



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

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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, August 5, 2008

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ATTENDED A CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE EGGS AND ISSUES EVENT WITH STATE COMPTROLLER PETER
FRANCHOT AT THE BREAKFAST HOUR

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Jim Kercheval reported on the Monday evening meeting of the Planning Commission. The Commissioner noted that newly appointed member, Andrew Bowen, began his service on the board.

Commissioner Kristin Aleshire commented on attending Monday evening's meeting of the Keedysville Mayor and Council. The Town wants permission to use Program Open Space funds in a different manner than specified in its initial application. A large amount of debris has accumulated at the bridges over Little Antietam Creek in the Town, and the Council sought County assistance with removal. The Town will contact Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director Jim Sterling and Highways Director Ed Plank, Aleshire said.

TOWN OF SMITHSBURG ANNEXATION REQUEST, JACQUES ANNEXATION

The Board of County Commissioners approved staff recommendations for this request, for the Town of Smithsburg Annexation - Jacques Annexation. Planning Director Mike Thompson brought the request to the Board to move to approve the proposed annexation and zoning as recommended by staff, stating the request is consistent with existing County Zoning and "express approval" for the development of the property is not required. The property has been presented to the Town of Smithsburg 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 request for annexation is for a parcel consisting of approximately 0.72 acres (31,363 square feet) that is contiguous with the Town on three sides. The property is located off of East Water Street, north of Main Street. The property is an existing parcel of land that currently the site of a single-family dwelling and upon

annexation the owner proposes to subdivide one additional lot. The applicant is requesting SR (Suburban Residential) zoning upon annexation, which is consistent with the existing RR (Residential Rural) County zoning designation. Staff would note that both the RR and SR permit single family and two family dwellings and the minimum lot size requirement of 15,000 square feet for a single-family dwelling on public water and sewer is the same under both ordinances. The proposed zoning is also consistent with the Low Density Residential designation on the 2002 adopted Comprehensive Plan.

TOWN OF SMITHSBURG ANNEXATION REQUEST, VERDIER ANNEXATION

The Board of County Commissioners approved staff recommendations for this request by Planning Director Mike Thompson for the Town of Smithsburg's Verdier Annexation. The request was for approval of the proposed annexation and zoning as recommended by staff stating the request as consistent with existing County Zoning and "express approval" for the development of the property is not required. The request for annexation is for a parcel consisting of approximately 0.45 acres (19,602 square feet) that is contiguous with the Town. The property is located on the north side of Cave Hill Road just west of the intersection with Geiser Way. The property is an existing parcel of land that currently is the site of a single-family dwelling and upon annexation no plan for any additional development is proposed based on information from the Town.

The applicant is requesting SR (Suburban Residential) zoning upon annexation, which is consistent with the existing RR (Residential Rural) County zoning designation. Staff would note that both the RR and SR permit single family and two family dwellings and the minimum lot size requirement of 15,000 square feet for a single-family dwelling on public water and sewer is the same under both ordinances. The proposed zoning is also consistent with the Low Density Residential designation on the 2002 adopted Comprehensive Plan.

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN ANNEXATION REQUEST, A08-05 PRIVATE RESERVE, LLC

The Board of County Commissioners approved staff recommendations for the City of Hagerstown Annexation Request, A08-05 Private Reserve, LLC. Planning Director Mike Thompson requested that the Board move to approve the proposed annexation and zoning as recommended by staff stating the request is consistent with existing County Zoning and "express approval" for the development of the property is not required. The property has been presented to the City of Hagerstown for annexation.

The request for annexation is for a vacant parcel consisting of approximately 0.65 acres (28,300 square feet) that is adjacent to the City of Hagerstown. The property is located off of Atlantic Drive, north of Jefferson Street. The property is an existing parcel of land that was previously subdivided in the county and the applicant has been issued building permits from the county for a semi-detached structure on the site. The applicant is requesting R-1 (Residential) zoning upon annexation, which is consistent with the existing RU (Residential Urban) County zoning designation. Staff would note that both the RU and R1 permit single family and two family dwellings and the minimum lot size requirement of 5,000 square feet per dwelling is the same under both ordinances. The proposed zoning is also consistent with the Low Density Residential designation on the 2002 adopted Comprehensive Plan.

