



---

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

County Administration Building  
100 West Washington Street, Room 226  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740-4834  
Telephone (Voice/TTY) 240-313-2200  
FAX: 240-313-2201

John F. Barr, *President*  
Terry L. Baker, *Vice-President*  
Kristin B. Aleshire  
James F. Kercheval  
William J. Wivell

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: NORMAN BASSETT  
240-313-2077**

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

Review of Actions Taken in the Washington County  
Board of County Commissioners Meeting  
Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**CITY OF HAGERSTOWN ANNEXATION REQUEST: DOUB PROPERTY**

Department of Planning and Community Development Director Mike Thompson brought this request from the City of Hagerstown before the Board. The request was that the Board move to deny, “express approval” for the proposed annexation as the requested zoning is inconsistent with current County zoning and the 2002 adopted Comprehensive Plan. The property, known as the Doub Property, was presented to the City of Hagerstown for annexation. Maryland Code states that a municipality may not place a property into a zoning classification that permits development at a substantially higher density than that permitted under County zoning. The Board discussed this proposal on March 11, 2008; no action was taken and additional information was requested. The City Council has requested, in its recent letter, that the Board decide if they are going to grant, “express approval” for the annexation. The request is for a parcel of land consisting of approximately 141.69 acres that is adjacent to the City of Hagerstown, at the interchange of I-70 and Route 40 (Dual Highway) bordered by I-70, Rt. 40, Landis Road and Day Road and is contiguous with the City across Rt. 40. The property is currently vacant and the revised Annexation Plan indicates that the owner would like to develop the property primarily as a commercial development with some Business/ Employment located to the east end of the site where previously residential was proposed. The applicant has provided information on traffic, an access point to Rt. 40, buffering and water and wastewater. The applicant, in the revised application, is requesting C-4 (Regional Shopping Center) (123.88 acres) and POM (Professional Office/Mixed Use) (17.81 acres) zoning upon annexation into the City. The C-4 zoning district is intended to provide locations for commercial businesses, retail, and offices, and specifically a regional shopping center development. The POM zoning would provide locations for offices, research and development, institutional uses, certain industrial uses, and limited retail use. Most of the site is currently zoned under the Washington County Zoning Ordinance HI-2 with a small portion zoned HI-1 adjacent to the Dual Highway. The HI-2 district is intended to serve as a transitional zone between HI-1 and nearby residential areas by providing for those uses of a restricted business or light industrial

nature, less intense than the HI-1 and intended to be compatible with both the HI-1 and the other nearby residential zoning districts.. Staff believes the proposed POM zoning for the portion of the property on the east end of the site would be consistent with the HI-2 zoning designation, but C-4 is a significant change from what the current zoning permits, therefore, “express approval” is required from the Board. It was noted that the City Council had not agreed to the proposed annexation and that City zoning could be different than that proposed by the developer. Commissioners Kristin Aleshire and Jim Kercheval cited inadequate discussions with the Mayor and Council. No action was taken pending further discussions between the two governing bodies.

#### **BID AWARD: GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CHEMICALS FOR VARIOUS COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**

County Purchasing Department Buyer Rick Curry and John Kain, Superintendent at Black Rock Golf Course brought a request to the Board to relieve Winfield Solutions of Ashburn, VA, from the bid without prejudice on Item # 6 in the Grounds Maintenance Chemical contract due to pricing error, and to award contracts to the responsible companies with the lowest responsive bids meeting the specifications for each chemical item. This contract primarily provides the needed chemicals for the Black Rock Course. The Highway Department, Department of Water Quality and the City of Hagerstown also will utilize the contract. 30 items were bid, in lots of quarts, gallons, pounds and cases, and 4 vendors had low bids. The contract term is one year tentatively commencing July 1st, 2008 through June 30th, 2009. The Bids were received on four chemicals, item #'s 14, 15, 17 and 21. The 4 chemicals were awarded following a drawing from lots, pursuant to Washington County Purchasing Policy P-2. The measures were approved by unanimous vote.

