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**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 26, 2008

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Terry Baker commented on attending Everybody's Day at PenMar Park last weekend and commended Recreation and Park Staff on that event. C&O Canal Days at Williamsport was another quality event in the County last weekend, Baker said. Hagerstown Community College is to be congratulated on its 10% increase in enrollment, and the Federal Little League players should be commended for representing the County in the Little League World Series the Commissioner said.

Commissioner Jim Kercheval congratulated both the Little League and PONY League teams for their appearances in their respective World Series. The Commissioner also noted the recent article in a local newspaper regarding the Sheriff's Department initiatives to start a "Youth Court" in the County. The Commissioner commended the Sheriff's Dept and others involved with this program as a creative method to keep young citizens out of the legal system and handle minor offenses in a more efficient and less costly manner. The Commissioner discussed the annual Augustoberfest in downtown Hagerstown held over the weekend. As a member of the Hagerstown Augustoberfest committee, the Commissioner thanked the many volunteers who worked to make the event successful. Commissioner Kercheval said he is continuing to receive phone calls from citizens negatively affected by the new transportation policy adopted by the Board of Education and noted the recent articles in a local newspaper. He is continuing to have discussions with members of the BOE in an effort to see if a more flexible policy can be created.

Commissioner Kristin Aleshire reported on attending a community meeting at Beaver Creek regarding the proposed Faison development at I-70 and U.S. 40 to provide information to citizens.

Commissioners' President John Barr also commented favorably on last weekend's Augustoberfest. Barr apologized for not keeping the Board as up to date as possible regarding the City of Hagerstown's proposed event to honor Federal Little League and Pony League players. Barr also coordinated the welcoming ceremony for the Little

Leaguers last Thursday with City officials. Around 500 people attended that event, he said. Further information should be forthcoming on the plans to honor the players.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

**Staff Comments:** Human Resources Director Bill Sonnik requested approval of a letter to the State Board of Pensions accepting billing for an evaluation of pension issues regarding the City of Hagerstown Employees who will become part of the County's Emergency Dispatch operations next year. An evaluation of the pension plan is required by the state, and cost of that evaluation should total no more than \$1,800.00 Sonnik said. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

**County Attorney Issues:** Assistant County Attorney Andrew Wilkinson told the Board that a position on the Salary Study Commission was required to be filled, and that the Commission membership voted to nominate Peggy Bushey to fill that slot. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

**County Administrator Comments:** County Administrator Greg Murray requested award of a bid for 1,000 feet of sewer line replacement on Virginia Avenue/U.S. 11 to Morena Construction of Colmar, Pennsylvania in the amount of \$350,130.00. The project was discussed in last week's meeting as an emergency bid due to deterioration of the sewer line in that location. Several budget transfers were included as part of the motion, passed by unanimous vote.

#### JFK 50 MILE ULTRA-MARATHON

The Board of County Commissioners approved this measure by unanimous vote, as amended. Mike Spinnler, JFK 50 Mile Director, and Tom Riford, President of the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau (HWCCVB) brought the JFK annual report to the Board and discussed course safety for the event set for Saturday, Nov. 22nd, 2008. A request was made for \$2,500 to be used for police and emergency services assistance. Riford told the Board that hotels in Washington County play host to well over 1,000 visitors staying multiple days. HWCCVB supports this event, and has committed financial assistance of \$2,500. The economic impact of this event is estimated at \$350,000 to \$500,000 in annual local economic impact. The Board approved reimbursement of the Sheriff's Department up to the \$2,500.00 requested. Commissioners' President Jon Barr presented Spinnler with a Commissioners' Proclamation in honor of the event.

#### 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.

Samuel Hawbaker and Sandy Leatherman of Cearfoss brought a noise and trespassing issue to the Board. The pair were advised of the civil nature of the complaint, which is under investigation by the permits and Inspections Department.

Phil Physioc of Hagerstown commented on a legal issue.

## OTHER BUSINESS:

County Administrator's Comments: County Administrator Greg Murray requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$31,928 from the Ag Center Pole Barn account to the Museum Building #2 account at the Ag Center. The request was approved by unanimous vote.

## CONSTRUCTION BID AWARDS

The Board of County Commissioners approved these measures by unanimous vote. Rob Slocum, Division of Public Works Deputy Director and Jim Plummer, Project Manager brought two construction bids before the Board for approval.

