



Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland

Open Session Minutes

May 13, 2025

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation presented by John F. Barr, 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 8:00 a.m. with the following members present: Vice-President Jeffrey A. Cline, Commissioner Randy Leatherman and Commissioner Randall E. Wagner.

President John F. Barr recited the rules of Meeting Conduct and Meeting Sequence.

Commissioner Derek Harvey entered the meeting at 8:05 a.m.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Kristin Aleshire – Hagerstown

Curtis Reigh – Hagerstown

Bill Johns – Hagerstown

Eric Schwartz - Williamsport

RECESS

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CALL TO ORDER

President John F. Barr called the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, to order at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Vice-President Jeffrey A. Cline, Commissioner Derek Harvey, Commissioner Randy Leatherman and Commissioner Randall E. Wagner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Cline, moved to approve the minutes of April 29, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Wagner recognized all mothers for Mother's Day.

Commissioner Leatherman attended the Maryland Theatre 110th anniversary celebration. He thanked all of the volunteers at the Theatre. Commissioner Leatherman attended the grand opening of 4065 Florals in Sharpsburg.

Commissioner Harvey attended the Diversity and Inclusion meeting. He shared information on the Commission on Aging annual meeting. Commissioner Harvey commented on the Retirement Committee and the County Pension Plan. He commented on City Councilman Kristin Aleshire's concerns regarding City residents, education costs, taxes and the students. Commissioner Harvey shared information regarding bond ratings and the generation of economic development and activity.

Commissioner Cline shared information on National Police week. He thanked the men and women in blue. He attended the grand opening of 4065 Florals. Commissioner Cline attended the 110th anniversary of the Maryland Theatre. He praised all; the volunteers, patrons and workers for what they have done to support the theatre. Commissioner Cline attend the Spark Innovation and Growth Conference at Hagerstown Community College. He attended the Boonsboro Farmers Market for its 10th anniversary. Commissioner Cline recognized the County Correctional Officers during Correctional Officers week. He attended the Chamber of Commerce, Egg's and Issues, and he commended Jonathan Horowitz, Director of Economic Development for his presentation of the 2025 Washington County Economic Development update. Commissioner Cline recognized Commissioner Leatherman's birthday.

Commissioner Barr shared that he will leave the meeting to attend the Abate ceremony for Motorcycle Safety Week at the Motor Vehicle Administration office. He attended the Heart of the Civil War Heritage monthly meeting in downtown Frederick. Commissioner Barr attended the 110th anniversary of the Maryland Theatre. He commented on the Maryland Theatre, the Maryland Symphony Orchestra and the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts. He shared that Commissioner Wagner's father was honored for his work at the Maryland Theatre during the ceremony. Commissioner Barr shared information on the Budget Hearing this evening.

STAFF COMMENTS

Chip Rose, Director of Human Resources, presented the request to extend an offer to Clark Martz for the position of Business Specialist (Business Retention & Expansion) in the Business and Economic Development department. The offer is a Grade 14, Step 2, with an hourly salary of \$32.78, effective May 27, 2025.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to extend an offer to Clark Martz as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Kelcee Mace, Chief Financial Officer, presented the request to approve a budget adjustment that will adjust down the 2025 bond issue scheduled for next week by \$1,000,000.00. Staff met and reevaluated some of the water and sewer projects and determined that they are not at a point where bonds should be issued for them.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Cline, moved to approve the budget adjustment as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Dawn Marcus, County Clerk, presented the request to approve the reappointments of Tracie Felker and Robert Myers to serve a second, three-year term, from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028, on the Board of Zoning Appeals. This is a paid board

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the reappointments of Tracie Felker and Robert Myers as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator, attended the Chamber of Commerce Eggs and Issues where Jonathan Horowitz, Director of Economic Development did an excellent job updating the business community about the County's Economic Outlook. She attended the Maryland Theatre's 110th anniversary event and shared a fun fact, that she played the oboe in the Hagerstown Municipal Band who held concerts at the Maryland Theatre. Ms. Gordon shared that a pharmaceutical company is looking to implement an IV manufacturing facility in the Cascade area at the former Fort Ritchie property; they will be receiving a \$1,000,000.00 conditional (MEDAAF) loan from the State of Maryland and the County's required match will be \$100,000.00, which will be funded by hotel rental tax, this was approved in staff comments after our special session last week.

1. PRESENTATION OF 35TH ANNIVERSARY PROCLAMATION TO THE COMMUNITY FREE CLINIC

Board of County Commissioners of Washington County presented a proclamation to Dan Divito, John Menard, Dwayne Shrader, Michael Stanford, Malick Thiam, Debra Grove, Jo Chiotis, and Jeremy Cantner, Community Free Clinic in honor of the 35th anniversary of the Community Free Clinic.

Commissioner Barr left the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

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2. PRESENTATION OF 70TH ANNIVERSARY PROCLAMATION TO HORIZON GOODWILL INDUSTRIES, INC.

