yoder for their efforts and well preparedness of the Plan. The presentation submitted is exactly what is expected from the Garrett County Board of Education.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC MEETING AND OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

On a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded and carried by Chairman Edwards, the Public Meeting was closed and the Public Hearing opened at 4:36 p.m.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING** – Maryland Department of Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) – Community Development & Homeless Round – Resolution Granting Authorization to Apply.

Cynthia Sharon, Project Manager, Garrett County Department of Economic Development, reported that citizens are invited to express their views on community development, economic development, housing and homeless needs, in preparation for the submission of an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development’s - CDBG Program. Comments will be accepted through December 4, 2020 via email at gcomments@garrettcountry.org. All comments will be made part of the record. Approximately Five Million (\$5,000,000) in CDBG funding is available to be awarded statewide.

Applications for consideration of MD CDBG funding will be made available for public review Monday, November 30, 2020 through Friday, December 4, 2020 by accessing the file share website, using information provided below:

URL: <https://www.garrettcountry.org/economic-development/filesare/md-community-development-and-homelessness>

USERNAME: CD&H

PASSWORD: CDH2021

There are several applications proposed for submission, to include engineering for a regional wastewater treatment plant, a home repair program, kitchen equipment for a senior center, and a homeless initiative project. Requests for funding may not exceed a total of \$800,000. Beneficiaries to be served are anticipated to exceed 1,000. Applications are due to MD DHCD on the revised due date of January 22, 2021.

Duane Yoder, President, Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. (CAC), stated that this application request is for the “normal” round of CDBG funding. The prior CDBG funding request was for CARES funds. Mr. Yoder spoke on the needed repairs to the homeless center and commercial kitchen upgrades. He also discussed the Home Repair Program needs. Total amount requested by CAC should not exceed \$500,000.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING AND OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

On a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded and carried by Chairman Edwards, the Public Hearing was closed and the Public Meeting opened at 4:43 p.m.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ❖ Garrett County Government announced its Restaurant Relief Grant Program on Monday. A total of \$320,000 has been allocated. Grants of \$5,000 or \$10,000 will be provided to businesses on a first come – first serve basis. Details are provided on the Garrett County Government website.
- ❖ Chairman Edwards reviewed the updated Executive Order announced by Governor Hogan and reminded everyone that the County follows the Executive Orders.

7. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. via live stream.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded and carried by Chairman Edwards, adjourned the Public Meeting at 4:46 P.M.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners