



Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland

Open Session Minutes

May 14, 2024

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 John F. Barr called the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, to order at 9:01 a.m. with the following members present: Vice-President Jeffrey A. Cline, Commissioner Derek Harvey, Commissioner Randall E. Wagner and Commissioner Wayne K. Keefer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Cline, moved to approve the minutes of April 23, 2024. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Cline recognized Motorcycle Safety Week and the late Gary "Pappy" Bowers for his participation in ABATE. He recognized National Police Week. Commissioner Cline attended Eagle Scout ceremony for Dhara Patel. He attended the Washington County Police Cadet Academy Graduation. Commissioner Cline attended the meeting with Governor Moore at the Public Safety Training Center. He attended the Horizon Good Will Power of Work Awards. Commissioner Cline attended the picnic at the Washington County Detention Center for National Correction Officers Week. He attended the 10th Anniversary of the Boonsboro Farmers Market. Commissioner Cline attended the Clara Barton Memorial Service.

Commissioner Wagner recognized Mother's Day. He reminded everyone to vote today during the primary election. He attended the Police Cadet graduation ceremony at the Public Safety Training Center. Commissioner Wagner attended the Horizon Goodwill Power of Work Awards. He attended the tour with Governor Moore at the Airport Aviation Center and the meeting at the Public Safety Training Center. Commissioner Wagner attended the picnic luncheon for the National Correctional Officer Week.

Commissioner Harvey recognized Police Safety Week. He reminded everyone to vote during the primary election. Commissioner Harvey commented that National Military Appreciation Month continues. He commented on celebrating family between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Commissioner Harvey attended the Commission on Aging meeting and commented their annual plan review will be this Friday. He shared information on the Elder Group led by Charles and Teresa Peak. Commissioner Harvey attended the visit with Governor Moore. He shared today is the 76th birthday of Israel.

Commissioner Keefer commented on the primary election and reminded the polls will be open until 8:00 p.m. He commented on being a previous poll worker. Commissioner Keefer thanked the Board of Elections, the poll workers, candidates and their supporters.

Commissioner Barr attended the Clara Barton Memorial service. He commented on Governor Moore's visit. He attended the soft opening at Meritus Park and shared this Friday will be the grand opening. Commissioner Barr attended the grand opening of the Uptograft Building for retail services and apartments. He shared upcoming events to include the annual Budget Hearing, Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Center. Commissioner Barr will be leaving the meeting early today to attend the Motorcycle Safety Week ceremony at the Motor Vehicle Administration.

STAFF COMMENTS

Chip Rose, Director of Human Resources presented personnel requests as follows:

To approve the hire of Anthony Napoli as the Director of Transit at a Grade 17, Step 10; \$98,946.00/annually.

Commissioner Wager, seconded by Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the hire of Anthony Napoli as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

To approve the hire of Kelsey Keadle as the Business Specialist, Department of Business and Economic Development at a Grade 14, Step 1; \$62,920.00/annually.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Keefer moved to approve the hire of Kelsey Keadle as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Kelcee Mace, Chief Financial Officer shared that staff and financial advisor Davenport met with rating agencies and reported all three rating agencies have assigned our 2024 bond issue of AA+ and AA1 ratings and affirmed the overall bond rating of AA+ AA1, citing strong financial management and policy practices, stable financial performance and low debt services cost among the many factors considered.

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator attended the dedication and unveiling of the Clara Barton statue at the new Clara Barton Memorial Park in Hagerstown, she recognized sculptor of the statue Toby Mendez. Ms. Gordon attended the picnic luncheon for the correctional officers at the Washington County Detention Center. She recognized the highways department for the debris removal at the Broadfording Bridge. Ms. Gordon attended the meeting with Governor Moore and shared top priority topics discussed with the Governor to include I-81 widening, highway user revenue replacement, water and sewer infrastructure improvements and a governance study, courthouse replacement bond bill funding and funding for the Kirwan initiatives. She commented on upcoming events. Ms. Gordon thanked the public safety officers and recognized National Police Safety Week.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- Laurie Chrzanowski, Washington County Commission for Women
- Dave Williams, Smithsburg

FY25 AIRPORT BUDGET – REVISED

Neil Doran, Director, Hagerstown Regional Airport; Kelcee Mace, Chief Financial Officer presented for informational purposes, on May 7, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing regarding the proposed increase in current charges, rentals, and fees at the Hagerstown Regional Airport. Being presented today is a modified schedule of rates and charges based on feedback received during the public hearing and associated budget changes. The schedule of fees is included in the Agenda packet. The total budget remains unchanged at three (3) million dollars.