GAMING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF FY 2008 GAMING FUND RECIPIENTS

No formal action was needed for this item. Penny Pittman, Chair of the Washington County Gaming Commission and Jim Hovis, Director, of the Washington County Gaming Office brought the presentation of the Gaming Commission's annual report and announcement of gaming fund recipients for fiscal year 2008 to the Board. The Washington County Gaming Commission has determined the recipients of the gaming fund revenues collected in fiscal year 2008. Revenues collected in FY '08, totaled \$2,642,377.01. The Gaming Commission made its annual report to the Board of County Commissioners, and announced the funding recipients (See attached release). Commissioner Kristin Aleshire asked if bars and taverns had shown significant decrease in tip jar sales since the ban on smoking in public places went into effect. Hovis commented that a gaming decrease of 25% had been seen in those locations.

OTHER BUSINESS

County Administrator Comments: County Administrator Greg Murray requested consideration and approval for Commissioners' sign-off on the grant agreement between Hagerstown Community College and the federal government for a grant of \$831,000 for the Arts and Sciences Complex. Commissioners requested additional information on the item in last week's meeting. A motion to approve a resolution of support was approved by unanimous vote.

Staff Comments: Human Resources Director Bill Sonnik requested permission to advertise two positions, a Motor Equipment Operator position at Highways, and a Senior Plant Operator position at Water Quality. The requests were approved by unanimous vote.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, 911 CENTER RENOVATION PROJECT CHANGE ORDER

The Board of County Commissioners approved this item by unanimous vote. Public Works Director Joe Kroboth requested that the Board approve a Change Order for the 911 Center - Fire and Emergency Services Building Renovation Project not to exceed \$145,000 for additional electrical grounding necessary to meet Motorola's R56 Grounding Standard, and to authorize a budget transfer in the amount of \$145,000 from the Elliott Parkway to Sheriff's Office fiber project. The Motorola Corporation has specific requirements for grounding electrical and electronic equipment to protect it from static electrical sources, lightning and other forms of stray electrical energy. This change order is necessary to install additional grounding systems beyond those included in the original scope of work in the 911 Center Project. Installation of a grounding system that meets or exceeds Motorola's R56 Grounding Standard is a condition of the Radio System Contract and is necessary to validate the radio system warranties and functionality. Components that require additional or modified grounding methods include the metal door frames, static-resistant carpeting, ceiling grid, sprinkler piping system, tile flooring, cable trays, HVAC equipment, electronic communications equipment, dispatcher computer equipment, fencing, and connections to the grounding system for the tower site work. The grounding system will be integrated into the lightning protection system for the building. The change order proposal from the Contractor is still under review by

County personnel and the architect. The first proposal amount is \$129,885.45. Because of efforts by the County staff, financial savings are present in the fiber project between the Elliott Parkway Facility and the Sheriff's Office. The savings were yielded primarily by a contribution of materials from the State of Maryland through the shared use agreement negotiated directly with the state. The Division is recommending a transfer of funds to the 911 Center Renovation Project. The value of the budget transfer recommended to complete the project is \$130,000.

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.

No one appeared to make comment on this day.

THE BOARD ATTENDED A PRESS CONFERENCE BY SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI AND SENATOR BEN CARDIN AT FUNKSTOWN FIRE HALL

Senators Mikulski and Cardin visited the Funkstown Volunteer Fire Company (FVFC) to announce that Washington County has been awarded nearly \$2 million through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP). The Senators Barbara A. Mikulski are visiting Western Maryland this week to discuss their fight to help Marylanders struggling with rising costs and a struggling economy. The Senators will discuss how they are working to protect first responders and emergency personnel, to help Marylanders struggling with rising gas prices, and to provide the care to our veterans they have earned. The Senators visit with Veterans on Wednesday in Allegany County.

