



Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland

Open Session Minutes

November 9, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners met with the Washington County Delegation at the Hagerstown Community College as part of the Delegations Pre-Legislative forum.

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 11:33 a.m. at 100 West Washington Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, with the following members present: Vice-President Terry L. Baker, Commissioner Wayne K. Keefer, Commissioner Randall E. Wagner, and Commissioner Charles A. Burkett.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Burkett, moved to approve the minutes of November 2, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

The Commissioners provided a brief overview of events attended throughout Washington County.

Vice-President Baker thanked the Delegation for hosting the Legislative Forum. Additionally, he thanked staff for organizing the public hearing last week.

Commissioner Keefer shared a request for the addition of evening meetings to the Board of County Commissioner schedule. Additionally, he discussed the public outcry over objectionable books located in the school libraries and recommended that the Board of Education consider provisionally removing the books during a thorough review of the matter; he requested support for a letter addressing the issue to the Board of Education.

The Commissioners reached a consensus to compose a letter encouraging the Board of Education to provisionally remove the material.

Commissioner Burkett thanked all involved in the Day Reporting Center programs. He echoed Commissioner Keefer concerns and thanked all citizens who expressed concern over the matter.

Commissioner Wagner discussed a tribute at the Maryland Theater, to his father George Wagner (a former projectionist at the Maryland Theater), he thanked all involved.

President Cline he also thanked staff for a successful public hearing. Additionally, he thanked the Delegation and expressed his continued support for the widening of the I81. He reminded all of upcoming events for Veteran's Day. President Cline also shared condolences to the family of Richard Roulette who passed recently.

STAFF COMMENTS

County Clerk

Washington County Community Health Advisory Commission

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Baker, moved to accept the recommendation to reappoint Heidi Kendall to serve a first three-year term from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2024, as the Behavioral Health Representative; and to appoint Peggy Pugh to serve a first three-year term from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2024 as the Board of Education Representative; this is not a paid board. The motion passed unanimously.

Washington County Commission for Women

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, moved to accept the recommendation to appoint the following members: Beth Harvey, Anila Haq, Ann Marie Rotz, and Stephanie Helm, all to serve a first three-year term from November 1, 2021, through October 31, 2024. This is not a paid board. The motion passed unanimously.

Washington County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, moved to accept the recommendation to reappoint Terry Hose to serve a second three-year term from November 1, 2021, through October 31, 2024. This is not a paid board. The motion passed unanimously.

County Attorney

Kirk Downey, County Attorney, presented a request from the Town of Williamsport and the C&O Canal National Historic Park Headquarters for a letter of support in the amount of \$900,000 for renovations to the C&O Canal Headquarters as part of the Capital Budget.

Commissioner Keefer, seconded by Commissioner Baker, moved to provide a letter of support as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

County Administrator

John Martirano thanked the members of the Delegation for hosting the morning forum. He also shared condolences for the family of employee, Dave Iseminger, who recently passed. Additionally, Mr. Martirano recommended the Commissioners consider a follow-up letter to Secretary Slater and Governor Hogan expressing support for the widening of I81.

Commissioner Burkett left the meeting at 11:49 a.m. and returned to the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Stephanie Phillips, Berkley County, West Virginia, shared her opinion on various matters.

PRESENTATION: WASHINGTON COUNTY CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY

The Public Relations and Marketing shared a presentation recognizing family of employees who served or are serving in the US Military.

PRESENTATION: 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUR “VAGABONDS” AT CAMP HARDING

The Public Relations and Marketing team, with Krista Hart, County Clerk, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the four Vagabonds.

FUNDING FOR VETERANS MEMORIAL FLAG POLES

Juanita Grimm, Town Clerk, Town of Clear Spring, presented a request for funding in the amount of \$20,000 from the Commissioner's Contingency Fund for flag poles to display the Veteran's banners.

Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the request, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM 60/40 MATCH FOR FY2022

Chris Boggs, Rural Preservation Administrator, Planning and Zoning, recommended approval of a \$700,000 commitment from the County Agricultural Transfer Tax, and State Agricultural Transfer Tax to the 60/40 match component of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program easement program for FY2022 cycle.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Burkett, moved to approve the match as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

RETNETION OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONSULTANT AND LOBBYIST, BRUCE BEREANO

Kirk Downey, County Attorney, recommended the Board consider retaining Bruce C. Bereano as the lobbyist for the Board of County Commissioners 2022, as set forth in the proposed retainer letter, in the amount of \$10,000 from the Commissioner's Contingency Fund.

Commissioner Keefer shared his opposition in the request, adding that should it be approved, a caveat should be added regarding the acceptance of campaign donations from Mr. Bereano.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Baker, moved to approve the request with funding of \$10,000 from the Commissioner's Contingency Fund, as presented. The motion passed 4-1, Commissioner Keefer voted "NAY".

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Baker, moved to convene in closed session at 12:22 p.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 consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto, in accordance with Sections 3-305(b) (1) and (3) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The motion passed unanimously.

In closed session, the Commissioners discussed the potential appointment of specific individuals to a board over which the Board has appointment authority and discussed a variety of personnel matters to include the compensation and filling of certain personnel vacancies with specific candidates, the Board provided staff direction in regards thereto. The Commissioners also discussed and considered a potential land acquisition.

Present during closed session were Commissioners Jeffrey A. Cline, Terry L. Baker, Wayne K. Keefer, Randall E. Wagner, and Charles A. Burkett; also, present were John M. Martirano, County Administrator; Kirk C. Downey, County Attorney, and Krista L. Hart, County Clerk. Additionally, the following staff member was present at times: Larry Etchison, Director, Human Resources; Scott

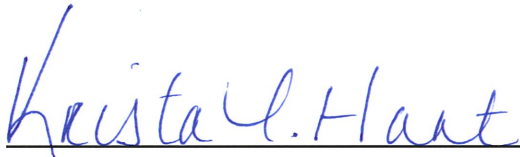
Hobbs, Director, Engineering; Andrew Eshleman, Director, Public Works; and Todd Moser, Real Property Administrator.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Keefer, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to reconvene in open session at 12:52 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Baker, moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Krista L. Hart", is written over a horizontal line.

Krista L. Hart, *County Clerk*