The Construction Bid Award for the San Mar Road Drainage Project was recommended for award to the low bidder, Wastler Construction, of Frederick, Maryland in the amount of \$228,585.00 This project was designed to improve drainage at the intersection of San Mar Road and Mt. Laurel Road to correct property and road flooding and includes enlarging ditch sections, upgrading culverts and stabilizing erodible slopes. The project involves replacing the existing asphalt lined channel with an underground pipe; construction of cast-in-place end walls; placement of precast inlets, riprap, traffic barrier, and minor roadway work including asphalt paving. No detours are included in this project. Two way traffic will be maintained with only intermittent flagging operations. Total construction expenses are estimated at \$273,585, to include \$228,585 for the proposed construction contract, \$20,000 for part time inspection, and \$25,000 for a construction contingency of approximately 10%. This is a 90-calendar day contract with liquidated damages in the amount of \$500.00 per calendar day.

The contract for the Devils Backbone Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Project was recommended for award to the low bidder, Lonestar Builders of Williamsport, Maryland, for the total amount of \$154,831.95. In addition, approval of a budget transfer, in the amount of \$19,654.44, from the San Mar Road Drainage Improvements Project to address a deficit was requested. The project is being done to address extensive damage that the park and pedestrian bridge received during flooding in June of 2006. A detailed engineering inspection done after this flooding indicated that the bridge had suffered significant damage and subsequently, the bridge was closed to the public. This project will include replacement of the existing steel truss bridge, construction of a new access ramp, decking, stairs, and railings. The project includes a base bid and an alternate. Alternate No. 1 calls for composite materials in lieu of pressure treated lumber. The Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities has requested that the Alternate, in the amount of \$12,290.00, be included in the project. The composite material does not require painting or staining. Add Alternate No. 1 will allow for less maintenance while improving aesthetics. The public will be allowed access to the majority of the park during the construction. The limits of construction will be maintained separately with orange safety fence. Total construction expenses are estimated at \$164,343.49, to include \$154,831.95 for the proposed bid award and \$9,511.54 for a construction contingency of approximately 6%. Capital Projects Engineering and Parks, Recreation and Facilities will coordinate to perform inspection at no cost to the project. This is a 110-calendar day contract with liquidated damages in the amount of \$500.00 per calendar day. Approval included the budget transfer of \$12,290.00.

## MIHI PROJECT LIFESAVER

No official action was required on this issue. Many Individuals Helping Individuals (MIHI) Director Bill Beard and Lynn Deibert, Project Lifesaver Coordinator brought this report on Project Lifesaver to the Board. The project is operating in Washington County with seven Autistic children and will be expanded to include seniors with dementia. Each participant wears a transmitter with a unique frequency and when they wander off can be quickly located through 911 and retrieved by police or sheriff's personnel. Project Lifesaver International is a nationwide organization serving 715 cities and counties predominately with police or sheriff personnel. MIHI is one of the few non-profit agencies to provide this service.. The MIHI Project Lifesaver effort is handled exclusively by volunteers. In other counties, maintenance of transmitters and other direct services are provided by law enforcement and emergency services personnel. The Board suggested MIHI contact Fire and Emergency Services Director Kevin Lewis to investigate training of personnel in each of the client's coverage areas to provide the assistance in maintaining transmitters, thus reducing costs to the project.

## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, HOPEWELL EXPRESS TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

The Board of County Commissioners approved this measure by unanimous vote. Kevin Cerrone, Director of the Transit Department brought this request, to approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Hopewell Express workforce transportation project. The Fiscal Year 2009 MOA is between the Maryland State Department of Human Resources (DHR), the Washington County Department of Social Services (WCDSS), and the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, for Subscription Employment Transportation. The agreement provides for the continued transportation service to help connect low-income workers in outlying areas of the County, as well as those in the City of Hagerstown with employers, under the Subscription Employment Transportation Program for FY 2009. Under this Program, Washington County Transit – County Commuter is partnering with WCDSS to provide subscription transit services for Department of Social Services Temporary Cash Assistance customers and low-income persons to and from their workplace. Under this Program, transportation to and from employment facilities along the Hopewell Road corridor will be provided. The Program is funded by WCDSS. Total funding for the Program in FY '09 is \$40,000.

## PROCLAMATION: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Commissioners' President John Barr presented a proclamation to Anthony Pruchniewski and Bob Sandberg of the Washington County Disabled American Veterans' Chapter 14, declaring September, 2008 as Disabled American Veterans' Forget-Me-Not month from the Board. In presenting the proclamation, Barr said the DAV offers free services to disabled veterans and their families in filing claims for government benefits as well as resolution of problems regarding employment, health care and counseling. The DAV responds to emergency needs of families of any disabled veteran. The proclamation cites the need for a continuing sense of gratitude to those veterans who

have given so much to protect and preserve the American way of life. September 2007 will see the annual Forget-Me-Not drive in Washington County. All contributions will be utilized for disabled veterans and families in the community. The fund drive will take place at several shopping centers in the County during the month.



L-R Sandberg, Barr, Pruchniewski

#### **PUBLIC HEARING: AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION DISTRICTS**

Eric Seifarth and Sara Edelman, Land Preservation Planners brought the Agricultural Preservation District rankings to Public Hearing. The FY '09 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program (MALPP) priority rankings were presented for comment and approval. The MALPP purchased easement program is very competitive with more applications than money available. Each application is ranked using the approved priority ranking system. Easements are bought in order of priority on the list until there is no more funding available. The Agricultural Advisory Board has approved the proposed rankings. For MALPP the County pays 40% of the purchase price up to \$1.34 million with funding from state and local agricultural transfer taxes. A list of 22 properties was presented ranging from 44 to 373 acres. Seifarth told the Board that the State requested submission of the top 10 applications for appraisal. One letter was received from property owner Donald Johnson, supporting the process. Attorney Dana Moylan requested that a property not be submitted based on a legal claim. That property

would not have been ranked in the top 10 applications, Seifarth said. The list as recommended, was approved by the Board of County Commissioners by a 2-1 vote with Commissioner Aleshire voting "no".

#### CONTRACT AWARD: LANDFILL INSPECTION SERVICES

The Board of County Commissioners approved this measure by unanimous vote. County Purchasing Agent Karen Luther and Dave Mason, Environmental Engineer in the Division of Environmental Management brought this request, for award of the contract for Landfill Inspection Services for FY '09 to Cumberland Geoscience Consultants (CGC), of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, based on its proposal that provided lowest hourly rates. For Construction Inspector the Hourly Rate for Straight Time would be \$40.53, and the Hourly Rate for Overtime would be \$44.50. For Senior Construction Inspector the Hourly Rate for Straight Time would be \$45.20, and the Hourly Rate for Overtime would be \$49.61. Services under this contract consist of providing inspection services for landfill related construction projects located throughout the County. The projects involve the construction of sanitary landfill floor construction, landfill capping, leachate collection systems, leachate storage tanks, sediment basins, leachate collection pump station construction, earthwork, landscaping, building construction inspection, mechanical and electrical systems, monitoring wells and other related tasks. This is a requirements contract; inspectors will be utilized on an as-needed basis with no guarantee of minimum or maximum number of hours. The duration of the contract is for a period of one year from the date of the executed contract or August 26, 2008, whichever is later, for these services with an option by the County to renew for up to four additional consecutive one-year periods.

#### CONTRACT RENEWAL: JURISDICTIONAL EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

The Board of County Commissioners approved this measure by unanimous vote. Division of Fire and Emergency Services EMS Coordinator Brigitte Heller brought this contract with Dr. Vincent Cantone of Smithsburg before the Board for renewal, in the amount of \$25,000. The contract is for the period of September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009. State law requires that each County or jurisdiction appoint a medical director to oversee pre-hospital care. In addition, the medical director supports the Emergency Communications Center with medical direction for emergency medical dispatch protocols. Washington County entered into a contract, to be renewed annually, with Dr. Cantone of effective September 1, 2007.

#### THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HOSTED A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PURCHASE OF THE FRIENDSHIP OFFICE BUILDING, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE ALLEGHENY ENERGY/POTOMAC EDISON HEADQUARTERS

Vinayaka Missions America University, Inc. (VMAU) announced the purchase of the Friendship Office building, the former Allegheny Energy/Potomac Edison Headquarters and the surrounding 45 acre campus located on Downsville Pike South of Hagerstown. VMAU Founder and Chancellor Dr. A. Shanmugasundaram and Dr. Selvin Kumar, a representative of the University, made the announcement following introduction by Commissioner's President John Barr. VMAU purchased the property for

approximately \$8.5 million and plan to invest an additional \$3.5 million during the first year of operations including updating the facade, installing new lighting, and repaving the parking lot. VMAU plans to establish a university center which will include a nursing program and other health-related programs. The institution hopes to eventually develop a state-of-the-art medical facility to possibly include a trauma center. All credit and non-credit courses will be open to the general public. An international educational organization, VMAU was founded in 1981 in the city of Salem, India, located in the province of Tamil Nadu. The university has 27 colleges, including four teaching hospitals, with more than 3,000 staff members and 15,000 students at its educational institutions in India, Europe, Australia and North America. VMAU's campus in Washington County is the first such U.S. venture for the institute of higher learning..

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