THE COMMISSIONERS ATTENDED A LUNCHEON WITH THE CHILDREN IN NEED PROGRAM AT THE NOON HOUR

PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO & MOBILE DATA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM UPDATE

No formal action by the Board was necessary for this item. Director for Public Works Joe Kroboth, and Pete Loewenheim, Communications Maintenance Manager brought this Update on the Public Safety Radio and Mobile Data Communications System before the Board. Topics discussed included the Motorola contract scope, Site improvements, Interaction with the National Park Service and the Project Schedule. Kroboth and Loewenheim summarized the project status and milestones. Loewenheim detailed progress on the multi-tower project, and stated that all towers will not be completed by the projected project end-date. The Keep Tryst tower site is on hold until further meetings with the National Parks Service are conducted. The project could be phased in, with some towers going on-line before others. Completion date has been delayed until the end of calendar year 2009. Loewenheim said. The next meeting with National Parks Service is set for August 20th, Loewenheim said.

BARBARA INGRAM SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS FOUNDATION TAKE FLIGHT PROJECT

The Board of County Commissioners approved providing \$5,000 to the School for the Arts foundation to sponsor a "Monarch" butterfly statue as part of this community project on a 2-0-1 vote with Commissioner Wivell abstaining. Pieter Bickford and Angie Youngblood of the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts Foundation brought this request, to support the BISFA Foundation's *Take Flight* Civic Arts Project by sponsoring a butterfly for the project. The project's goal is to raise funds for the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts Foundation while enriching artistic collaboration, increasing visibility of downtown Hagerstown, promoting tourism, and celebrating community in our Arts and Entertainment District. The Foundation is requesting the Board of County Commissioner's support of the project and the BISFA through sponsorship in the amount of \$3,500 for Monarch Sponsorship or \$5,000 for Emperor Sponsorship. The City of Hagerstown was recently approached with a similar request, and donated \$5,000.00. The butterfly statues are similar to those depicting crabs in Baltimore, sailboats in Annapolis and keys in Frederick. The project got underway in June, and will run through June of 2009.

2008 ON BEHALF OF (OBO) LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSING BOND ALLOCATION

The Board of County Commissioners approved this item by unanimous vote. Planning Director Mike Thompson brought this request, to approve the "2008 On behalf of (OBO) Local Government Housing Bond Allocation" before the Board, for transfer of Washington County's allocation to the Community Development Administration for the issuance of housing bonds for first time home buyers in Washington County. Each year the State allows the local government to partner in a statewide bond pool for first time home buyers. The pool allows the counties to transfer their allocation to the State to issue bonds to fund the housing programs. Washington County has historically used this allocation to participate in the Maryland Mortgage program. The allocation for Washington County is \$4,278,496. This amount has been increasing annually in recent years and represents an increase of \$77,376 from 2007 and over \$400,000 since 2005. This past year the federal income levels to qualify have been lowered as well as the maximum acquisition costs.

CHANGE ORDER REQUEST, PUBLIC SAFETY FIBER OPTIC CONDUIT PROJECT

The Board of County Commissioners approved this item by unanimous vote. Deputy Director of Public Works Rob Slocum and Project Manager Vicky McKenzie brought this Change Order Request to the Public Safety Fiber Optic Conduit Project in the amount of \$53,584.25 before the Board. The change is needed in order to revise the size of one of the three innerducts within the 4" conduit to accommodate the donated 96 count fiber optic cable; to extend the conduit installation directly into the Communications Room at the Sheriff's Office Facility; and to add pulling, fusion splicing, testing and terminating the fiber optic cable at the Sheriff's Office Facility, and the new 911 Center on Elliott Parkway, including the Tower Equipment Shelter. The original contract for this project included the construction and installation of the conduit and innerduct only. The Maryland State Highway Administration donated the 96-count fiber optic cable to Washington County. The specified innerduct size is 1". One of the

three innerducts requires increasing to 1-1/4". Original design of the conduit/innerduct installation terminated outside of the Sheriff's Office. Original design did not include pulling, splicing, testing and termination of the fiber optic cable. Funding for these changes are available in the CIP budget for the Fiber Optic Conduit Project. Current available budget is \$241,764.08, Slocum said.

BRUMBAUGH-KENDLE -- GROVE FARMSTEAD

No direct action was required for this item. Airport Director Carolyn Motz brought this report to the Board with a recommendation that the Brumbaugh-Kendle – Grove Farmstead buildings be removed from airport property to a site appropriate for the future preservation, rehabilitation and reuse of the structures and that the FAA grant money eligible for demolition be used toward the relocation. Washington County purchased The Brumbaugh –Kendle – Grove Farmstead with a Federal Aviation Administration grant in 1999. Funding was reimbursed as part of the Runway Improvement Program. FAA Order 5100.38C *Airport Improvement Program Handbook* and the Grant Assurances provide specific guidance for the administration of the grant program by FAA. Because the property has been described as a security issue and because of the impediment to eligible airport development, Airport Staff and the Airport Advisory Commission have concurred that the structures should be relocated off airport property. Such relocation would be eligible for grant money up to the estimated costs to demolish and remove the structures. Airport staff and engineers have followed the direction of FAA throughout the acquisition and evaluation of the process. The Airport Advisory Commission and the Airport Staff are amenable to the preservation of all structures offsite. After much consideration, it was determined that keeping the buildings where they are is inefficient for the future of the airport. The buildings would require preservation maintenance in perpetuity in the same current location and footprint and would impact security processes and future airport development. Therefore, moving the structures is deemed necessary and would eliminate the demolition alternative. Airport staff has had an informal discussion with an industry reassembler regarding the feasibility of such a process. If a structure is to be relocated because its present location constitutes an airport hazard or impedes eligible airport development, then such relocation would be eligible up to the estimated costs to demolish and remove the structure. HGR received multiple grants under a Letter of Intent for the overall runway extension project, which included money to demolish the house. A Letter of Intent identifies a maximum amount of funding for a specific project; therefore, no additional FAA funds are available. Best estimate of total cost of the project would be \$350,000-\$500,000. Motz requested additional time to investigate alternate plans for possible relocation and reuse of the buildings. Representatives of the Washington County Historic Commission and the county's Historic District Commission addressed the need for preservation of the structures. The Federal Aviation Administration is working with the airport to comply with all federal aviation, security and historic regulations. Airport staff will continue to work with all interested parties, and bring additional information to the Commissioners at a later date.

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WASHINGTON COUNTY GAMING COMMISSION ANNOUNCES GAMING FUND DISTRIBUTION

The Washington County Gaming Commission announced its gaming fund distribution to 73 local charitable organizations as well as the county's fire and rescue companies in the August 5th meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

The Gaming Fund total of \$2,642,377.01 for fiscal year 2008, which ended June 30th, represents a 11.1% decrease over fiscal year 2007 revenues. State law provides for funds to be split equally between the Washington County Fire and Rescue Association and local charities.

In January the Washington County Fire and Rescue Association received \$591,843.93. With today's announcement, an additional \$729,344.57 will be distributed bringing the yearly total for Fire and Rescue to \$1,321,188.50. The Association then distributes the funds equally to the 26 fire and rescue companies throughout the county.

In May the Washington County Gaming Commission received 133 separate applications from 109 charitable organizations requesting a total of \$3,289,705.05. After one day of workshops in June, and two days of public hearings in July, the Commission was able to either partially or fully fund 82 of the 133 requests. Of the 133 applications, 32 received full funding. A total of \$1,321,188.51 was allocated.

The Regional Community Health Center (Community Free Clinic) received the largest award of \$175,000, followed by Reach Caregivers receiving \$100,000. Friends of Safe Place Child Advocacy Center received \$66,303. Girls Inc. received \$64,900, and Food Resources received \$53,364.

The Washington County Gaming Commission is a volunteer 7-member board appointed by the County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly and the Board of County Commissioners. Established by the State Legislature in 1995, the Commission is responsible to ensure the revenue produced by Tip Jars played in the counties clubs, taverns, liquor stores, and restaurants is equitably distributed. Since it's beginning, the Commission has provided over 38 million dollars to charities and fire and rescue companies in Washington County.