#### **2008 EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT APPLICATION**

Dave Jordan, Community Action Council (CAC) Director and Sherry Neil, Deputy Director brought this request before the Board, that the County Commissioners approve submitting the Emergency Shelter Grant application in the amount of \$50,000, the forthcoming grant and sub-recipient agreements to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program provides funds to prevent homelessness and to help improve the quality of existing emergency and transitional shelters for the homeless in Washington County. It is also designed to help meet the shelter’s maintenance and operating costs and providing essential supportive services to those homeless individuals. Assistance is designed to assure that homeless persons and those at risk of homelessness have access not only to safe and sanitary shelter, but also to the supportive services needed to improve their housing situations. Emergency Shelter Grant funding is vital to the financial stability of shelters and services to assist the homeless in Washington County. Community Action Council, CASA, St. John's Shelter and REACH, Inc. are the four recipients of ESG funding. The organizations utilize ESG monies for the maintenance and operation of the shelters and for the prevention of homelessness through eviction prevention funds, utility assistance, and first month's rent/security deposits for those households transitioning from shelter into permanent housing. CAC would receive \$25,000, CASA and St. John's Shelter would receive \$10,000 each and REACH would receive \$5,000 from the grant. The measures were approved by unanimous vote.

#### **APPLICATION FOR TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE 2002 WASHINGTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Jill Baker, Senior Planner brought this item before the Board. The request was to Move to approve a Resolution adopting the text amendments to the County Comprehensive Plan in Case No. CP-08-001. The Washington County Planning Department, has proposed text amendments to the 2002 Washington County Comprehensive Plan. A public meeting was held by the Washington County Planning Commission on April 21, 2008 and a public hearing was held by the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland on May 19, 2008. The County must amend its Comprehensive Plan to designate Priority Preservation Areas ("PPAs") by July 1, 2008 in order to comply with C the Agricultural Stewardship Act of 2006, and to retain the additional 42% agricultural transfer tax funding from Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program ("MALPP") that the County now receives through its "certified" preservation program. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the text amendments. Failure to meet the requirements of the Act would result in the disqualification of Washington County to continue to compete for certification funds from the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation ("MALPF"). The base level MALPP funds, Rural Legacy, Project Open Space, and other preservation program funds will continue regardless of the establishment of PPAs. The additional 42% certification funds provided through MALPP would not be available to the County should PPAs not be established. In addition, if new sources of revenue are found for MALPF, or if the Governor budgets extra money for preservation programs, the funds will only be available to counties that comply with the Act. In an average year, the additional 42% certification funds would equal about \$400,000 of funding. In an exceptional year like 2006, the 42% certification funds could total over \$1,000,000 of funding funneled through the 60/40 match mechanism with MALPP. A motion to approve the resolution with adjustments to language regarding the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance and other corrections was defeated on a 3-2 vote. The Commissioners reached consensus to continue the PPA, but took no additional action pending a workshop on the issue. Staff will draft a letter to the Maryland Department of Planning requesting additional time for study and discussion.

#### FOREST CONSERVATION ORDINANCE, APPLICATION FOR TEXT AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTION FOR SETTING FEES

Mike Thompson, Director of the Washington County Planning Department and Bill Stachoviak, Environmental Planner brought requests to approve amendments to the Forest Conservation Ordinance and adopt the resolution enacting a fee system for the Washington County, Maryland Forest Conservation Ordinance before the Board. A joint public hearing on the proposed text amendments was held on November 26, 2007. Some of the proposed amendments are necessary to maintain consistency with the Washington County Subdivision Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance. Due to the number of amendments requested, it was also recommended that the Forest Conservation Ordinance of 1993 and any subsequent amendments, be repealed and that the Forest Conservation Ordinance be reenacted with the proposed amendments. The amendments also remove existing fees from portions of the Ordinance and establish the fees in a resolution. Recommended fees of 30 cents per square foot for "Payment-in-Lieu-of" fees and \$1,000 per square foot for non-compliance deterrent fees were proposed. Commissioner Kercheval made a motion to approve re-enactment of the Ordinance, but not the fee structure. That measure was approved on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Bill Wivell voting "no". Kercheval then proposed returning to the original fee structure of 10 cents per square foot for "Payment-in-Lieu-of" fees, and 30 cents per square foot for non-compliance, with the provision that the fee

structure could be revisited in July. The measure was approved on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Aleshire voting "no".