YOUTH MERITORIOUS AWARDS PRESENTATIONS (3)

Richard Lesh, Grant Manager, Grant Management presented throughout the school year the Board of County Commissioners present “Youth Meritorious Awards” to students attending both public and private schools or those being home schooled in Washington County. The following individuals have been selected based on their scholastic achievement, leadership qualities, community service performed or other positive contributions to their school and community. These exceptional youths have consistently worked and distinguished themselves as model students and members of our County. It is my pleasure to present the following youth for recognition today:

Evan Mollo- Springfield Middle School, Parent(s) – Katie & Nick Mollo, Nominated by April Crohare. Commissioner Cline presented a certificate to Evan Mollo.

Christian Trader- Smithsburg Middle School, Parent(s) – Mary Jo Trader, Nominated by Joseph Ralls. Commissioner Harvey presented a certificate to Joseph Ralls.

Torin Malott- Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, Parent(s) – Erica VanSant, Nominated by Kristen Green, Rachel Paul, Rob Hovermale, Rob Merrill, Jamie Dick, Tressa Nicewarner, Tiara Burnett, Pam Francis. Commissioner Wagner presented a certificate to Torin Malott.

Commissioner Barr left the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

POST LEGISLATIVE REVIEW SESSION

Bruce Bereano, Lobbyist, Washington County presented an update on the post legislative session. He thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to be the lobbyist for Washington County. The legislative session adjourned April 8, 2024. He works very closely with the Washington County Senators and Delegates. This Thursday will be the last bill signing day. He shared the Constitutional amendment bill presented by Carroll County did not move forward. This bill may come back in the future. The controversial legislation to revamp MDSAT assessment process to create regional offices was defeated it is not likely this bill will be brought back in the future. Washington County Board of Education residency requirements did pass. The abandoned cemetery acquisition disposition legislation did not pass. He shared next session will be stressful with a proposed increase to taxes and funding.

The commissioners discussed funding for I-81, the need for I-70 to be on the list, request to be notified of any bills regarding second amendment rights, police rights and police protections, making criminals more accountable, illegal immigrants without proper documentation and insurance, the Maryland Board of Public works status of operation and the state’s budget forecast.

Mr. Bereano shared there was a great deal of discussion regarding criminals, police rights and correctional officer rights this past session, however the balance has not changed. There was not enough discussion between the majority party to raise the issues to a greater level of importance and action. There was no discussion regarding the illegal immigration. He attends every meeting with the Board of Public Works, and they work very well together, and it is very open and accessible. He suggested meeting with the Commissioners during the MACo Summer Conference.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2024 AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION DISTRICT APPLICATIONS

Vice-President Cline convened a Public Hearing at 10:06 a.m. to obtain public comment for the 2024 Agricultural Land Preservation District Applications.

Chris Boggs, Rural Preservation Administrator, Planning and Zoning presented the request to approve the 10-year Agricultural Land Preservation Districts for the following twenty-four (24) property owners: Hays, Black, Talton, Kefauver, Bryce, Rowe, Worthington, Horst, Divel, Martin, Gruber, Berry, Deater, Edgemont Orchards Partnership, Shank, Sheffler, Bragunier Farms, Inc., Bragunier, Davis, Divelbiss, and Blanks.

In exchange for the landowners' commitment to use their property for agricultural purposes only, they will receive County property tax credits on their agricultural land and buildings and a credit of up to \$696.00 on their dwelling. The District/Credit program was adopted at the County level in 1991 and was updated in 2018 by ORD-2018-20 and ORD-2018-21. The purpose of the public hearing is to take public comment from interested parties.

The cost of tax credits for these properties for the full ten-year period is approximately \$12/acre/year for a total of about \$33,864.00 per year. This will be in the form of property taxes not collected. A total of 2,822 acres will be included in the twenty-four (24) Districts.

The Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board approved all of the Districts because they meet program criteria for size, soils, and assessment. The Planning Commission/Planning Staff have determined the properties are consistent with Comprehensive Plan requirements due to their locations outside of County-designated growth areas and planned water and sewer service areas.

The Public Hearing was opened for public comment: There was no public comment.

Commissioner Keefer commented he would abstain as he may have a family member who may benefit from the plan.

The Public Hearing was closed at 10:10 a.m.

The Public Hearing was opened for Commissioner comments: There were no Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Harvey moved to approve the ten-year plan as presented. The motion passed (3-0). Commissioner Keefer abstained; Commissioner Barr was absent.

2024 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT – APPROVAL TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION AND ACCEPT AWARDED FUNDING

Cody Swope, Emergency Management Specialist, Emergency Management; Richard Lesh, Grant Manager, Grant Management presented the request to approve submission of the FY24 Emergency Management Performance Grant to the Maryland Department of Emergency Management in the amount of \$92,439.96 and accept funding as awarded. The Office of Grant Management has reviewed the grant guidelines. The performance period for this federal grant is October 1, 2024, through August 31, 2027. There is a 100% match required for this grant, which will be accomplished by using the Director of Emergency Management salary as in-kind services.

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator shared this is an annual grant.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Keefer moved to approve to submit the FY 24 Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented. The motion passed (4-0). Commissioner Barr was absent.

Commissioner Harvey requested information from staff regarding all grants applied for, the amounts requested, and amounts received.

STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM – APPROVAL TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION AND ACCEPT AWARDED FUNDING

Cody Swope, Emergency Management Specialist, Emergency Management; Richard Lesh, Grant Manager, Grant Management presented the request to approve submission of the FY24 State Homeland Security Grant to the Maryland Department of Emergency Management in the amount of \$187,320.06 and accept funding as awarded. There is no matching fund requirement. The Office of Grant Management has reviewed the grant guidelines. The performance period for this federal grant is September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2027. There is no matching fund requirement associated with this grant; however, at least 35% of the grant funds must be spent on law enforcement-related tasks or equipment.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Keefer moved to approve to submit the FY24 State Homeland Grant as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0). Commissioner Barr was absent.

CVS PROGRAMS TO ASSIST WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Chip Rose, Director, Human Resources; Jason Miller, Benefits Coordinator, Human Resources presented for Awareness & Support of the programs. Drug manufacturers are marketing brand named drugs so well, employees are requesting prescriptions for designer drugs, unaware of the alternatives. In some instances (Humira) there are significantly more affordable prescriptions available and in other cases (Ozempic) patients are seeking prescriptions to treat conditions other than what it was approved for by the FDA.

Program 1: CVS Pro-logic initiative. Ozempic was approved by the FDA to treat diabetes. It works by binding receptors and stimulating insulin release from the pancreas. As a side effect, many patients lose weight while on the medication. So much so, tens of thousands of prescriptions have been issued to patients without diabetes, presumably for weight loss. The FDA has warned the medical risks for non-diabetic patients are significant. The pro-logic initiative will deny new prescriptions for employees without a history of diabetes and require a physician's approval (PA) to confirm the diagnosis of diabetes. We currently do not approve any weight loss drugs through our formulary.

Program 2: CVS Biosimilar program. Humira was approved by the FDA to treat a broad spectrum of inflammatory diseases like rheumatoid arthritis and other serious illnesses like Crohn's disease. AbbVie announced Humira was the country's top selling drug in 2023 year (\$20B) and their raising prices 8% in 2024. There are nine (9) BIOSIMILAR drugs (nearly identical active ingredients) that cost 15-20% of Humira, but they lack the marketing engine of AbbVie. CVS will recommend biosimilar drugs to any new Humira prescription. Again, CVS will require a PA to either confirm the Humira Rx or one of the biosimilars.

QUOTATION AWARD (Q-24-779) POLICE VEHICLE EQUIPMENT FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Rick Curry, Director, Purchasing; Alan Matheny, Logistics and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Washington County Sheriff's Office presented the request to award the Quotation for the Police Vehicle Equipment to the responsible, responsive bidder, Global Public Safety, of Hanover, MD who submitted the responsive Total Lump Sum of \$61,859.00 for Items 1 through 22 as shown on the bid tabulation sheets.

