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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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John F. Barr, *President*  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

Review of Actions Taken in the Washington County  
Board of County Commissioners Meeting  
Tuesday, March 4th, 2008

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ATTENDED THE STATE OF THE CITY  
ADDRESS AT DUFFY'S RESTAURANT IN HAGERSTOWN

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Jim Kercheval reported on attending the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Legislative Committee meeting last week. David Lever, head of School Construction for the Maryland Department of Education discussed school construction funding and stated that there are \$800 million in requests for construction funds for the coming fiscal year, with an availability of only \$330 million. MACo also stated the State could see \$200-300 million in further cuts due to lower than expected revenue projections, impacting local governments. Kercheval commented on speaking to 7th graders at Western Heights Middle School last week to encourage them to work hard on upcoming MSA exams to prepare them for their future employment. He also commented on his Planning Commission meeting which supported 6 farms for inclusion in Ag District preservation programs, as well as expansions for the Emmanuel Baptist Temple and Bobcat of Hagerstown. Assistant County Attorney Kirk Downey worked with the Planning Commission on the new Rezoning procedures designed to improve the process for the Commissioners and the Public. Kercheval also commended City of Hagerstown Officials and staff for the morning's presentation of the "State of the City" address given earlier in the day showing improvements in City and the revitalization of downtown.

Commissioner Kristin Aleshire also commented on the State of the City presentation regarding exclusion of the County regarding the cooperative project for affordable housing near Bester. Comments made in a local news report regarding Senate and House Bills on Electronic Gaming in the County were erroneous, Aleshire said. The Commissioner attended Monday evening's Mayor-Council meeting in Sharpsburg and reported that permitting issues between the County and that Town have yet to be reconciled. Attorneys for the County and Town are working on that issue.

Commissioner Terry Baker reported on attending last week's meeting of the Community Action Council Board. CAC is aggressively pursuing grants in a number of areas, Baker said, and is closely monitoring the needs of low income individuals faced with termination of electrical service due to high energy costs. CAC is purchasing a parcel of land on Wayside Avenue to construct workforce housing, Baker said.

Commissioner John Barr commented on attending a morning meeting in Annapolis with Governor Martin O'Malley.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

County Attorney Issues: Assistant County Attorney Kirk Downey said a draft of a recent rezoning case is being circulated for Commissioners' review.

County Administrator's Comments: County Administrator Greg Murray told the Board that additional information will be disseminated soon on the County's eCycling program that has begun at the 40-West Landfill.

Reports from County staff: Public Works Director Joe Kroboth told the Board that bids have been received for the Mount Aetna Road-U.S. 40 intersection. That bid is \$1.089 million and is \$100,000 below engineer's estimates. The bid for the Fiber Optic project to connect the Sheriff's Department to the new 9-1-1 dispatch center at Elliott Parkway came in at \$1.075 million, again below estimates, Kroboth said.

Acting Director of Fire and Emergency Services Kevin Lewis reported that the 911 dispatch center has received a grant award of \$2.23 million from the state Emergency Services Numbers Board to assist with costs for the Elliott Parkway Dispatch Center relocation. The award is 100% state funded, Lewis said. Contrary to published reports, the Department is not at odds with the School system over fees for use of school facilities. A location at South Hagerstown High School was being used for training temporarily until a better location was found, and a request for waiver of funds has been submitted. Lewis said the Fire Service is pursuing an agreement with the Schools for use of the facilities.

Gaming Commission Office Director Jim Hovis brought a news release to the Board refuting a televised report regarding Senate Bill 959 and House Bill 1576 calling information reported false and misleading (see attached release). He said that the County takes in about 12% of the total revenues from gaming activities, and all of that sum goes to charitable organizations and the Fire and Rescue operations in the County.

Airport Fire Chief Phil Ridenour requested the Board approval to accept a grant for \$45,350 for promotional, meeting and security activities. The request was approved by unanimous vote.

Introduction of New Employee: Human Resources Director Bill Sonnik introduced Jasen Logsdon, a new Patrol Deputy at Washington County Sheriff's Department to the Board..

#### CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Each week the Board of County Commissioners sets aside time to hear from citizens of Washington County on matters of importance to the community.

Monda Sagalkin of the League of Women Voters requested a meeting with County Administrator Greg Murray to discuss workforce and affordable housing initiatives.

John Himes of the Sandy Hook area commented on traffic control issues on U.S. route 340.

#### SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATION

Washington County Sheriff Doug Mullendore, brought a first look at that departmental operating budget for Fiscal Year 2009 before the Board. The Department's Judicial Division budget for the coming fiscal year was requested to be \$2.09 million, an increase of \$19,620 over FY '08 due in part to the addition of the Warrant Squad to the Judicial Division, and increased expense for Courthouse security. The Process Servers' budget would be set at \$121,470 an increase of \$1,010 over the previous year. The Patrol Division budget was requested at \$8.45 million, an increase of \$815,370 from FY '08 or 10.68%. The bulk of that increase was due to wages, benefits and capital outlay for vehicles. The Washington County Detention Center's budget was requested at \$10.56 million, an increase of \$815,590 or 8.37% over FY '08. Main increases would come in wages, benefits, shift differential and need for a 96 bed emergency housing unit. 10 new deputies would be needed to staff that facility. The Central Booking Facility and Narcotics Task Force budgets were not discussed and will be rescheduled at a later date.

#### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET PRESENTATION

Department of Social Services (DSS) Director Dave Engel, members of the DSS Board of Directors and DSS staff brought the Fiscal Year 2009 operating budget presentation before the Board. Although primarily funded by the State of Maryland, DSS receives a portion of its funding from the County. The request is for \$326,390 up from \$304,630 in FY '08, a change of 7.14 %. DSS is asking for a \$3,000 increase in rent for the Family Center, \$4,011 increase for a Family Support Center Child Care worker, a \$1,000 increase in the Director's Salary Supplement and \$13,752 increase for the Safe Place, Child Advocacy Center. All budgets will be reviewed prior to the public hearing at Kepler Theater on the Hagerstown Community College campus in May.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Washington County Health Department (WCHD) Health Officer Earl Stoner brought the operating budget for fiscal year 2009 to the Commissioners for review. WCHD receives the majority of its \$20 million funding from the State, and the County's portion of that budget was requested to be \$2.38 million, which would not be an increase in annual appropriation. WCHD asked for \$10,000 in contracted/purchased services for reinstatement of a County salary supplement. Stoner introduced County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Betty Morgan, who supported the Department's request for the School Health Nurse program. The School Health Nurse budget request is \$3.38 million, up by \$332,530.00 from FY 2008 or 10.9%. School Health Nurse funds are included in the Health Department's budget total. Discussion took place on possible cuts from the state and impact that might have on County Health programs, including Healthy Start. All budgets will be reviewed prior to the public hearing at Kepler Theater on the Hagerstown Community College campus in May.

## FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES BUDGET PRESENTATION

Acting Director of the Division of Fire and Emergency Services Kevin Lewis brought this review of the proposed FY 2009 operating budget before the Board for review. The Fire and Rescue operations request was for \$3 million, an increase of \$1.193 million or 70.51% over FY '08, primarily due to personnel requests. Some expenses would be contingent on full implementation for Phase II of the Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, which could add 18 Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support personnel to the Division, to support the volunteer EMS companies. Discussion on the 911 Communications Operating budget, the Emergency Management Department request, Fire and Rescue Volunteer Services' budget, The Air Unit and Special Operations budgets were deferred until next week's meeting. All budgets will be reviewed prior to the public hearing at Kepler Theater on the Hagerstown Community College campus in May.

## PUBLIC HEARING; ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY

County Administrator Greg Murray brought this request, to approve purchase of real property in the downtown Hagerstown area, to public hearing. The parcels include an office building at 120-128 West Washington Street, immediately adjacent to the County Administration Building, and all property on West Franklin Street from the middle of the 100 block west to the corner of North Prospect street. The purchase would include several parking lots fronting on West Franklin Street and a building located at 149-151 West Franklin Street. Cost of the property would be \$4.61 million. Murray told the Board that revenue from the current tenants of the Washington Street building would total double the amount needed to be spent on building maintenance, and that at \$91 per square foot, the cost would be far below market value in the downtown area, currently in the \$140.00 per square foot range. Funding placed in reserve for a possible building acquisition in the current budget would cover \$2 million of the cost, while \$1.5 million in unused credits, \$500,000 in unexpended baseline costs and an additional \$775,000 in other currently budgeted project funds would cover the \$4.6 million cost, with no impact on the current tax base. The purchase would not increase the county's borrowing. The public hearing was held to meet the requirements of Section 1-301(b) of the Code of the Public Local Laws of Washington County, Maryland. It has been determined that the Property is needed for a public purpose. Hagerstown Mayor Bob Bruchey testified in favor of the plan, commending the Commissioners for taking long-term actions that will keep the County downtown. Sharon Disque, Executive Director of the Hagerstown Neighborhood Development Partnership also testified in favor of the proposal, stating that the properties all became available at the right time, that no residents would be displaced by the move and that the action was a good example of Smart Growth. No one appeared to testify against the proposal. Commissioners discussed the proposition following close of the public hearing, with Commissioners Baker and Wivell commenting on questions about the Baltimore Street building, which would ultimately be vacated, and the possibility of City incentives for the County plan. Commissioner Barr stated that as a businessman in the downtown area, he saw the timing as good and the opportunity as positive for the County. Commissioners Kercheval and Aleshire expressed approval for the project. A motion was made to approve the measure, which passed on a 3-2 vote with Commissioners Wivell and Baker voting "no".