#### HOUSING CONDITIONS STUDY PRESENTATION

Kathy Saxman, Project Coordinator with the Washington County Community Partnership for Children and Families, CAC Director Dave Jordan, and Dr. Marvin Tossey of Salisbury University brought this presentation of findings from the Housing Conditions Study, funded by Maryland Community Development Block Grant MD-06-CD-4, before the Board. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development awarded the one-year grant to Washington County on August 21, 2006 for the amount of \$20,727. Washington County Community Action Council serves as the sub recipient of the grant. The grant funds were used to conduct a county-wide housing study to identify substandard units. Dr. Tossey reported that the study, to look at the prevalence of substandard housing, was a "windshield" study, made from moving vehicles and assessing condition of houses from the criteria of siding, roof and ground conditions. 3 points for each criteria were given and if a house had a 7 score, it was considered substandard, with 6 being "at-risk". GPS locating was used to create maps and photographs of houses in the 7-rating were taken. 203 units in Washington County were identified. 107 were abandoned, 37 were occupied, 59 were classified as vacant but habitable, and 49 units were seen as having "grey area status". There were no large concentrations of the housing, but patterns of concentration were seen in the Hancock, Indian Springs and Sandy Hook areas. Washington County fared very well in the survey, with the ratio of one substandard unit per 261 units surveyed. Tossey said the study recommended that housing units classified as "grey area" be targeted for rehabilitation. The study was undertaken as part of the state grant

#### REVISION OF THE TIP JAR REGULATIONS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY GAMING OFFICE

Jim Hovis, Director of the Washington County Gaming Office brought this request, to revise the Tip Jar Regulations of the Washington County Gaming Office to reflect changes in fees approved in the fiscal year 2009 budget. Included in the Gaming Office's fiscal year 2009 budget was a request to increase the fees charged by the Gaming Office for Washington County Gaming Commission (WCGC) stickers, and temporary licenses. If approved by the BOCC, the regulations must be revised to reflect the fee changes. The requested revisions include fees charged for temporary tip jar licenses, from \$20.00 to \$30.00, and fees charged for WCGC sticker, from \$1.00 per sticker to \$1.25 per sticker. The measures were approved by unanimous vote.

#### 2008-2009 PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE RENEWALS

Becky Maginnis, Risk Management Administrator and Tom Hoblitzell of Hilbs, Rogal & Hobbs (HRH), the County's insurance broker/consultants brought recommendations for 2008-2009 Property and Casualty Insurance Renewals to the Board. The recommendation was for renewal of policies in place during the 2007-2008 policy year, for liability policies placed with Travelers Insurance Company, property policies placed with Local Government Insurance Trust, and the airport liability policy placed with AIG Aviation, Inc. After a full scale market survey and bid quotations by HRH for the 2007-2008 policy year, the Commissioners were requested to renew the coverages as

recommended realizing a substantial savings over FY 2008 budget. Renewal premiums for the 2008-2009 policy year would also fall below FY 2009 budgeted premium rates. The FY '08 total was \$1.478 million. The Budgeted Premium total for FY '09 was \$896,725.00 and the Quoted Premiums were \$871,998.00. The measures were approved by unanimous vote.

#### **BID AWARD: CIRCUIT COURT HOUSE SECURITY UPGRADES**

Karen Luther, County Purchasing Agent and Joe Kroboth, Director of the Division of Public Works brought this recommendation to the Board, to award the bid for Circuit Court House Security Upgrades to the responsible, responsive bidder, Building Systems, Inc. of Hagerstown, for the Base Bid Sum of \$458,000.00, and Add Alternate No. 1 for \$12,000, yielding the overall lowest total bid amount of \$470,000.00. The contract includes installation of a vehicle sallyport located in the alley south of the Court House Annex with interlocking coiling doors controlled at the Officer's Station; installation of Closed Circuit TV and associated hardware throughout the Court House and Court House Annex;; reworking of door hardware at the Washington Street Entrance and Stair No. 1 Lobby Door; and signage by allowance. The construction period is one hundred eighty calendar days from the date of Notice to Proceed. On August 7, 2007 the Board of County Commissioners authorized the Division of Public Works and the Sheriff's Office to proceed with the design and preparation of contract documents for this project. The project was necessitated from a security assessment completed for the courthouse complex in October 2006. To minimize the level of disturbance to the court operation, it is recommended to accept Alternate No. 1, which requires the work in the courtroom areas to be done after regular working hours. This project was originally funded in the operating budget of the Sheriff's Office. To date, approximately \$50,000 of architecture fees have been expended to develop the plans and specifications .The project was moved to the capital improvements program budget as part of the FY 2009 budget. The project has an overall budget of \$921,890 (which represents the Engineer's estimate); summarized as follows: The original budget was prepared assuming \$110,000 in state grants would be provided to fund the project. Since the budget was prepared, the County, working with the Circuit Court Office has been able to secure an additional \$107,000 in state funds, bringing the total state contribution to \$217,000. With the bid being considerably below Engineers' estimate and the state grant funds, a savings to the General Fund has been seen of \$217,0900.00. Commissioner Kercheval addressed the number and frequency of change orders with the entire Courthouse project, and asked to see all remaining changes including those for less than \$25,000, which would not require a vote of the Board. . The measure was approved by a vote of 4, with Commissioner Kercheval abstaining for personal reasons.

