

**BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**May 20, 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 3:00 P.M.

1. The Board of County Commissioners reviewed the Garrett County Government Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Schedule.
2. The Board of County Commissioners discussed a Board vacancy on the Garrett County Civil Service Board. This vacancy was posted on the county's website for interested individuals.
3. 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 3:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:00 PM**

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Invocation by Pastor Kroll**

**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 20, 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 May 6, 2019.
3. Chairman Edwards announced the following:
  - ❖ There is a vacancy on the Garrett County Civil Service Board at this time. Additional information may be found on the county's website.
  - ❖ Citizen Comments – The Board of County Commissioners received and reviewed a number of emails with suggestions/comments concerning the upcoming budget. A list of Frequently Asked Questions will be posted on the County's website.
  - ❖ There will be no Public Commentary on this date. Citizens will have the opportunity to make public comments during the Public Hearing on June 3, 2019.

4. ANNOUNCMENT: Proposed Meeting/Budget Review Schedule

**Monday, June 3, 2019** 4:00 Public Meeting at Garrett College (GIEC) Room 111  
5:30 Public Hearing – Constant Yield Hearing

**Wednesday, June 12, 2019** 6:00 Pubic Meeting @ Garrett College Auditorium  
Preliminary Fiscal Year 2020 Garrett County Government Budget

**Tuesday, June 18, 2019** 4:00 Public Meeting @ Garrett County Courthouse  
Adoption - Fiscal Year 2020 Garrett County Government Budget

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

**Bid #19-0411 – Garrett County Accident Roads Garage Addition**

This project is for a pre-engineered steel building (material) to construct at 24' X 60' addition to the Garrett County Department of Public Works - Accident Roads Division garage. County staff will erect and finish the building.

Two (2) Bids were received for this Bid: The Welding Rod, LLC (\$34,891.11), and Carl Belt, Inc. (\$44,600.00). After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on the feedback from the Garrett County Department of Engineering and the Garrett County Department of Public Works – Roads Division, the Garrett County Purchasing Department recommended awarding the Bid to The Welding Rod, LLC for \$34,891.11.

**Bid #19-0328 – Bloomington Water Treatment Plant Replacement Project**

Three (3) Bids were received for this Bid: Beitzel Excavating (\$1,417,753.00), Carl Belt, Inc. (\$1,753,550.00), and BYCO Enterprises, Inc. (\$1,844,999.00).

After reviewing the Bids for compliance with administrative requirements and based on the feedback from the Department of Public Works – Utilities Division and concurrence from the USDA, the Garrett County Purchasing Department recommended awarding the Bid to Beitzel Excavating, LLC for \$1,417,753.00.

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 Awards as recommended.

6. **Resolution – Authorizing the submittal of an application for Community Block Grant Funds.**

The Board of Garrett County Commissioners conducted a Public Hearing on May 6, 2019 for projects proposed by Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. seeking Community Development Block Grant Funds. No public comments were received.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved and executed a Resolution that authorized the submittal of an application for Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$400,000 to assist with programs and projects of housing rehabilitation and the renovation of a community facility, establishing a proposed senior center in Crellin. The Board of County Commissioners also approved the Citizen Participation Plan and Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan which was presented and approved as part of the May 6, 2019 meeting.

7. **Garrett County Department of Financial Services – Fiscal Year 2020 Garrett County Government Budget Proposed Tax Rate.**

The Board of Garrett County Commissioners reviewed the following four (4) revenue options that were previously presented during the May 6, 2019 Public Meeting:

**Option 1:** Increase property tax by \$0.082 from \$0.99 to \$1.072. Estimated impact to owner - occupied households = \$122/year

- The Board of County Commissioners did not choose Option 1 because this option would put the full burden on owner occupied households.

**Option 2:** Increase property tax by \$0.056 from \$0.99 to \$1.046 and income tax from 2.65% to 2.95%. Estimated impact to owner - occupied households = \$228/year

- The Board of County Commissioners did not choose Option 2. Comments received on a proposed increase in the income tax rate showed this option to be the least desirable solution. The Board agreed not to consider an income tax increase at this time. However, if in the future should the Kirwan Commission funding formula require an income tax increase in order to qualify for school funding, that could change.

**Option 3:** Increase property tax by \$0.04 from \$0.99 to \$1.03, income tax from 2.65% to 2.95% and accommodations tax from 6% to 8%. Estimated impact to owner-occupied households = \$204/year.

- The Board of County Commissioners did not choose Option 3. Comments received on a proposed increase in the income tax rate showed this option to be the least desirable solution. However, if in the future should the Kirwan Commission funding formula require an income tax increase in order to qualify for school funding, that could change.

**Option 4:** Increase property tax by \$0.066 from \$0.99 to \$1.056 and accommodations tax from 6% to 8%. Estimated impact to owner-occupied households = \$98/year.

- The Board of County Commissioners chose Option 4 which is a combination of property tax and accommodation tax increases.

The proposed increase in the accommodations tax rate from 6% to 8% generated the most comment and controversy. Those representing the vacation home rental and tourism industries, and vacation rental home owners, expressed concern that an increase in this tax will adversely affect vacation home rentals.

The Board and County Staff will continue to look for opportunities to cut costs. It was noted that the tax rate has not increased in over 20 years. The Board did note that actual property taxes have gone up over time due to the increase in assessment values.

**MOTION:** The Board of Garrett County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Hinebaugh, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, authorized the publication of a proposed tax increase from \$.9899 to \$1.056. This Constant Yield Hearing will be advertised in the local newspaper and a Public Hearing will be scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at Garrett Information Enterprise Center (GIEC).

8. The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Monday, June 3, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Garrett Information Enterprise Center (GIEC) Room 111 followed by a 5:00 p.m. Public Hearing on the proposed Constant Yield Rate for Fiscal Year 2020.

**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 4:35 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