## YOUTH MERITORIOUS AWARDS

Commissioners' President John Barr presented awards for outstanding middle-school youth for the months of January through March 2008.

For January, Brigitte Grewe, an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at E. Russell Hicks Middle School, daughter of Josef and Lydia Grewe is the honoree. Brigitte is an outstanding student and citizen who has been on the Distinguished Honor Roll while taking all merit classes every marking period during her middle school career. She has also been a STAR Award recipient for the last three years. She is the president of the Student Government Association. She is in many activities that exhibit her leadership skills Brigitte is also musically talented. She is the first chair violinist in the school orchestra, participates in the all-County orchestra and also plays the piano. Brigitte is a very mature and responsible student. She is bright and a great leader amongst her peers.

February's outstanding student is Shelbi Ives, an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student also from E. Russell Hicks Middle School, the daughter of Roger and Debra Ives. Shelbi is an outstanding student and citizen who has been on the Honor Roll and Distinguished Honor Roll while taking all merit classes every marking period during her middle school career. She is a participant in the Student Government Association. She is in many activities that exhibit her leadership skills. Shelbi was a finalist in the Geography Bee. She is a member of the marching band, concert band, jazz band and all-County band. Shelbi plays the sax, alto sax, guitar and piano. Shelbi is a very enthusiastic young lady and a hard worker who is well liked and respected by her peers.

The March honoree is Donovan Mills, an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at Clear Spring Middle School, son of Randy and Teresa Mills. Donovan is an outstanding student and citizen who has been on the Honor Roll in elementary and middle school. He has been a STAR Award recipient in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Donovan is the first chair trumpeter in the Clear Spring Middle School band, where he is a role model. He also participates in the all-County band. Donovan is a kind person to everyone he knows. His leadership, work habits and accomplishments are truly outstanding.

The students receive a Commissioners' certificate and a \$100 savings bond.

## PUBLIC HEARING; AMENDMENT TO MECHANICAL FEE SCHEDULE

Daniel Divito, Director, Washington County Department of Permits and Inspections brought this Amendment to the Mechanical Fee Schedule relating to the establishment of a registration fee for mechanical contractors in Washington County, Maryland to public hearing, for the purpose of considering an amendment to the Mechanical Fee Schedule adopted by Ordinance on July 25, 2005 and amended on May 23, 2006 by establishing a registration fee for mechanical contractors who desire to perform work in Washington County, Maryland. Pursuant to Section 110, Registration, of an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to Repeal the 2003 International Mechanical Code, First Printing, with Local Amendments for Washington County, as amended, and to Enact the 2006 International Mechanical Code, First Printing, with Local Amendments for Washington County, Maryland," adopted on December 17, 2007, effective March 1, 2008, any person or persons desiring to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace a mechanical system in Washington County, Maryland must first register with the Plumbing/Mechanical Board and shall pay the established registration fee at the time of application and pay a biennial renewal fee on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May of the renewal year. No one appeared in support of or in opposition to the amendment. The record will remain open for 10 days to allow for written public comment.

## CONTRACT AWARD; FOOD SERVICES AT SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

County Purchasing Agent Karen Luther and Sheriff Douglas W. Mullendore brought this contract award for Food Services at the Washington County Detention Center (WCDC) before the Board for approval. Aramark Correctional Services, Inc. of Downers Grove, Illinois is the responsive, responsible bidder at \$501,307.27 based on estimated annual quantities of meals and proposer's unit costs per meal type. The recommended contractor would furnish food services at the Washington County Detention Center (WCDC), to include inmate and staff feeding seven days/week and program support services for an approximate population of 425 inmates. The contract term is for one year beginning May 1, 2008, with an option by the County to renew for up to four additional consecutive one-year periods. Annual price increases or decreases to cover contract years two through five will be based upon the Producer Price Index. The per-meal price for Inmate, Sack, Court or Medical Meals would be \$1.05, and the per-meal price for Staff Meals would be \$1.39, about one cent higher for each category. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.



#### PROCLAMATION; RED CROSS MONTH

Julie Barr-Strasburg of the Washington County Chapter of the American Red Cross received this proclamation, of March, 2008 as Red Cross Month in the County, from Commissioners' President John Barr. In presenting the proclamation, President Barr said that Washington County supports the efforts of the Red Cross in saving lives through provision of blood and in providing services in times of disaster. Barr cited the role of the organization in the community for responding to emergencies, aiding military families and teaching over 8,000 people life saving skills such as CPR and First Aid.. Citizens were urged to give of their time, blood and money to make a difference in the humanitarian fabric of the community. Barr commended the organization for its quick response to the recent fire in Boonsboro.