#### **CHANGE ORDER: COURTHOUSE FENCING**

Public Works Director Joe Kroboth brought a change order and budget transfer in the amount of \$28,626.00 for fencing at the Courthouse before the Board. The City of Hagerstown, as a condition of allowing the County to close off the alley at the Summit Avenue side of the Courthouse, requested that the County install upgraded fencing in the area behind the building. Funding would come from the Courthouse security project

budget surplus. The measure was approved on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Wivell voting "no".

#### **CONTRACT AWARD: WASHINGTON COUNTY-ADMINISTERED RESIDENTIAL WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Purchasing Agent Karen Luther, Bob Davenport, Director of the Solid Waste Department, and Julie Pippel, Director of the Division of Environmental Management brought a request to award the contract for Provision of a Feasibility Study for Washington County-Administered Residential Waste and Recycling Collection to the responsive, responsible firm, Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. (GBB), of Fairfax, Virginia in association with Meridian Ventures, Inc., of Waldorf, Maryland, for the Total Lump Sum Fee of \$106,483.00, and to approve a Budget Transfer Request in the amount of \$30,500 from the FY '09 CIP contingency fund for Solid Waste. Purpose of the contract was to retain the services of a consulting firm to perform a feasibility study of County-wide residential solid waste and recycling collection. Discussion centered on the lack of provision in the contract for feasibility of a waste-sorting facility. A motion to reject all bids, revamp the scope of work and re-bid the project in July was approved by unanimous vote. County Administrator Greg Murray noted that the study was a goal of the Division of Environmental Management for the Fiscal Year, and that Staff was getting that waste management goal underway.

#### **BID AWARD: OFFICE SUPPLIES DESK-TOP DELIVERY TO WASHINGTON COUNTY DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES**

Purchasing Agent Karen Luther brought this Bid Award for Office Supplies, Desktop Delivery to Washington County Departments/Agencies to the Board. The recommendation was that the Board take action that is in the best interest of the County and award the contract to the responsive, responsible bidder, OfficeMax Incorporated of Elkridge, Maryland, with the lowest Grand Total bid amount of \$41,101.31 that includes a sixty (60%) percent discount on non-listed items. For over 17 years, the Purchasing Department had operated its own stockroom consisting of office supplies and household items for distribution to County departments and agencies. It had become apparent that the County would benefit in closing its office supplies stockroom operation and transition to a system of "desktop" delivery of office supplies. In June of 1999, the Board awarded the first "desk-top" delivery of office supplies contract to Boise-Cascade Office Products, now OfficeMax. The contract was for three years t expiring June 30, 2002; subsequent awards were made to Boise-Cascade as the responsive, responsible lowest bidder in 2002 and 2005. Since the initial award, other jurisdictions/agencies, such as the Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) and the Washington County Health Department (WCHD) have piggy-backed the County's contract. The approximate annual expense on office supplies by County departments is \$315,100.00, by Washington County Public Schools is \$502,500.00, and by the Washington County Health Department is \$96,700.00. Of these amounts, the approximate annual spend for Contract Items is \$192,000.00 by County departments, \$280,400.00 by the Washington County Public Schools, and Washington County Health Department - \$52,700.00. The County would not be obligated to purchase any minimum or maximum quantities. OfficeMax indicated

that they would extend the contract to all Western Maryland Counties and their municipalities and educational facilities. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

THE COMMISSIONERS ATTENDED A JOINT MEETING WITH THE HAGERSTOWN MAYOR AND COUNCIL AT CITY HALL ON THE CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT UPDATE PRESENTED BY FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR KEVIN LEWIS, WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF DOUG MULLENDORE AND HAGERSTOWN POLICE CHIEF ART SMITH

The three top Public Safety Officials in Washington County presented a Consolidated Emergency Communications Project Update Discussion on committee recommendations and future project requirements. A centralized effort in the coordination of emergency communications within Washington County began in 1975. Since its inception, the County has consistently met challenges posed by an ever-changing industry. Two recent examples of this support were the Board of County Commissioner's approval of a new Public Safety Communication System in 2006 and the renovations to the County's Elliott Parkway facility. A crucial component of the new communication system is the consolidated emergency communications center at the Elliott Parkway facility.

