



Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland

Open Session Minutes

February 4, 2025

STATE OF THE COUNTY PRESENTATION

The Commissioners attended the State of the County presentation at Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine, 11120 Health Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, hosted by the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

The Commissioners departed for 100 West Washington Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, at 9:00 a.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation was presented by Reverend Dione Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the full assemblage.

CALL TO ORDER

President John F. Barr called the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, to order at 9:31 a.m. with the following members present: Vice-President Jeffrey A. Cline, Commissioner Randall E. Wagner, Commissioner Derek Harvey and Commissioner Wayne K. Keefer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the minutes of January 14, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Wagner attended the State of the County. He thanked the Chamber of Commerce for hosting the event. Commissioner Wagner commented on the new Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine. He thanked County staff for attending. Commissioner Wagner attended the Hancock Fire Company Annual Awards Banquet.

Commissioner Keefer echoed Commissioner Wagner's comments. He commented on the County motto.

Commissioner Harvey attended the evening meeting at the Maugansville Ruritan and requested County staff provide information for the citizen's requests. He attended the Ground Hog Day event at the Agricultural Education Center. Commissioner Harvey attended the Hancock Fire Company Annual Awards Banquet. He commented on Commissioner voting over the past year. Commissioner Harvey commented on County debt. He commented on the Freedom of Information Act. Commissioner Harvey shared information regarding his outside employment and his political career.

Commissioner Cline thanked Commissioner Harvey for his comments. He commented on the County's bond rating. Commissioner Cline thanked the Maugansville Ruritan for hosting the evening meeting and he thanked County staff who attended. He attended the Hancock Fire Company Annual Awards Banquet. Commissioner Cline attended the State of the County hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. He shared the passing of Charles Shindler and honored him for his years of service at the Maugansville Volunteer Fire Company.

Commissioner Barr thanked the Commissioner's for their comments. He thanked Reverend Hall for the invocation. Commissioner Barr attended the Ground Hog Day event at the Agricultural Education Center. He thanked the community of Maugansville for hosting the evening meeting. Commissioner Barr commented on the traffic concerns at the elementary schools. He attended the Honey Baked Ham grand opening. Commissioner Barr shared he will attend the upcoming MACo meetings and the State of the State. He shared upcoming events.

STAFF COMMENTS

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator attended several meetings with MACo and the Delegation. She attended the Ground Hog Day event at the Agricultural Education Center. Ms. Gordon attended the State of the County and reminded citizens that the event can be viewed online. She attended the Maugansville evening meeting and will be sending the citizens statistics that they had requested.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Curits Reigh – Hagerstown
Stephanie Phillips – Hagerstown

CONVENE AS THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to convene as the Board of Health at 9:59 a.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

1. STATE OPIOID RESPONSE/MOBILE CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR THE WAY STATION, INC./SHEPPARD-PRATT

Earl Stoner, Health Officer, Washington County Health Department recommended that the Board of Health approve the contract to the Way Station, Inc., of Washington County in the amount of \$119,813.00 for funding legislated for the Crisis Response Grant providing a mobile crisis team to increase mobile crisis services beyond normal business hours. The contract period is from September 29, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve the Board of Health award the contract to Way Station Inc., of Washington County in the amount of \$119,813.00 as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

RECONVENE AS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WAHSINGTON COUNTY

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners, Washington County, Maryland at 10:01 a.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

2. WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING/AREA AGENCY ON AGING'S FY2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Amy Olack, CEO; and Ed Lough, President, Commission on Aging, shared for information purposes, the FY2026 budget presentation of the Washington County Commission on Aging/Area Agency on Aging with the Board of County Commissioners. They shared a handout.

The Commissioners reached a consensus (5-0) for a \$1,000.00 sponsorship of a table at the Commission on Aging's Light up the Night Legacy Gala event. Funds will be taken from the Commissioner Contingency fund.

3. MARYLAND 9-1-1 BOARD – APPROVAL TO SUBMIT APPLICATION AND ACCEPT AWARDED FUNDING

Alan Matheny, Director, Emergency Communications; and Richard Lesh, Grant Manager, Grant Management, presented the request to approve the submission of a grant application to the Maryland 9-1-1 Board in the amount of \$74,741.00 and accept funding as awarded for annual maintenance costs for the NICE System.

Commissioner Wagner left the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Commissioner Cline, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to approve the submission of a grant application to the Maryland 9-1-1 Board as presented. The motion passed (4-0). Commissioner Wagner was absent.

Commissioner Wagner returned to the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

4. MARYLAND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS, DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE & FAMILY SERVICES – APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT AWARD

Kristin Grossnickle, Court Administrator, Circuit Court for Washington County; and Richard Lesh, Grant Manager, Grant Management, presented the request to approve the application and acceptance of funds in the amount of \$442,809.00 for Circuit Court Family Support Services funding.

Commissioner Cline, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to approve the application and acceptance of funds for Circuit Court Family Support Services funding as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

5. REJECTION OF BID (PUR-1719) – SHARPSBURG WTP BACKWASH PUMP REPLACEMENT

Brandi Kentner, Director, Purchasing; and Mark Bradshaw, Director, Environmental Management, presented the request to take action, in the best interest of the County and to request the bid for the Sharpsburg WTP Backwash Pump Replacement be rejected due to the submitted bids not meeting the specifications of the solicitation. The department shall make all necessary adjustments to the solicitation and request approval to re-advertise.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to approve to reject the bid for the Sharpsburg WTP Backwash Pump Replacement and to readvertise as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Cline, moved to convene in closed session at 10:41 a.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. Discussion in open session would violate attorney-client privilege and weaken County bargaining position as it relates to sale of property.

- Update from County Attorney on effect of certain legislation and County involved litigation.

In second closed session, the Commissioners discussed; and reached a consensus to:

- Received and update on County involved legal matters.

Present during closed session at various times were Commissioners John F. Barr, Jeffrey A. Cline, Derek Harvey, Wayne K. Keefer and Randall E. Wagner; Dawn L. Marcus, County Clerk; Zachary J. Kieffer, County Attorney; Michelle Gordon, County Administrator; Rosalinda Pascual, Deputy County Attorney; Aaron Weiss, Assistant County Attorney; and Victor Scarpelli, Assistant County Attorney.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to reconvene in open session at 11:43 a.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to adjourn at 11:43 a.m. The motion :passed unanimously (5-0).



Dawn L. Marcus, *County Clerk*