

BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
May 6, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE

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

County Administrator Kevin G. Null

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

The Administrative Session was opened at 3:05 P.M.

1. The Board of County Commissioners reviewed its upcoming off-site public meeting schedule.
2. **Board Appointment/Reappointment – Emergency Medical Services - Region I EMS Advisory Council**
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 for a three (3) year term.

Appointment

Justin Orendorf – Fulfilling the unexpired term of Kenny Collins. Term Expires 01.15.2020

Reappointments

Jeffrey Hinebaugh

Diane Lee

Cheryl Rexrode

An official letter will be sent to each individual under the signature of Chairman Edwards outlining the terms of appointment

3. The Board of County Commissioners reviewed the Garrett County Government Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Schedule. A Public Hearing was scheduled for May 21, 2019 at Garrett College.
4. **VERSO Corporation – Luke Mill Closure Update** – Michael Hough, Director, Garrett County Department of Economic Development, provided an update on the efforts at the State and local levels to assist those impacted by the pending closure of the mill.
5. Mr. Null reviewed a number of administrative, non-privileged personnel, and managerial matters under his authority and jurisdiction with the Board of County Commissioners.

The Administrative Session was closed at 3:53 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:01 PM

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Invocation by Pastor Barbra Rexroad

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 May 6, 2019.
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 April 16, 2019.
3. Recognition of Garrett County Government Employees – Military Basic Training Completion
 - ❖ Nathan Ford – Army Reserve
 - ❖ Bradley Shaffer – Army National Guard
4. Proclamations:
 - ❖ Foster Care Month – May 2019. The Board of County Commissioners presented the Garrett County Health Department staff with a proclamation in honor of this recognition.
 - ❖ Emergency Medical Services Week – May 19-25, 2019. The Board of County Commissioners presented the Proclamation to representatives of the Emergency Medical Services in honor of this recognition.

5. The Garrett County Purchasing Department presented the following recommendation:

Bid #19-0418 – Puzzley Run Production Well Construction

Installation of two (2) production wells. Two (2) Bids were received for this Bid: Wayne’s Water ‘n’ Wells, Inc. (\$126,464.50), and Sperry Drilling, Inc. (\$127,173.34).

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on the feedback from the Department of Public Works – Utilities Division, the Garrett County Purchasing Department recommended awarding the Bid to Wayne’s Water ‘n’ Wells, Inc., LLC for \$126,464.50.

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 Bid Award as recommended.

6. **Fiscal Year 2020 Garrett County Government Budget** - Scott Weeks, Director, Garrett County Department of Financial Services, presented a preliminary overview of the Garrett County Government Fiscal Year 2020 Budget:

Preliminary Overview:

- ❖ General Fund revenues show a net increase of \$306,971 from the prior Fiscal Year 2019 approved budget.
- ❖ Fiscal Year 2020 projected revenue is \$78,464,559 vs. Fiscal Year 2019 Revenue of \$80,307,588, the significant difference being \$2,150,000 of reserves used in Fiscal Year 2019 to balance the budget.
- ❖ Requested General Fund operating expenditures show an increase of \$2,764,094.
- ❖ Requested capital expenditures in FY 2020 total \$9,483,833, an increase of \$5,886,292.
- ❖ There is a total requested budget shortfall of \$10,493,415 even with budget cuts and deferred capital expenditures and capital projects there is still approximately \$3,500,000 shortfall in Fiscal Year 2020.

- ❖ Mr. Weeks stated that the County is at a point where it needs to consider drastically reducing services or raising revenues.
- ❖ Three potential revenue options to consider: Accommodations Tax, Income Tax and Real Estate Taxes.

The Board of Commissioners scheduled a Budget Work Session in order to further discuss the budget deficit and different options of raising revenues to include the pros and cons of each on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 5:30 P.M. in the Public Meeting Room.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC MEETING AND OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

On a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, the Public Meeting was closed and the Public Hearing opened at 4:38 p.m.

7. PUBLIC HEARING: Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Review & Comment for:

- ❖ Housing Improvement Program
- ❖ Establishment and Renovation of Crellin Senior Center
- ❖ Progress Report on Parkwood Renovation Project
- ❖ Review of Citizen Participation Plan and the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistant Plan

Drafts of the Maryland CDBG applications and plans will be available for public review on Monday, May 20, 2019 through May 24, 2019 during normal business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse, located at 203 South Fourth Street – Room 208 – D, Oakland, Maryland 21550.

There were no public comments made.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING AND OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

On a motion by Commissioner Hinebaugh, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, the Public Hearing was closed and the Public Meeting opened at 4:48 p.m.

8. Public Commentary:

- ❖ Michael Hough, Director, Garrett County Department of Economic Development, provided an update on the efforts at the State and local levels to assist those impacted by the pending closure of the VERSCO Corporation - Luke Mill.
- ❖ Question on how the public can help and request that a public meeting be scheduled to bring the community together.
 - The response has been very quick from both the State and local governments. The Rapid Response Team has resources available to provide help and support to those affected by the closing. The County will forward the suggestion for a community meeting to the Rapid Response Team.

9. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that a Public Work Session would be held on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Garrett County Courthouse to review the Garrett County Government Fiscal Year 2020 Budget.

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 5:03 P.M.

Attest:

By Order of the Board,

KEVIN G. NULL
County Administrator

PAUL C. EDWARDS, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners