



Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland

Open Session Minutes

January 28, 2025

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation presented by Father Steve McCarty, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the full assemblage.

CALL TO ORDER

President John F. Barr called the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, to order at 9:01 a.m. with the following members present: Vice-President Jeffrey A. Cline, Commissioner Derek Harvey, Commissioner Randall E. Wagner and Commissioner Wayne K. Keefer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, moved to approve the minutes of December 17, 2024. The motion passed (3-0-2). Commissioner Cline and Commissioner Wagner abstained.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Cline, moved to approve the minutes of December 23, 2024. The motion passed (4-0-1). Commissioner Keefer abstained.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Cline attended the Boonsboro Economic Development Committee meeting at the National Road Museum. He attended the Clear Spring Volunteer Fire Department Annual Awards Banquet. Commissioner Cline attended the Maugansville Goodwill Volunteer Fire Department Annual Awards Banquet. He attended the 195th Anniversary Banquet of the Boonsboro First Hose Fire Company. Commissioner Cline attended the Washington County Day in Annapolis and thanked County staff for attending.

Commissioner Wagner congratulated Boonsboro First Hose Fire Company on their 195th anniversary. He congratulated the award recipients from the Boonsboro First Hose Fire Company, Maugansville Goodwill Volunteer Fire Department and the Clear Spring Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Wagner attended the Washington County Disability Association meeting and the Home Builders Association Member Mixer.

Commissioner Harvey congratulated Boonsboro First Hose Fire Department. He attended the Maugansville Goodwill Volunteer Fire Department Annual Awards Banquet. Commissioner Harvey attended the Clear Spring Volunteer Fire Department Annual Awards Banquet. He recognized the auxiliaries of the Fire Departments. Commissioner Harvey commented on the public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan and requested staff explore additional information that needs to be developed regarding questions received from the public.

Commissioner Keefer shared a letter that he presented to Commissioner Barr tendering his resignation effective February 21, 2025.

Commissioner Barr thanked Commissioner Keefer for his service. He commented on the comradery of the Washington County community during the Legislative session. Commissioner Barr shared upcoming events.

STAFF COMMENTS

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator, shared the State of the County will be held on February 4, 2025 and will be livestreamed for public viewing.

Chip Rose, Director of Human Resources, presented the request for a consensus to extend an offer to Carin Bakner for the position of Buyer in the Purchasing Department. The offer is: Grade 13, Step 4 at an hourly rate of \$32.48, effective January 18, 2025.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to approve the request to extend and offer to Carin Bakner as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Chip Rose, Director of Human Resources, presented the request for approval to extend an offer to Pamela Boyd for the position of Parks Supervisor in the Parks and Recreation Department. The offer is: Grade 15, Step 2 with an hourly rate of \$34.75, effective January 18, 2025.

Commissioner Cline, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, moved to approve the request to extend an offer to Pamela Boyd as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator attended numerous meetings regarding Washington County legislative items with the Community Coalition, MACo and with County staff. She attended Washington County Day in Annapolis and thanked staff for attending. Ms. Gordon thanked the Public Safety, Water and Quality, and Highways staff for responding to incidents and handling ice during the recent storm and cold weather. She commented on the new Roth IRA plan now available to employees.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Jill Hudson – Hagerstown
Dan Devito – Hagerstown
Jeremy Cantner – Hagerstown
Stephanie Phillips – Hagerstown
Shaun Porter – Washington County

1. WASHINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS – UPDATE AND FY26 SUPPORT REQUEST

Sara J. Hall, Director; Ted Reeder, Vice President; and Justin Hartings, Treasurer, Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, presented for informational purposes the Museum of Fine Arts' budget request of \$142,000.00 for FY26, which represents a \$2,000.00 increase over FY24. The county funded \$140,000.00 in FY25. They shared a power point presentation.

2. POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Steve McCarty, Chair, Police Accountability Board, presented the annual report of the Police Accountability Board to the Board of County Commissioners. He thanked the County Attorney's office staff for their support. Scott Matheny, Chairperson of the Police Accountability Board answered questions regarding the statistics.