#### CHANGE ORDER REQUEST; WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE SECURITY

Joe Kroboth, Director of Public Works requested a Change Order for Security Enhancements at the Washington County Courthouse in the amount of \$72,428.25, to remove existing security panels in the holding cell area, install conduits for security cameras and replace the ceiling panels. The Division of Public Works obtained authorization from the Commissioners to initiate the design of various security enhancements to the courthouse resulting from a security assessment conducted by the State of Maryland. Cameras are to be installed in the holding cell area, which is partially complete at this time. The contractor has been directed to place a hold on the work in this area to allow time to install the necessary conduits within the holding cell area. This work includes removal of those panels installed, installation of conduits for the cameras and replacement of the panels that are currently in place. Funding for this project is included in the operating budget of the Sheriff's Office. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

#### PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Public Works Director Joe Kroboth brought this measure before the Board, to approve the reorganization plan proposed by the Division of Public Works for the Engineering Department that would separate the Engineering Department into two

separate departments, Public Works Capital Projects and Public Works, Land Development and to authorize the Division to advertise the proposed and vacant positions.

Recently the department head announced his resignation and departed employment with the County on February 15, 2008. This vacancy of a key management position within the Division of Public Works has brought forth an opportunity to evaluate the existing organizational structure of the division and the departments within. After evaluating the activities and practices within the Engineering Department it was observed the department basically functions in two distinct disciplines. The staff has reviewed the operations and the activities within the department and recommend this proposed reorganization.

This proposal calls for the separation of the Engineering Department into two distinct operating- cost centers. They are Public Works, Capital Projects and Public Works, Land Development Review. The proposal is for those employees involved in capital project development, design and construction management remain as Department 11610, titled Public Works – Capital Projects. Those involved with the land development review would be separated into a new department titled, Public Works – Land Development Review. The respective budgetary costs would be divided between these two department budgets.

Kroboth asked for Commissioner approval for all reference to the “County Engineer” and “Chief Engineer” within ordinances, policies and resolutions to be interpreted as the Director of Public Works. These authorities would then be delegated downward within the division to the appropriate level. The proposal would require reassignment of some existing positions and the filling of some vacant/new positions to effectively manage the programs under the Public Works purview. To ensure equity throughout the County, Kroboth recommended that the Deputy Director for Environmental Management for Engineering Services, the Deputy Director, Environmental Management – Water & Wastewater Operations and the Deputy Director, Environmental Management – Solid Waste be reclassified from the current grade 16 to grade 17. The reclassifications were proposed with no adjustment in wages and benefits. To better group transportation related agencies together, Kroboth said it is recommended that the Airport Operations be moved into the Division of Public Works with the remaining transportation related operations. It is recommended that this proposal become effective July 1, 2008. It is also recommended that the Recreation Department be reassigned from the Division of Planning and Community Development into the current Buildings, Grounds and Parks Department. That department was recommended to be renamed the Department of General Services. Discussion of the proposed name took place. A motion to approve the structure of the changes, but to bring additional name choices to the Board for review, was approved by unanimous vote.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Washington County Gaming Office  
33 West Washington St.  
Hagerstown, Md. 21740  
240-313-2040**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

**Washington County Gaming Office Rebutts Report**

On March 4, 2008, a member of the local media did a story regarding the effects of Senate Bill 959, and House Bill 1576, Statewide Phase-Out of Electronic Gaming Devices. This story reported information, which was false and misleading. The information provided should be considered gaming industry propaganda intended to gather public opposition to Senate Bill 959 and House Bill 1576. Neither the Washington County Gaming Office, nor the sponsors of these Bills were interviewed regarding this news story.

For clarification purposes: The Washington County Gaming Office supports Senate Bill 959, and House Bill 1576, with amendments. The Gaming Office has been working closely with the authors of these bills to draft an amendment that will allow Washington County to continue using tip jar dispensing machines. The intent of these bills was to make illegal, slot machines that have been altered to meet the definition of electronic tip jar device. It was not the intent of the authors of this bill to prohibit the dispensing machines we have in operation in Washington County. This inadvertent consequence has been identified and is being corrected with the help and support of members of our local Delegation.

The Washington County Gaming Office is convinced that these two pieces of legislation once amended, will not have an adverse effect on Washington County Gaming, or the approximately \$3,000,000 distributed annually to charitable organizations within Washington County.

This legislation will prevent the introduction of illegal gaming devices into Washington County that could eventually lead to a statewide takeover of Washington County Gaming. These devices are often owned and operated by large gaming corporations that retain the "lions share" of the proceeds for personal gain. These corporations would make it very hard for the small businessman to compete. These bills are in the best interest of Washington County, and the citizens who benefit from charitable gaming.

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