Board of County Commissioners of Washington County presented a proclamation to David Shuster, President and CEO, Horizon Goodwill Industries, Inc., in honor of the 70th anniversary of Horizon Goodwill Industries, Inc. Mr. Shuster shared an overview of the annual report of Horizon Goodwill.

3. YOUTH MERITORIOUS AWARD PRESENTATION

Richard Lesh, Grant Manager, Grant Management; Washington County Board of County Commissioners, presented the Youth Meritorious Award to Maddox Aguilar of Smithsburg Middle School.

4. MARYLAND 9-1-1 BOARD – APPROVAL TO SUBMIT APPLICATION AND ACCEPT AWARDED FUNDING

Alan Matheny, Director, Emergency Management; and Richard Lesh, Grant Manager, Grant Management, presented the request to approve the submission of grant application to the Emergency Numbers Systems Board in the amount of \$48,000.00 and accept funding as awarded to fund Language Line services through FY 2026.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the submission of the grant application to the Emergency Numbers Systems Board and to except funding as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

5. CONTRACT RENEWAL (PUR-1544) – TRASH REMOVAL SERVICES AT COUNTY FACILITIES

Carin Bakner, Buyer, Purchasing; and Danny Hixon, Deputy Director, Parks and Facilities, presented the request to renew the contract for trash removal services at County facilities with Republic Services

of Hagerstown, MD, per the rates included in its letter dated April 23, 2025. Republic Services is requesting a 4.9% increase above the current rates for work performed for the subject services. This increase is based on CPI-Water/Sewer/Trash.

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Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve to renew the contract for trash removal services at County facilities with Republic Services as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

6. SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT RENEWAL (PUR-1618) CYBER INTRUSION DETECTION AND MONITORING SYSTEM FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT (DARKTRACE)

Josh O'Neal, Chief Technology Officer, Information Systems; and Brandi Kentner, Director, Purchasing, presented the request to renew the contract for Cyber Intrusion Detection and Monitoring System for the Information Technology Department for the improvement of network security in the amount of \$273,712.75. This contract is for three (3) years, with an option by the County to renew for two (2) additional consecutive one (1) year periods; this is the third renewal period. The initial award was awarded as a sole source by the Board of County Commissioners on April 18, 2023. This approval is also contingent on the approval of the FY26 budget.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve to renew the contract for Cyber Intrusion Detection and Monitoring System for the Information Technology Department as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to convene in closed session at 9:58 a.m. The motion passed unanimously (4-0). Commissioner Barr was absent.

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 individuals. Personnel matters are confidential, precluding discussion in open session.

- Personnel discussion concerning County employees' performance.
- Discussion of appointments to County volunteer boards and commissions, Commission for Women and Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council.
- Discussion of provision of emergency services in the County to include discussion of supervision of personnel over whom the Board has jurisdiction.
- Discussion of compensation of certain County employees.

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

- Discipline and removal of County employee;
- For boards and commissions appointments and reappointments to the Commission for Women and Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council;
- Provision of emergency services and supervision of personnel; and
- Compensation of certain County employees;

Commissioner Barr returned to the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Present during closed session at various times were President John F. Barr, Commissioners Jeffrey A. Cline, Derek Harvey, Randy Leatherman and Randall E. Wagner; Dawn L. Marcus, County Clerk and Zachary J. Kieffer, County Attorney; Michelle Gordon, County Administrator; Attorney; Chip Rose, Director Human Resources; Alan Matheny, Director, Emergency Management and Communications; R. David Hays, Director, Emergency Services; David Chisholm, Deputy Director-Field Operations, Emergency Services; James Sprecher, President, WCVFRA; and Oley Griffith, Volunteer Coordinator, Emergency Services.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Cline, moved to reconvene in open session at 11:38 a.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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***FY26 PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
Location: Public Safety Training Center
18350 Public Safety Place
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740***

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of County Commissioners convened at the Public Safety Training Center, 18350 Public Safety Place, Hagerstown, Maryland at 6:00 p.m.

RECESS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the full assemblage.

FY26 PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator, and Kelcee Mace, Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY 26) Budget.

A public hearing of the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County was held in the Public Safety Training Center to consider the proposed FY26 budget for Washington County. In attendance were President John F. Barr, Vice-President Jeffrey A. Cline, Commissioner Derek Harvey, Commissioner Randy Leatherman and Commissioner Randall E. Wagner. The public hearing was being held pursuant to and to satisfy the specific requirements of the laws of the State of Maryland and to consider and obtain public comment on the proposed FY26 budget for Washington County. Michelle Gordon, County Administrator, referred to the Citizen's Guide to the Budget for FY26 which was available at the public hearing, posted on the County's website, and shall be added into the recorded minutes.

President John F. Barr opened the hearing for public testimony at 6:40 p.m. Six (6) individuals spoke on issues concerning the budget such as public safety, income tax, bond debt, education, the citizen's guide, senior citizen services and the effects of the budgetary crisis at the state level.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Cline, moved to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Commissioner Barr adjourned the public hearing at 6:54 p.m.



Dawn L. Marcus, *County Clerk*