

**BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC MEETING**

**Held at the Avilton Community Center**

**August 15, 2016**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**County Administrator Kevin G. Null**

**CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 6:00 PM**

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Invocation by Commissioner Tichnell

**PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Mr. Null indicated there were no additions or corrections 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 August 15, 2016.
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 for July 19, 2016.
3. Pathways to Homeownership Program Funding - Chairman Edwards and Duane Yoder, President, Community Action Committee, Inc. provided an update on the Pathways to Homeownership program. As of June 30, 2016, the program has provided down payment assistance to 25 Garrett County homebuyers and has exhausted the initial funding. Mr. Yoder requested the County fund an additional \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2017.

The Board of County Commissioners on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved an allocation of \$150,000 for the Pathways to Homeownership Program.

4. Property Tax Abatement Request - Garrett County Agriculture Fair, Inc. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded and carried by Chairman Edwards approved the property tax abatement requested by the Garrett County Agriculture Fair, Inc. As a member of the Garrett County Agriculture Fair, Inc. Board of Directors, Commissioner Tichnell recused himself from the vote.
5. Garrett County Commission for Women - Appointment for a three (3) year term: Jeannette R. Fitzwater  
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 appointment of Ms. Fitzwater.

An official letter of appointment will be sent to Ms. Fitzwater under the signature of Chairman Edwards.

6. Public Commentary
  - a. Chairman Edwards announced that Grow West MD, LLC has been pre-approved to apply for a license to grow medical cannabis in Garrett County. While this is the beginning of the process, once the license is awarded, Grow West MD, LLC is expected to invest approximately \$2 million dollars and create 40 jobs in the County.
  - b. Question - County-wide Zoning - If zoning is the only way to control fracking in the County is there any consideration to adopting a County-wide Zoning Plan. The Board has not discussed county-wide zoning and to date, has not been asked to consider county-wide zoning.
  - c. Question - What is being done to improve internet access in the area? The Board discussed the DNG wireless project.
  - d. Announcement: The Maryland House Environmental Affairs Committee will hold a Public Meeting on "fracking" at Garrett College on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
7. The Board of County Commissioners next scheduled Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse with an Administrative Session scheduled at 3:00 p.m.

**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 6:45 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