The purpose of this presentation is to enable dialog and build political consensus on the issue as it affects multiple agencies and political subdivisions. Thorough political consensus and discussion will lead to formal approvals of the consolidation process, Lewis said.

AN EVENING MEETING WAS HELD AT SMITHSBURG TOWN HALL HOSTED BY THE SMITHSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS & COMMENTS

Commissioner Terry Baker Thanked the Mayor and Council for hosting the joint meeting.

Commissioner Bill Wivell also thanked the Town and offered congratulations for all of the recent High School and College graduates in Washington County.

Commissioner Jim Kercheval reported on the recent meeting of the County/City 2+2 Committee. Appalachian Regional Commission projects were discussed at that meeting. The Planning Commission discussed several projects at its meeting on Monday evening, including the Faison project, a proposed shopping center complex on U.S. 40 east of Hagerstown. Road and Traffic issues were discussed. City and County road requirements should be considered, with the more stringent requirements followed, Kercheval said. The site plan for that project will take about two years to develop, the Commissioner said.

Commissioners' President John Barr also thanked the Mayor and Council and gave best wishes to all graduates in the county. Barr commented on attending Senior Honors Night last week, representing the Commissioners. The event honors high school Seniors who are committed to serving the community above and beyond the requirement of 75 hours. Some of the graduates completed more than 1,000 public service hours, Barr said. The Commissioner also reported on attending the first PATH meeting, held by Allegheny Power, on the possibility of new high-voltage power lines being routed

through the southern part of the County. That meeting discussed necessity of the lines, but gave no timeline for construction and no proposal for where the lines would be located. 30 people attended the meeting, 20 were Allegheny employees and the remainder government representatives, Barr reported. A second meeting on that issue is scheduled for July.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Smithsburg Mayor Mildred "Mickey" Myers asked for feedback on progress with County-wide recycling. Division of Environmental Management Director Julie Pippel said the matter was before the Commissioners earlier in the day and is being revised to include feasibility of a trash-sorting center at the request of Commissioner Wivell. Myers told the Board that at the last meeting of the county chapter of the Maryland Municipal League, 8 of the 9 municipalities voted to have Hotel-Motel taxes rebated to the communities based on a population rate. The Commissioners had requested the municipalities to make that decision based on the most equitable method of distribution. \$300,000 was set aside earlier this year for distribution to the towns. Myers also requested information on plans for upgrading an intersection at the school complex in the town. Director of Public Works Joe Kroboth stated that discussions with the Board of Education and the town showed three areas for traffic pattern realignment, with a total cost of \$613,000. The initial phase would cost \$50,000 if County personnel performed the engineering, project management and construction work. Commissioner Wivell made a motion that the Commissioners set aside \$50,000 from the FY '08 Commissioners Contingency Fund to get the project started. That measure was approved by unanimous vote.

Smithsburg Town Attorney Charles Wagaman discussed need for better control of weeds at houses vacated due to foreclosures. Wagaman said the Town is having difficulty locating the owners of the houses due to takeover by lending institutions. Public Works Director Joe Kroboth stated the County is pursuing the same problems, and is using County and prison crews to keep weeds down. Costs are being assessed, and liens placed against those foreclosed properties. Wagaman suggested a County-wide task force be formed to address the issue.

#### 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.

Glen Fishack, President of the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (WCVFRA) told the Board that at the annual state fire and EMS convention, Smithsburg Fire and Ambulance personnel and a County 9-1-1 dispatcher will be commended for actions taken during the incident last December in which Smithsburg Police Officer Christopher Nicholson was killed. Local Firefighters will also make a presentation on actions taken to combat the Boonsboro fire, last February.

Kirk Brittner of Smithsburg commented on the proposed changes to the County excise tax.

Jack Parkin of Hagerstown commented on the need for a temporary bridge at Funkstown.