3. QUOTATION AWARD (Q-24-291) SPLUNK INFRASTRUCTURE MONITORING

Brandi Kentner, Director, Purchasing; and Josh O’Neal, Chief Technical Officer, Information Technology, presented the request to award the quote for Splunk Infrastructure Monitoring to the responsive, responsible quoter GHA Technologies Inc., of Scottsdale, AZ, with the lowest quoted price of \$61,389.00. Splunk is a cloud-based service that collects, manages, and analyzes machine-generated data to provide analytical data, IT observability, policy compliance, and enhanced cybersecurity.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to award the quote for Splunk Infrastructure Monitoring to GHA Technologies Inc., as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

4. BID AWARD (PUR-1722) – VMWARE VSPHERE FOUNDATION 8

Brandi Kentner, Director, Purchasing; and Josh O’Neal, Chief Technical Officer, Information Technology, presented the request to award the bid for VMware VSphere Foundation 8 to the responsive, responsible bidder GHA Technologies Inc., of Scottsdale, AZ, with the lowest bid price of \$215,533.44. This software forms the hypervisor technology that County local network services and client desktop virtualization services rely on for operation.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to award the bid for VMware VSphere Foundation 8 to GHA Technologies Inc., as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

5. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASE (INGT-25-0177) 2025 FORD F-350 EXTENDED CAB DRW 4X4 TRUCK

Brandi Kentner, Director, Purchasing; and Mark Bradshaw, Director, Environmental Management, presented the request to authorize by resolution, for the Department of Water Quality to purchase one (1) new 2025 Ford F-350 Extended Cab DRW 4x4 Truck from Apple Ford, of Columbia, MD in the amount of \$144,307.00 and to utilize another jurisdiction’s contract (#0004504) that was awarded by Baltimore County to Apple Ford.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to authorize by resolution the purchase one (1) new 2025 Ford F-350 Extended Cab DRW 4x4 Truck from Apple Ford as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

6. BID AWARD (PUR-1720) – FOUR (4) MEDICAL VENTILATORS FOR THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (DES)

Brandi Kentner, Director, Purchasing; and Eric Jacobs, Operations Manager, Emergency Services, presented the request to award the purchase of four (4) medical ventilators for use by DES in the amount of \$16,500.00 per unit for a total cost of \$66,000.00, from Hamilton Medical, Inc. of Reno, NV based on its proposal dated January 14, 2025.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to award the purchase of four (4) medical ventilators from Hamilton Medical, Inc. as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

7. WASHINGTON COUNTY TRANSIT – APPROVAL TO APPLY FEDERAL FUNDS

Shawn Harbaugh, Director, Transit; Andrew Eshelman, Director, Public Works; and Carsten Ahrens, Senior Grant Manager, Grant Management, presented the request to approve the BUILD grant application by the Maryland Department of Transportation on behalf of Washington County Transit (WCT) and to accept funds in the awarded amount provided by the Federal Transit Authority for the

Expanding Rural Transit Options: Washington County Bus Facility Project and provide a letter of support for the application.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to approve the BUILD grant application by the Maryland Department of Transportation and to accept funds in the awarded amount as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

8. PROPERTY ACQUISITION OF 540 AND 520 WESTERN MARYLAND PARKWAY

Todd Moser, Real Property Administrator, Engineering, presented the request to approve the purchase of 540 and 520 Western Maryland Parkway; to approve an ordinance approving said purchase and to authorize the execution of necessary documentation to finalize the acquisition; and to approve a budget adjustment for this project in the amount of \$13,500,000.00 from capital improvement funds (CIP). The settlement is contingent upon a 60-day study period, title work and a 1301 exchange from the seller.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the purchase of 540 and 520 Western Maryland Parkway as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to convene in closed session at 10:27 a.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individual.

(1) These topics include the discussion of confidential personnel matters:

- Discussion of appointments to and other personnel matters of various County volunteer boards.

To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State. . Discussion of project in open session would discourage the business from locating in the County and potentially divulge confidential and/or proprietary information of the business.

To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. Discussion in open session would violate attorney-client privilege and weaken County bargaining position as it relates to sale of property.

- Update from County Attorney on effect of certain litigation.
- Discussion of negotiation of amendment to lease agreement.
- Discussion of negotiation of purchase and sale agreement.

In closed session, the Commissioners discussed and reached a consensus to:

- Appointments to the Washington County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board and the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council;
- Other personnel matters of various County volunteer boards;
- Proposals for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; and
- Received legal advice and updates on County involved litigation and legal matters.

