

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY
Hagerstown, Maryland**

December 5, 2017

PRE-LEGISLATIVE FORUM WITH WASHINGTON COUNTY DELEGATION

The County Commissioners attended a pre-legislative meeting at 10:41 a.m. with Washington County Delegation members Neil Parrott, Andrew Serafini, Michael McKay, George Edwards and William Wivell at the Hager Hall Conference and Event Center, 901 Dual Highway, Hagerstown.

Deputy County Attorney Kirk C. Downey presented the County's proposed legislation initiatives for the coming year, as follows:

Legislative Initiatives:

1. Bond Authorization – The County, on a periodic basis, requests authority from the General Assembly to issue bonds. The existing bond authorization is nearing exhaustion. For planning purposes, the County needs to receive authority to issue bonds over the next several years. The Commissioners are requesting authority to issue \$70 million in bonds over the next 5-6 years. The Delegation and Commissioners discussed the proposal.
2. Disabled Veterans Tax Credit – The County has the authority to provide a credit to veterans with a disability rating of 50% or more against the County's real property tax on a veterans' legal residence in an amount equal to their disability ranking. The County has been requested to extend the availability of that credit to any veteran with any amount of disability. Delegation members were advised that the credit is for disabled veterans with no age limit, and the Veterans Administration would determine the rating percentage.

Potential Item:

1. Overnight Tractor-Trailer Parking on County Roadways - The County is exploring whether it needs additional authority to regulate the overnight parking of tractor-trailers along County roads in certain areas, including industrial parks. Mr. Downey indicated that additional signage would be burdensome and the County is currently in discussions with the Maryland Motor Truck Association regarding the matter.

Watch List Items:

1. Restoration of Highway User Revenue – Delegation members were advised of how the drastic reduction in funding has affected the County budget and other aspects of citizens' lives. Senator Edwards suggested the Commissioners write respectful letters to Senate President Mike Miller and House Speaker Michael Busch regarding the matter.
2. Funding for the Urban Improvement Project – the Commissioners requested support for continued funding in the Governor's budget for the Project.

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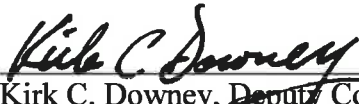
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3. Sick Leave Bill – the Commissioners requested support of Governor Hogan’s veto of the Paid Sick Leave bill that uniquely burdens local governments, especially as to seasonal employees, and places Maryland employers at risk. The Commissioners were advised to communicate their concerns to the legislature.

The meeting ended at 11:02 a.m.



Robert J. Slocum, County Administrator



Kirk C. Downey, Deputy County Attorney



Vicki C. Lumm, County Clerk