

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Meeting was also Live Streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/garrettcountygovernment/>

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Paul C. Edwards
Commissioner Ryan S. Savage
County Administrator Kevin G. Null

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

1. Mr. Null reviewed a number of administrative and managerial matters under his authority and jurisdiction with the Board of County Commissioners.

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:02 PM

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Invocation by Senator Michael McKay

County Commissioner Larry Tichnell was absent due to illness.

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Mr. Null indicated no addition or deletion to the Public Meeting Agenda. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded and carried by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Agenda for November 21, 2023.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded and carried by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2023.
3. Recognition – Cornerstone Family Medicine – 30th Anniversary. The Board of County Commissioners recognized Dr. Sotiere Savopoulos for thirty years of service to the community.
4. The Garrett County Department of Financial Services - Purchasing Division presented the following Bid recommendations:

RFP #23-1017: Local Strategic Highway Safety Plans

One (1) response was received for this Bid: Mean & Hunt, Inc. (\$40,000)

Based on the overall evaluation summary and concurrence received from the Maryland Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office, the Selection Committee recommended that a contract for preparation of separate Local Strategic Highway Safety Plans for Garrett and Allegany County be awarded to Mead & Hunt, Inc. Total cost for both plans is \$40,000.

Funding for this project is through a Maryland Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office grant. Garrett and Allegany County has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the duties and responsibilities of each County under this joint venture project.

Bid #23-1026: Trash Service for County Facilities

Two (2) Bid responses were received for this Bid: Perrys Solid Waste Disposal (\$28,757.56) and Sunrise Sanitation Services, Inc. (\$35,769.24).

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on feedback received from County departments, the Purchasing Division recommended awarding the Bid to Pro Disposal of Maryland LLC – DBA Perry's Solid Waste Disposal for the total amount of \$28,757.56. This contract will result in savings of 10%.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded and carried by Chairman Edwards, approved both the RFP Award and Bid Award as recommended.

5. **2024 Legislative Requests** - The Board of County Commissioners and the Garrett County Liquor Control Board presented the 2024 Legislative requests to Senator Michael McKay and Delegate James Hinebaugh. A copy of the requests is attached.

Senator Michael McKay and Delegate James Hinebaugh provided a brief overview for the 2024 legislative session:

- Structural deficit the year of \$1.4 Billion
- Limited funding for local bond initiatives
- Areas of Interest – Tele-Pharmacy and Opioid Addiction Prevention

Chairman Edwards spoke on the need to modify the Blue Print for Maryland’s Future requirements related to *Student Centered Funding*. As written the requirement restricts local funding options related to student placement. The research for this requirement is based on schools with 500 or more students. Consideration will need to be given to allowing schools with less than 500 students to opt out. Allowing the opt out option would not cost any more or take funding from any schools.

The Garrett County Chamber of Commerce will host a Pre-Legislative meeting at Garrett College GIEC, Room 111 on December 7, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ❖ Due to the resignation of Mr. Cody Brill from the Garrett County Board of Education, pursuant to the Maryland Education Code, the Board of Garrett County Commissioners “shall appoint a qualified individual to fill any vacancy in an elected member’s position on the Board for the remainder of the term and until a successor is elected and qualifies”.

The Board of County Commissioners will solicit letters of interest and personal credentials from persons who may be interested in appointment to this position. Interested individuals **must** reside in District 1.

Letters of interest should be submitted to:

**Board of Garrett County Commissioners
Kevin G. Null, County Administrator
203 South Fourth Street
Oakland, Maryland 21550**

All documents must be received by 3:00 PM on Friday, December 15, 2023. The Board of County Commissioners will review the candidates and conduct interviews.

- ❖ The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded and carried by Chairman Edwards, adjourned the Public Meeting at 4:50 P.M.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Board of County Commissioners
For Garrett County
2024 Legislative Requests

1. A request by the Board of County Commissioners that the Maryland General Assembly amend the Garrett County Maryland Code of Ordinance, Section 30.21 BIDS AND CONTRACTS

(A) (1) Except for transactions under division (D) of this section or as otherwise authorized by law, the County Commissioners, or any employees of Garrett County, may not enter into any contract of sale or purchase to which the county is a party where the amount involved under the contract exceed ~~\$25,000~~ \$50,000 without advertising in one or more newspapers circulated in the county.

This change will align the County's procurement policy with the State of Maryland policies. At least three (3) competitive bids will be required under \$50,000.

Contact Person(s): Kevin G. Null, County Administrator
Scott Weeks, Director of Finance

⇒ **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ACTION:**

2. A request by the Board of County Commissioners to introduce legislation to authorize a DEEP CREEK LAKE-VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STUDY. The study will determine the impact on the management and spread of invasive and nuisance submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) species and impacts to shallow water sediment deposition and erosion. (Draft Legislation attached)

Contact Person(s): Kevin G. Null, County Administrator
Bruce Michaels, Watershed Coordinator

⇒ **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ACTION:**

3. A request by the Garrett County Sheriff for the purpose of altering the salary of the Garrett County Sheriff; repealing the requirement for the Garrett County Salary Study Commission to study and issue a report that contains recommendations relating to the salary of the Sheriff of Garrett County; and generally relating to the Garrett County Sheriff's salary.

The salary set by the County Commissioners of Garrett County under The Public Local Laws of Garrett County 32.41, **SHERIFF'S SALARY IS 80% OF THE SALARY OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY OF GARRETT COUNTY**, and repealing and reenacting, with amendments, The Public Laws of Garrett County, Section 32.42 and Article 12-Oulbic Local Laws of Maryland and repealing and reenacting, with amendments, MD Courts and Judicial Proceedings Code § 2-325 (2022)

Contact Person(s): Bryson Myers, Sheriff
Kevin G. Null, County Administrator

⇒ **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ACTION:**

4. A request by the Board of County Commissioners that the Maryland General Assembly provide a Legislative Bond in the amount of \$250,000 for the following project:

Garrett County Agricultural Fair

The Garrett County Agricultural Fair maintains and operates the Garrett County Fairgrounds. They have a need to replace two (2) *Quonset huts* that are used for exhibitions and displays throughout the year. The buildings have deteriorated and reached the end of their useful life.

The estimated cost to replace the buildings is \$290,000 plus site work and construction. We are requesting a **Legislative Bond in the amount of \$250,000**, which would be matched by the County.

Contact Person(s): Kevin G. Null, County Administrator

⇒ **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ACTION: Approved Request**

November 16, 2023

Cody Brill
809 Heritage Dr
Oakland, MD 21550

Paul Edwards
Chairman, Board of Garrett County Commissioners
203 South Fourth Street
Oakland, MD 21550

Dear Commissioners Paul Edwards, S. Larry Tichnell, and Ryan Savage

I am writing to formally submit my resignation as a member of the Board of Education for Garrett County Public Schools, effective today, November 16, 2023. This decision was not reached lightly. I have been informed that, by statute, I am unable to continue to volunteer in our school system while serving as a member of the Board of Education in Garrett County. I cannot, in good conscious, leave the young men I have had the pleasure of coaching over the last few years.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the educational development of our students and the betterment of our community. Serving in this capacity has been an honor and a privilege.

My decision to step down from this role is driven by my unwavering commitment to continue guiding and mentoring the young men. Coaching has always been a passion of mine, and I believe this change will allow me to use my skills and experience to help our students excel.

I want to assure you that I will work diligently to ensure a smooth transition. I am committed to providing any necessary support during the process.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Education. I am excited about this new chapter and remain deeply committed to the success and prosperity of our school district.

Sincerely,



Cody Brill

cc: Tom Woods, President Garrett County Board of Education