Present during closed session at various times were Commissioners John F. Barr, Jeffrey A. Cline, Derek Harvey, Wayne Keefer and Randall E Wagner; Dawn L. Marcus, County Clerk and Zachary J. Kieffer, County Attorney; Michelle Gordon, County Administrator; Rosalinda Pascual, Deputy County Attorney; Victor Scarpelli, Assistant County Attorney; Jaime Dick, Deputy Director, Public Works, Parks and Recreation; Jonathan Horowitz, Director, Business and Economic Development; Linda Spence, Financial Programs Administrator, Business and Economic Development; Todd Moser, Real Property Administrator, Engineering; Andrew Eshleman, Director, Public Works; Mark Bradshaw, Director, Environmental Management; and Dave Mason, Deputy Director, Solid Waste.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Cline, moved to reconvene in open session at 12:08 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

RECESS

EVENING MEETING AT MAUGANSVILLE RURITAN CLUB

Location: 1708 Maugans Avenue

Maugansville, Maryland 21767

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the full assemblage.

CALL TO ORDER

President John F. Barr called the evening meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, to order at 6:03 p.m. with the following members present: Vice-President Jeffrey A. Cline, Commissioner Derek Harvey, and Commissioner Randall E. Wagner. Commissioner Wayne K. Keefer was absent.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Harvey shared his appreciation to meet with the citizens in the Maugansville area. He attended the Maugansville Goodwill Volunteer Fire Department Annual Awards Banquet. Commissioner Harvey requested staff look into barrier installation on the roads.

Commissioner Wagner thanked the Maugansville Ruritan for hosting the meeting. He thanked County staff for attending. Commissioner Wagner commented on the distance requirements between the schools and dispensaries.

Commissioner Cline attended the Clear Spring Volunteer Fire Department Annual Awards Banquet. He attended the Maugansville Goodwill Volunteer Fire Department Annual Awards Banquet and the 195th Anniversary Banquet of the Boonsboro First Hose Fire Company. Commissioner Cline attended the Washington County Day in Annapolis. He thanked Maugansville for their breakfast and hosting the meeting.

Commissioner Barr thanked Maugansville for hosting the meeting and commented on the citizen turnout. He commented on the Maugansville breakfast.

MAUGANSVILLE RURITAN LEADERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Marty Lumm thanked the Board of County Commissioners and County staff for attending the meeting. He recognized members of the Ruritan Club. Mr. Lumm thanked Michelle Priebe for her assistance in setting up the meeting. He requested information for construction and new business plans for Maugansville. He shared information on a new Route 11 Antique Mall.

CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

Denise Hose – Maugansville
Robert Walton – Maugansville
Karena Parsons – Maugansville
Barb Jacobs – Maugansville
James Coyle – Maugansville
Steve Hose – Maugansville
Ben Ebersole – Maugansville
Robert Mothershed – Maugansville
Jack Finniff - Maugansville

STAFF COMMENTS

Jill Baker, Director, Planning and Zoning commented on the property on Cearfoss Pike and she shared information regarding Dispensaries in Maryland.

Mark Bradshaw, Director, Environmental Management commented on the sewer bills and sewer fees.

Scott Hobbs, Director, Engineering commented on the pick-up zones for Washington County Public Schools. He shared information regarding Shawley Drive, Maugans Avenue and Oliver Drive. Mr. Hobbs commented on the use of barriers and a study requirement by the TACT committee. He shared information regarding Phase 1 improvements on Long Meadow Road and Paradise Road.

Jonathan Horowitz, Director, Business and Economic Development commented on dispensary locations in Washington County. He shared information regarding new businesses in Washington County.

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator, commented on truck traffic on Maugansville Road. She will have the Engineering staff research the issue. Ms. Gordon will reach out to the Sheriff's Department regarding the crime rate in the area. She will have the Director of Solid Waste research the recycling permit.

Dawn Marcus, County Clerk, presented the request to approve the appointment of Mike Tesla to serve a first, full, three-year term from February 1, 2025, through January 31, 2028 on the Washington County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the appointment of Mike Tesla as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Dawn Marcus, County Clerk, presented the request to approve the appointment of Lori Sines to serve a first, full, three-year term from February 1, 2025, through January 31, 2028 on the Washington County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board.

Commissioner Cline, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to approve the appointment of Lori Sines as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Dawn Marcus, County Clerk, presented the request to approve the reappointment of Susan Taylor to serve a second three-year term from February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2028 on the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the reappointment of Susan Taylor as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0)

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



Dawn L. Marcus, *County Clerk*