

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

Open Session Minutes

September 21, 2018

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner John F. Barr offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the full assemblage.

CALL TO ORDER

President Terry L. Baker called the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, to order at 10:07 a.m. at 100 West Washington Street, Room 1113, Hagerstown, Maryland, with the following members present: Vice President Jeffrey A. Cline and Commissioners John F. Barr, Wayne K. Keefer and LeRoy E. Myers, Jr.

Introductions:

National Park Service: Kevin Brandt, Superintendent, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal); John Noel, Deputy Superintendent, C&O Canal; Robert Brennan, Executive Director, Maryland Economic Development Corporation; Sara Greaves, Chief Financial Officer, Washington County Budget and Finance; Donnie Stotelmyer, Town of Williamsport, Town Manager; Jim McCleaf, resident; Susan Harrison, resident; Dan Spedden, President, Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau; Tom Riford, Charter Board Member, C&O Canal Trust; Charles Brown, Williamsport Town Council; Dennis Grove, Williamsport Town Council; Jen Knode, Assistant Mayor, Town of Williamsport; Bill Green, Mayor of Williamsport; Susan Small, Business Leader, Washington County Department of Business Development; Greg Snook, President, Hagerstown-Washington County Industrial Foundation, Inc. (CHIEF).

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE
ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY IN WILLIAMSPORT TO RELOCATE THE
CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK HEADQUARTERS**

Susan Buchanan, Director, Office of Grant Management, requested that the Commissioners accept the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Strategic Demolition Fund Statewide Grant Agreement for Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park Headquarters (C&O NHP) Relocation which would provide the County with up to \$1.25 million to purchase the property located at 122-142 West Potomac Street, Williamsport, Maryland; and also to subsequently enter into a ground lease agreement with the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO), which will improve the property for use and long term lease with the National Park Service for the relocation of the C&O NHP.

Ms. Buchanan stated that the proposed Grant Agreement provided by DHCD has been reviewed by the Office of Grant Management and the County Attorney. Ms. Buchanan explained that the performance period begins upon execution and the County has until June 30, 2019 to complete the purchase of the property. Additionally, there will be a 25% matching fund requirement associated with the grant; however, the State will consider the investment provided by MEDCO as the required match.

Commissioner Cline, seconded by Commissioner Barr, moved to accept the DHCD Demolition Fund Statewide Grant Agreement for the C&O NHP relocation, and to subsequently enter into a ground lease agreement with the MEDCO, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cline thanked his fellow Commissioners for supporting this project. Commissioner Cline also thanked the Mayor and Council of Williamsport for their efforts and support. He shared a phrase associated with the project as, "remembering the past to ensure the future."

Commissioner Myers thanked all those involved for their persistence.

Commissioner Keefer stated that there was a remarkable partnership created by this project between multiple layers of Government to include municipal, County, State, and federal levels working together. Commissioner Keefer added that he appreciates that the needs of the local community are being met from an economic and recreational standpoint.


Commissioner Barr stated that to have the C&O NHP located in Williamsport is a very historic event.

President Baker stated that he believes that Williamsport, Maryland, is the only location for the C&O NHP. President Baker also thanked his fellow Commissioners for adjusting their schedules to attend the meeting, ensuring this monumental moment.

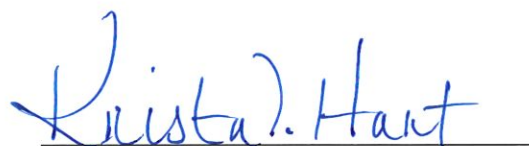
Rob Slocum, County Administrator, thanked Washington County elected officials, staff and representatives who participated in the meeting. He also thanked DHCD, Secretary Holt's Office, Senator Edwards' office, and Chris Shank, Deputy Chief of Staff with Governor Hogan's Office.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Myers, moved to adjourn at 10:25 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.


Robert J. Slocum, County Administrator


John Martirano, County Attorney


Krista L. Hart, County Clerk