



Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland

Open Session Minutes

August 18, 2020

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 10:04 a.m. at 100 West Washington Street, Room 1113, Hagerstown, Maryland, with the following members present: Vice President Terry L. Baker, Commissioner Wayne K. Keefer, Commissioner Cort F. Meinelschmidt, and Commissioner Randall E. Wagner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the minutes of July 28, 2020. The motion passed 3-2, Commissioners Keefer and Meinelschmidt abstained.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Vice-President Baker shared his concern for the matter scheduled on the agenda as Salary Commission Review.

Commissioner Keefer shared his concern ideas for the inclusion of the citizens participation during the Commissioner meetings. Additionally, Commissioner Keefer requested an update on the recently vacated Human Resource Director position.

Commissioner Meinelschmidt echoed Commissioner Keefer's comments regarding the Human Resource Director position.

Commissioner Wagner also discussed citizen participation and the need for such. Also, he shared that the Hagerstown Regional Airport received a 99% rating during a recent audit and praised staff.

President Cline shared that he has been meeting with County representatives to work on scheduling the citizens participation.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY STAFF

Division of Public Works

Andrew Eshleman, Director and Jaime Dick, Parks and Recreation, requested that the Board consider the implementation of a Student Learning Center which would allow County employees to work while students are cared for at the program. Additionally, it would allow students to attend the virtual schooling options. Mr. Dick shared that the cost would be approximately \$2,00 per week for salaries and would cost employees \$100 per week, with attendance no more than 15 students to permit safe distancing measures. Commissioners shared concern with utilizing county tax dollars to subsidize a program for staff.

The Commissioners reached a consensus to instruct staff to move forward with researching options for such a program and return to a future meeting for an official vote.

County Attorney Office

Kirk Downey shared information regarding the Perennial Solar LLC project and the upcoming hearing scheduled for public comment on September 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Additionally, he shared that the Commissioners have been invited to join the virtual hearing; Commissioner Wagner committed to attend.

County Clerk, Board Appointments / Reappointments

Washington County Board of Social Services

Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to appoint Shannon Gaines to serve an unfulfilled term from August 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021; this is NOT a paid board. The motion passed unanimously.

Krista Hart, County Clerk, also presented the Board with an update regarding the Veterans Advisory Board.

SALARY STUDY COMMISSION

Kendall Desaulniers, Deputy County Attorney, recommend appointment of the following individuals for the Salary Study Commission as outlined in the MD Code Annotated: Peter Perini, Sr., Democratic Central Committee of Washington County; Ray Foltz, Republican Central Committee of Washington County; Paul Frey, Washington County Chamber of Commerce; J.D. Repp, Washington County Farm Bureau; and Richard Willson, League of Women Voters of Washington County. Ms. Desaulniers explained that no viable candidates were found from the following groups: Cumberland Valley Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Joint Veterans Council of Washington County; the at-large appointed Washington County resident is to be determined by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners discussed the At-Large member appointment and instructed staff to bring the matter forth at a later date for consideration.

MC 3220, LLC CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM EASEMENT PROPOSAL

Chris Boggs, Land Preservation Planner, Planning & Zoning, recommended approval of the MC 3220, LLC Conservation Enhancement Program (CREP) easement project, paid for 100% by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, for \$272,144.53 for 81.56 easement acres located at 14205 Hollow Road, Hancock, Maryland (MD), and to adopt an ordinance approving the easement purchase and to authorize the execution of the necessary documentation to finalize the easement purchase. In addition to the easement funds, the County will receive up to 3% of the easement value for administrative costs, a mandatory 1.5% for compliance costs and funds to cover all the County's legal/settlement costs.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Meinelschmidt, moved to approve the MC 3220, LLC CREP project in the amount of \$272,144.53, to adopt an ordinance approving the purchase of the easement, and to authorize the execution of all necessary documents required to affect the easement purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

(Ordinance No. ORD-2020-26 is recorded among the Acts, Ordinances, and Resolutions of Washington County and the original is in the County Commissioners' Office.)

PARKING RESOLUTION DECISION

Sheriff Douglas Mullendore recommended approval to enact the revised Parking Resolution to increase parking fines to \$50.00 and to update reporting and flagging procedures as previously presented during the Public Hearing on July 28, 2020.

Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the revised Parking Resolution as presented. The motion passed 3-2, Commissioner Keefer and Commissioner Meinelschmidt abstained.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER ANNUAL GOALS

Mr. Downey presented the Board with the Annual Goals for FY21. Mr. Downey shared that the goals are used for planning purposes and for inclusion into the County's budget documents.

Commissioner Keefer, seconded by Commissioner Meinelschmidt, moved to approve the adoption of the FY21 County Commissioner Goals as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION FUNDING – SERVICE PRIORITY AREAS AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Susan Buchanan, Director, Office of Grant Management, recommended approval of the Community Organizations Service Priority Areas and their respective available funding amounts as presented. Also, to approve the addition of capital expenses as eligible costs for Community Organization Funding grants. Ms. Buchanan presented the Board with the pros and cons for the additional of capital expenses as eligible costs.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Meinelschmidt, moved to approve the Community Organizations Service Priority Areas as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Meinelschmidt, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to convene in closed session at 11:13 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, in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The motion passed unanimously.

In closed session, the Commissioners discussed the employment, recruitment, or assignment of County personnel with staff.

Present during closed session were Commissioners Jeffrey A. Cline, Terry L. Baker, Randy E. Wagner, and Wayne K. Keefer (Cort F. Meinelschmidt was absent). Also present were Kirk C. Downey, County Attorney/Interim County Administrator; Krista L. Hart, County Clerk, and at various times, Dave Hays, Director, Emergency Services and Brian Albert, Assistant Director, Emergency Services.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Meinelschmidt, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, moved to reconvene in open session at 11:29 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Meinelschmidt, seconded by Commissioner Baker, moved to adjourn at 11:29 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.



Krista L. Hart, County Clerk