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Harvey moved to award the Quotation for the Police Vehicle Equipment to Global Public Safety as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0). Commissioner Barr was absent.

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator reminded the BOCC effective October 1, 2024, the legislature approved the procurement amount of \$100,000.00 for vehicle purchases prior to bringing the request before the Commissioners.

CONTRACT AWARD (PUR-1677) ORACLE FUSION CONSULTANT SERVICES REQUIREMENTS CONTRACT- BUDGET & FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Rick Curry, Director, Purchasing; Darryl Brown, Accounting Supervisor, Budget and Finance; Angie Poffenberger, Deputy Director, Budget and Finance Software Support and Training presented the request to award a “primary” requirement(s) contract for Oracle Fusion Consultant Services for use by the Budget & Finance, Human Resources, and Information Systems to Metaformers, Inc. of Reston, VA for the responsive, responsible proposal with the lowest price proposal amount of \$38,000.00 at the specified unit cost and estimated hours (No minimum or maximum guaranteed); and, as permitted in the Request for Proposal (RFP), to award a “stand-by list” of consultants contract to Cherry Road Technologies, Inc of Morris Plains, NJ at their specified unit costs and estimated hours (No minimum or maximum guaranteed).

Michelle Gordon, County Administrator asked for clarification on the cost as the proposal request is \$38,000.00 and the bid tab indicates \$39,800.00.

Mr. Curry clarified the correct amount is \$39,800.00.

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner moved to award a “primary” requirement(s) contract for Oracle Fusion Consultant Services in the amount of \$39,800.00 as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0). Commissioner Barr was absent.

RECESS

WASHINGTON COUNTY CAREER EXPO RECAP AND RECOGNITION OF THE HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TEAM

Jonathan Horowitz, Director, Business and Economic Development; Linda Spence, Business Specialist, Business and Economic Development presented The Washington County Department of Business and Economic Development, in collaboration with Hagerstown Community College (HCC), organized two Washington County Career Expos funded by the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, MD through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Program. These events aimed to connect job seekers with employment opportunities and foster economic growth in the region. In total the two events had participants of almost 2,000 people. He recognized HCC staff; Dr. Klauber, Dr. Ohl-Gigliotti, Laura Scafide, Maureen Kolb, Jonelle Deavers, Jackie Spong, Teresa Shank, and Jack Drooger. He recognized Business and Economic Development staff, Linda Spence, Carmen Harbaugh, Machel Dwyer, and Tonia Davis. Michelle Gordon, County Administrator recognized Toni Parks from the Department of Human Resources who manned the booth.

Dr. Klauber thanked the Commissioners and commended the staff at HCC and thanked Jonathan Horowitz and the Department of Economic Development for their partnership. He commented the events also help the students at HCC.

Commissioner Cline recognized Paul Frey who also was in attendance.

Commissioner Wagner commented on the amazing event, the outstanding job of staff and the vendors, and the opportunity for students and others for a pathway to a career.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Harvey, moved to convene in closed at 11:01 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; To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

In closed session, the Commissioners discussed boards and commissions, personnel matters, real property matters, and legal matters.

Present during closed session at various time were Commissioners John F. Barr, Jeffrey A. Cline, Derek Harvey, Wayne Keefer and Randall E Wagner; Dawn Marcus, County Clerk; Zachary J. Kieffer, County Attorney; Michelle Gordon, County Administrator; Rosalinda Pascual, Assistant County Attorney; Aaron Weiss, Assistant County Attorney; Greg Cartrette, Director/Code Official, Permits and Inspections; Andrew Eshleman, Director of Public Works; Todd Moser, Real Property Administrator, Engineering; Jill Baker, Director, Planning and Zoning; Erin Overdorff, Parks Supervisor, Recreation and Parks; Kelcee Mace, Chief Financial Officer; Chip Rose, Director Human Resources; Sheriff Brian Albert, Washington County Sheriff's Office; Jonathan Horowitz, Director, Business and Economic Development; Linda Spence, Business Specialist, Business and Economic Development and Ronald Maggiore.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, moved to reconvene in open session at 1:07 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to adjourn at 1:07 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).



Dawn L. Marcus, *County Clerk*

