

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

*Open Session Minutes*

**February 5, 2019**

**STATE OF THE COUNTY**

The Commissioners presented the State of the County video followed by a question and answer period at 7:00 a.m. at the Fountain Head Country Club, 13316 Fountain Head Road, Hagerstown, Maryland; sponsored by the Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

*The Commissioners departed for 100 West Washington Street, Suite 1113, Hagerstown, Maryland.*

**A MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the full assemblage.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Jeffrey A. Cline called the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, to order at 10:01 a.m. at 100 West Washington Street, Room 1113, Hagerstown, Maryland, with the following members present: Vice President Terry L. Baker and Commissioners Wayne K. Keefer, Cort F. Meinelschmidt, and Randall E. Wagner.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, moved to approve the minutes of January 29, 2019. The motion passed unanimously

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Baker thanked county staff for the State of the County presentation shown earlier; he also thanked the Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the morning event. Commissioner Baker asked Kirk Downey, County Attorney, to provide an update regarding the waste to energy debt of \$250,000. Mr. Downey stated that there is no update; if further information is being requested, the topic will be scheduled for closed session discussion.

Commissioner Keefer discussed the Day in Annapolis, which was held last week, sharing that it was a successful event, and thanked the Community Coalition for organizing it.

Commissioner Meinelschmidt discussed the water main break in Sharpsburg, which occurred last weekend; he thanked county staff for a rapid response. Additionally, he thanked all staff involved in the morning presentation of the State of the County and invites all to attend the evening session tonight at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Wagner thanked staff for the State of the County this morning. He also thanked staff for the list of county properties and shared his appreciation for the quick response.

Commissioner Cline thanked the Chamber of Commerce and county staff for the morning presentation of the State of the County. He shared that the evening presentation will be at 5:30 p.m., Kepler Theater at Hagerstown Community College. Commissioner Cline thanked the Funkstown Fire Department for the invitation to its annual banquet. Additionally, he shared his condolences to the family of Dennis Reese.

#### **REPORTS FROM COUNTY STAFF**

Dave Hays, Director, Division of Emergency Services, and Tom Brown, Assistant Director, Emergency Communications, discussed response to the water main break in Sharpsburg. Mr. Hays recognized Tom Brown and Emergency Management Volunteers who assisted with the situation.

Commissioner Baker praised Director Hays for his communications and his commitment to Washington County, sharing that his dedication is evident from his 3:00 a.m. emails.

#### **County Administrator**

Rob Slocum thanked staff for the State of the County presentation. He shared that he recently met with Interim Administrator for the City of Hagerstown, Mike Spiker, to discuss working relationships with the City of Hagerstown.

Mr. Slocum also thanked staff for the efforts provided in working through the water main break in Sharpsburg. Additionally, he thanked Mayor Spielman and citizens for their patience.

#### **CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION**

Gary Rohrer, 19818 Marsha Court, Boonsboro, MD 21713 (previous Director, Washington County Division of Public Works) - discussed current and future road improvement projects within Washington County. He also discussed surplus property within Washington County and asked the Board to consider future transportation needs prior to liquidating surplus property.

Jeb Eckstine, 13 East Baltimore Street, Funkstown MD – discussed funding support for the volunteer services within Washington County.

#### **CONTRACT AWARD (PUR 1403) LANDFILL INSPECTION SERVICES REQUIREMENTS CONTRACT**

Rick Curry, Director, Purchasing; and Dave Mason, Deputy Director, Solid Waste, recommended award for the Landfill Inspection Services (PUR-1403) to the responsive, responsible proposer, BAI Group, LLC, of State College, Pennsylvania, with the lowest price proposal amount of \$267,300 based on the estimated annual quantities and unit costs contained in its proposal dated December 12, 2018, with inspectors utilized on an as-needed basis with no guarantee of minimum or maximum number of hours or testing procedures; and contingent upon approval of the Contract Agreement by the County Attorney's Office. The duration of the contract would be for a one (1) year period from the date of the executed contract on or February 3, 2019, whichever is later; with an option by the County to renew for up to four (4) additional, consecutive one (1) year periods.

Commissioner Meinelschmidt, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to award the contract to BAI Group, LLC, of State College, Pennsylvania, in the amount of \$267,300 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES OVERVIEW UPDATE**

Dave Hays, Director, Emergency Services; Robert Moncrief, President, Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (WCVFRA); and Kingsley Poole, Chair, Emergency Services Advisory Council; requested approval to move forward with implementation of Phase 2 of the Strategic Firefighter Staffing Plan. The five (5) Phase Strategic Firefighter Staffing Plan was adopted by the Commissioners in October 2017. Mr. Hays explained that the WCVFRA, the WCVFRA Chiefs Committee, and the Emergency Services Advisory Council members have all voted unanimously to endorse the recommendation. Mr. Hays stated that Phases 2-5 would have a financial impact of approximately \$4.5 million. Additionally, Mr. Hays recommended the execution of an application for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant (SAFER).

The Board discussed volunteer opportunity funding and the potential for the SAFER grant. Commissioner Meinelschmidt asked Director Hays to query volunteer departments on specific needs and then meet to discuss further. Commissioner Baker would like to review any requirements for the SAFER Grant. The Board agreed further discussion is necessary once structured information is received. Mr. Hays will return to the Board at a later date.

### **CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Baker, moved to convene in closed session at 11:10 a.m. 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; and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter, in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1), and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The motion passed unanimously.

In closed session, the Commissioners discussed the filling of a personnel vacancy with a specific individual and discussed the potential advertisement of another personnel vacancy and provided staff with direction thereon. The Commissioners also considered the potential removal or resignation of another specific employee, received legal advice related thereon, and provided staff with direction thereon.

Present during closed session were Commissioners Jeffrey A. Cline, Terry L. Baker, Wayne K. Keefer, Cort F. Meinelschmidt, and Randall E. Wagner. Also present were Krista L. Hart, County Clerk; Robert J. Slocum, County Administrator; Kirk C. Downey, County Attorney, and at various times Deb Peyton, Director, Health and Human Services; Dave Hays, Director, Emergency Services; Tom Brown, Assistant Director, Emergency Communications; and Dan DiVito, Director, Environmental Management.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Meinelschmidt, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, moved to adjourn from Closed Session at 12:39 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (President Cline was absent).

The Commissioners presented the State of the County video to the general public at 5:30 p.m. at the Kepler Theatre, Hagerstown Community College, 11400 Robinwood Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland.

  
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Krista L. Hart, *County Clerk*