A number of residents from the Whitetail development near Smithsburg commented on standing water and flooding problems in the neighborhood due to developer issues.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

County Attorney Issues: County Attorney John Martirano reminded the Board that a Public Hearing on the excise tax will be held on Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room in the County Administration Building. A Memorandum of Agreement is needed between the County and the Department of Social Services so that two support vehicles can be purchased for DSS programs through the County's state purchasing contracts, Martirano said. The vehicles would be funded 100% by a state grant. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

Appointments to County Boards & Commissions: County Clerk Joni Bittner brought several requests before the Board. The Agricultural Marketing Advisory Committee requested appointment of Julie Stinar, Randy Finn and Steve Ernst to 3 year terms. Board of Examiners and Supervisors for Electricians requested appointment of Tim Fields, Charlie Shindle and Mitch Gladhill to 2 year terms, with Wayne Steenberg and Raymond Higgins requested as 1 year appointees. The measures were approved by unanimous vote.

Reports from County Staff: Human Resources Director Bill Sonnik recommended approval of the promotion of Kevin Lewis to Director of the Division of Fire and Emergency Services, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Lewis had been interim director for several months, and had served as Deputy Director of the Division for 2 years. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

County Administrator's Comments: County Administrator Greg Murray congratulated Lewis on that promotion. Murray told the Board that Susquehanna Bank has requested County assistance in making the public aware of availability of college scholarships through that bank's relationship with the Hagerstown Suns and Aberdeen Iron Birds baseball teams. The scholarships will benefit area high school juniors intending to pursue post-secondary education as a full-time student beginning in the fall of 2009. A total of six scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1000 each. To enter, students can go to <http://www.susquehanna.net/AboutUs/NeighborhoodPartnersProgram.asp> and complete the scholarship application. All applications are due by July 31, 2008. Students that are selected to receive a scholarship through this program will be invited to attend a Hagerstown Suns or Aberdeen Ironbirds game at the end of the season for an on-field presentation. Murray stated that the next full meeting of the Board will be held on July 8<sup>th</sup>, and announced that Commissioners meetings will be available through internet video stream on that date or shortly thereafter.

Reports from County Staff: Director of the Division of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Kevin Lewis said he is looking forward to working with all County departments and all volunteer fire and EMS companies in his new capacity as Director. Lewis reported that the recent wind storms damaged 47 homes in the county, with 5 to 7 homes not able to be reoccupied. The Emergency Operations Center was activated on Wednesday of last week, and remained in operation until Friday. A Cooling Station was opened in the Rohrersville area on Saturday because of the high temperatures and power outages due to the storm. The major effort at this time is management of storm debris, Lewis said, and the 40-West Landfill will accept storm debris from the South County

area at no charge through July 5<sup>th</sup>. Only County residents are eligible and must make a declaration that the debris was created due to the June 4<sup>th</sup> storm.

Division of Public Works Director Joe Kroboth commended Highways Department personnel for storm recovery efforts. Cleanup will take an additional 3-5 weeks, as crews clean up storm debris in addition to preparing roads for pavement maintenance activities. The Funkstown Bridge project has been advertised and bids will be opened June 25, as will bids for the Pavement Maintenance contract for FY 2009. Kroboth told the Board that the cost of hot mix asphalt has increased by 60% over one year ago, due to the volatile petroleum market. Fewer roadways can be paved using that process, as a result. The County is dealing with issues of loose gravel from the chip seal process, and asks for residents' patience, Kroboth said. USA today recently ran an article citing Washington County for its use of alternate paving methods due to the rising costs of asphalt. Kroboth requested approval of four positions within the division. Robert Slocum was recommended as Deputy Public Works Director for Capital Projects-Engineering. Jennifer Smith was recommended to be hired as Deputy Director for Public Works-Land Acquisition. Steve Stottlemyer was recommended to fill the Civil Engineer position and Jim Plummer was recommended to fill the vacant Project Manager post. All four recommendations were approved by unanimous vote. Kroboth addressed the Angela Court/Whitetail development issue raised by residents of the area. Flooding problems have occurred in that development due to the abnormal amount of rain, some 16 inches, received during the month of May, and flood plain problems. The Division is evaluating the situation and looking at mitigation of problems, Kroboth said. The County Attorney's Office is pursuing litigation against the developer for non-performance and failure to correct problems. The Maryland Department of the Environment has regulatory jurisdiction in that area, Kroboth said.

###