



Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland

Open Session Minutes

May 21, 2026

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 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Vice-President Jeffrey A. Cline, Commissioner Randal A. Leatherman, Commissioner Neil C. Parrott and Commissioner Randall E. Wagner.

1. CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH GDMS, LLC

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator, presented the request for a motion to approve the contract for services with GDMS, LLC. The contract is for Consulting Services pertaining to assessment and review of County water and sewer service areas. Objectives of the consultant are within the contract attached to the Agenda Report Form.

There is a change to the last page of the contract: The attorney's fees have been amended to state that if there is a dispute related to any provisions in this contract which result in formal litigation then the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the non-prevailing party all reasonable costs and expenses incurred in the litigation including but not limited to all out of pocket costs of collection, court costs and reasonable attorney's fees and expenses for purposes of this section the prevailing party means the party that obtains a dispositive ruling in its favor whether on the merits or a dispositive motion additionally the signature for the recipient, which is the Washington County Board of County Commissioners will be John F. Barr the President of the County Commissioners and not the County Administrator.

Funding for the contract would be provided from the water and sewer fund.

RECESS

Commissioner Cline, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the contract with GDMS, LLC as presented. The motion passed (3-2) Commissioner Parrott and Commissioner Leatherman opposed.

2. AMENDMENT TO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL RELEASE

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator, presented the request for a motion to approve the Amendment to Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release by and between the County and JG Business Link International, Inc. (JGBLI) which provides for an update as to the responsibilities of certain infrastructure updates. The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County and JG Business Link International, Inc. entered into a Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release dated August 15, 2019. The Settlement Agreement among other items set forth responsibilities for constructing infrastructure on the parcel of former Fort Ritchie owned by JGBLI. In the continued support of the

redevelopment of the Fort, the County and JGBLI have agreed to amend the Settlement Agreement as more particularly stated therein.

Commissioner Parrott, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the Amendment to Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release with an additional term that JGBLI would need to have a bond prior to the execution of the agreement. The motion passed (4-1). Commissioner Leatherman opposed.

3. AFSCME COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING APPROVAL

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator; Chip Rose, Director, Human Resources; and Sam Mowery, President of the Local 2677, and AFSCME representatives presented the request for a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Board of County Commissioners and Maryland Public Employees Council 3, AFSCME, AFL-CIO and Local 2677, AFL-CIO. AFSCME representatives presented County staff with a proposed Memorandum of Understanding, extended the current bargaining agreement for Five (5) years.

Ms. Gordon requested an amendment to item No. 3, the amendment to the MOU provides for an extension of the current bargaining agreement for five (5) years needs to be amended to state that for each fiscal year this MOU FY2027 through FY2031 bargaining unit employees who are eligible to receive a step increase, shall receive a step increase if other employees (exclusive of the Washington County Sheriff's Department, add: and the Division of Emergency Services) receive a step increase in the Fiscal Year.

Commissioner Cline, seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, moved to approve with the amendment to item No. 3 to add the Division of Emergency Services as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Cline, moved to convene in closed session at 9:07 a.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter (7). Open session discussion would breach attorney/client privilege.

- Legal advice pertaining to statutory interpretation and potential litigation.

In closed session, the Commissioners discussed; and/or reached a consensus regarding:

- Received legal advice on statutory interpretation and potential litigation matters.

Present during closed session at various times were Commissioners John F. Barr, Jeffrey A. Cline, Randal A. Leatherman, Neil C. Parrott and Randall E. Wagner; Dawn L. Marcus, County Clerk; Michelle Gordon, County Administrator; Rosalinda Pascual, Deputy County Attorney; and Victor Scarpelli, Assistant County Attorney.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, moved to reconvene in open session at 9:47 a.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Leatherman, moved to adjourn at 9:47 a.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).



Dawn L. Marcus, *County Clerk*