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Fiscal Year 2009 Gaming Fund Awards
(Fiscal Year 2008 Revenues Collected)

| ORGANIZATION | AWARD |
|--|--------------------|
| Alzheimer's Association | \$17,500.00 |
| American Cancer Society | \$10,000.00 |
| American Red Cross of Washington County | \$5,000.00 |
| Antietam Healthcare Foundation | \$14,840.00 |
| Apples for Children | \$5,000.00 |
| Arc of Washington County, Inc. | \$20,000.00 |

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| Aspiring to Serve Inc. | \$15,000.00 |
| Baby Basics of Greater Hagerstown Inc. | \$1,000.00 |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters of Wash. Co. MD, Inc. | \$35,000.00 |
| Boys and Girls Club of Washington County | \$40,000.00 |
| Breast Cancer Awareness Cumberland Valley Inc | \$4,577.00 |
| CASA, Inc. | \$27,351.00 |
| Children In Need Inc. | \$45,000.00 |
| Children's Village of Washington County Inc. | \$25,000.00 |
| Clear Spring Little League | \$3,500.00 |
| Conococheague Little League | \$4,769.00 |
| Corporation for Assistive Technology | \$2,217.69 |
| Deafnet Association Incorporated | \$5,000.00 |
| Discovery Station at Hagerstown, Inc. | \$12,000.00 |
| Federal Little League of Hagerstown | \$3,000.00 |
| Food Resources Inc. | \$53,364.00 |
| Friends of Safe Place, Child Advocacy Center | \$66,303.00 |
| Girls Inc. | \$64,900.00 |
| Habitat for Humanity of Washington County | \$10,000.00 |
| Hagerstown Citizens on Patrol, Inc. | \$10,000.00 |
| Hagerstown Civil Air Patrol | \$7,500.00 |
| Hagerstown Colt League and Palomino League, Inc. | \$10,000.00 |
| Hagerstown Fire Police Association Inc. | \$20,000.00 |
| Hagerstown Junior Basketball League, Inc. | \$5,000.00 |
| Hagerstown Pony League Inc. | \$3,000.00 |
| Hagerstown- Washington Co. Chamber of Commerce | \$7,500.00 |
| Hagerstown Youth Hockey Association | \$15,425.00 |
| Hancock Little League | \$3,599.00 |
| Head Start of Washington County | \$4,200.00 |
| Interfaith Service Coalition | \$20,000.00 |
| Leadership Washington County | \$10,000.00 |
| Literacy Council of Washington County | \$2,000.00 |
| Little League Baseball of Halfway, Inc. | \$5,013.00 |
| Marine Corp League, Bulldog Detachment | \$15,000.00 |
| Maryland Theatre | \$30,000.00 |
| Mason-Dixon Boy Scouts | \$15,752.12 |
| Maugansville Little League | \$11,837.63 |
| Memorial Recreation Center, Inc. | \$25,000.00 |
| MiHi | \$5,117.50 |
| National Little League | \$3,000.00 |
| North Hagerstown High School Band Boosters | \$199.84 |
| Parent / Child Center | \$12,130.00 |
| REACH Caregivers | \$100,000.00 |
| Regional Comm. Health Care Ctr. / Community Free Clinic | \$175,000.00 |
| Salvation Army | \$45,000.00 |

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| San Mar Children's Home | \$10,000.00 |
| Sharpsburg Little League, Inc. | \$3,848.00 |
| Smithsburg Youth Athletics Inc | \$7,572.00 |
| South Eastern Wash Co. Health and Comm. Services | \$5,000.00 |
| South Mountain Little League | \$1,000.00 |
| St. Johns Homeless Shelter, Inc. | \$5,610.00 |
| United Cerebral Palsy Foundation | \$3,835.95 |
| Valley Little League | \$5,250.00 |
| W House, The | \$9,315.00 |
| Walnut St. Community Health Center | \$34,500.00 |
| Wash. Co. Commission on Aging | \$45,000.00 |
| Wash. Co. Community Action Council, Inc. | \$30,000.00 |
| Wash. Co. Community Mediation Center | \$5,000.00 |
| Wash. Co. Human Development Council | \$20,000.00 |
| Wash. Co. Jr. Girls Volleyball | \$5,000.00 |
| Wash. Co. Junior Football League | \$10,000.00 |
| Wash. Co. Show Kids | \$2,000.00 |
| Wash. Co. Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition | \$10,000.00 |
| Wells House, Inc. | \$3,500.00 |
| West End Little League | \$3,330.00 |
| Western Maryland Hospital Auxiliary Inc. | \$34,531.78 |
| Williamsport Youth Soccer | \$5,300.00 |
| YMCA | \$10,000.00 |
| Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association | \$1,321,188.50 |

Total Funds Allocated \$2,642,377.01