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

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John F. Barr, *President*  
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William J. Wivell

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

Review of Actions Taken in the Washington County  
Board of County Commissioners Meeting  
Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

THE BOARD HELD ITS MONTHLY JOINT MEETING WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND HEARD AN UPDATE FROM THE TEEN PREGNANCY COALITION, THE HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT BRIDGE PLAN, AND PUPIL GENERATION RATES.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Terry Baker reported on attending the Town of Hancock Mayor and Council meeting held on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Under discussion were revenue sharing, and landfill issues. The Commissioner presented awards to the Hub City Wrestling Tournament last week, and welcomed the Australian National Youth Basketball team to Washington County on behalf of the Board at St. Maria Goretti High School over the weekend.

Commissioner Jim Kercheval commented on attending a recent meeting on future parking in Downtown Hagerstown. A survey of area businesses and government agencies is planned to assess future needs. At last week's meeting of the Transportation lobbying steering committee a need for the City Engineer and County Public Works to work together on a list of needs was discussed. Next Wednesday will see meetings of the Metropolitan Planning Organization in Martinsburg, and the Maryland Association of Counties' Legislative committee in Annapolis. Kercheval, a member of both committees, asked Commissioner's President John Barr to attend the MACo meeting in his stead. Barr said he would attend that meeting.

Commissioner Bill Wivell reported on attending the Halfway Volunteer Fire Company annual awards ceremony last weekend. The event was well done, Wivell said, and he thanked the volunteers for their commitment to the community. Also, the Commissioner made an inquiry to a contact with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the status of a possible power transmission line that may be constructed across the southern end of Washington County. The federal agency has been asked to make a future presentation to the Board to discuss that project and other energy

issues related to the FERC jurisdiction over the construction of transmission lines, Wivell said.

Commissioner Kristin Aleshire also reported on attending the Hancock Mayor and Council meeting, and said questions had been raised about the previously utilized landfill in the Town and municipal tipping fees at the current county landfill. County Administrator Greg Murray commented that the town agreed to pay the current tipping fees when the County assumed all liability for operation, closure, and capping of that landfill. The Town's desire to participate in municipal recycling efforts were also discussed. Aleshire presented Town concerns for the impact of calls for emergency services and police for incidents outside of the town as it relates to their geographical location. The Town requested dialogue with the Sheriff's Department about assistance with the overall process for back-up procedures with those incidents. Hancock looks forward to being included in the County's public safety communications system, Aleshire reported. The Commissioner attended the PenMar Development Corporation Board meeting on Monday. Under discussion were funds for renovation and additions to Cascade Elementary School and for a Museum located at the former Fort Ritchie. As Corporate Office Properties Trust assumes more control over the site, Commissioners' participation on the Board could need to be scaled back, Aleshire said. Commissioner Kercheval commented that the Fire and Rescue needs of the site still must be addressed. Those attending the Halfway Fire Company awards event were appreciative of the Board's moving forward with the Emergency Services Master Plan, Aleshire reported. The Mayor and Council of Funkstown's meeting this week discussed changes to some side streets. Those changes were made permanent, and the Town may be asking the County for assistance in traffic calming and control methods associated with the outlets for those municipal streets, Aleshire said. Review and update of the Water Resource Element of the Comprehensive Plan has a mandated deadline of October 2009, Aleshire said, and suggested the municipalities be included in that effort and if the project is going to be bid out that the County not wait too long in beginning that process. County Administrator Greg Murray said that an initial meeting with the Maryland Planning Department has already been held on that issue. Aleshire commented on the Commission form of government used in Queen Anne's County, as it relates to the current process of achieving Charter home rule in this County.

Commissioners' President John Barr commented on attending a Homeowner's meeting at the South Pointe development. At issue was a swimming pool that homeowners said would add cost to association dues. The residents voted unanimously not to have a pool in their subdivision, Barr said. The Commissioner also served as Master of Ceremonies for dedication of Washington County's new Maryland Access Point (MAP) site at the Commission on Aging. The site will enable persons over 50 and adults over 18 who have disabilities to have their needs met by visiting a single point of entry. Maryland Secretary of Aging Gloria Lawlah, State Secretary of the Department of Disabilities Cathy Raggio and City of Hagerstown Councilman Martin Brubaker helped cut the ribbon for the new center, Barr said.

#### CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Each week the Board of County Commissioners sets aside time to hear from citizens of Washington County on matters of importance to the community.

No one appeared to participate on this date.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Appointments to Boards and Commissions: County Clerk Joni Bittner brought several appointments to Boards and Commissions forward for approval. The requests were discussed in Closed Session on January 8<sup>th</sup> with formal approval in the Open Session on this date. The Public Golf Corporation Board of Directors requested appointment of John "Jack" Miller to a full three year term. The measure was approved by unanimous vote. The Gaming Commission requested reappointment of Donna Long to a second two-year term. The measure was approved by unanimous vote. The Plumbing Board requested waiver of the two-term limit and appointment of Gerald Anders, Arnold Eby, and Charlie Semler to 3 year terms, requested that Allen "Tad" Tweed move from Alternate to full member status for a two-year term, and appointment of Roy Ebersole to a 1 year term. The measures were approved by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Aleshire voting "no".

County Administrator's Comments: County Administrator Greg Murray distributed information relative to changing procedures for appointments to Boards and Commissions on Term Goals for the Board. The issue has been discussed but not finalized. In addition, formal procedures for Adequate Public Facilities' Ordinance mitigations will need finalization, Murray said.

#### PROCLAMATION: CERVICAL HEALTH MONTH

Washington County Public Health Officer Earl Stoner, and Melissa Lewis, Program Manager for Prevention Services of the Health Department, received this proclamation, designating January as Cervical Health Month in Washington County for 2008, from Commissioners' President John Barr. The proclamation cited the need for regular screening for cervical cancer in women, because 12,000 to 14,000 new cases are diagnosed each year. In 2008 in Maryland 190 women will be diagnosed with the disease and if detected early the survival rate is near 100%. Women should take regular Pap tests to reduce the risk of cervical cancer. The Commissioners encouraged all women in Washington County to become aware of the risks and the preventative measures a regular screening program can provide.

#### FUNDING REQUEST: CONTEMPORARY SCHOOL OF ARTS AND GALLERY, INC.

Ron Lytle and Willie Conyers of the Contemporary School of Arts and Gallery, Inc. (CSAGI) made a presentation to the Board to provide an overview of the After School Arts Program, and requested favorable consideration for approving \$30,000 for that program. Lytle told the Board that the After School Arts Program provides a nurturing and educating experience with classroom activities involving hands on learning including reinforcing appropriate social skills. Conyers told the Board that the programs serve low-to-moderate income persons and that no one is turned away. Focus of the effort is arts and culture of the community. Lytle said that CSAGI will make a presentation on Black History Month at Antietam Academy in February, and that the program office is open at 4 West Franklin Street Monday through Friday from 11 am til 3 p.m. and again from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Programs are offered all day on Saturday. The program has

applied for Community Development Block Grant funds from the City of Hagerstown, has been awarded \$1,000 from the Convention and Visitor's Bureau this fiscal year and has received a \$500 donation from a local bank. County Attorney John Martirano explained the process for application to the Section 1-108 List of non-profit organizations to which the Commissioners may make direct donations. CSAGI has not made formal application for that list, but the presentation was a precursor to that process. Under the Code of Local Public Laws the Board may make annual direct donations to non-profit organizations on the list. Membership on the list does not guarantee donations. CSAGI will send a formal letter of request to the County Attorney for inclusion on the 1-108 List, and a public hearing will then be held on the issue.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Assistant County Attorney Andrew Wilkinson requested Commissioners' guidance with one of the enabling legislation requests to be presented to the Legislature this year. With respect to the current request for an enabling act for Special Events Permitting, Sheriff Mullendore requested additional provisions for permitting of political events and any other event that would cause a road or intersection to be closed. Discussion centered on wording that would make permits necessary for any event that would be outside the normal activity of public safety personnel which would require additional personnel time. Consensus was reached to amend the draft of that enabling legislation to reflect those concerns.



Youth Meritorious Awards. L-R John Barr, Rachel House, Alexa Mills

#### YOUTH MERITORIOUS AWARDS

Commissioners' President John Barr presented the Youth Meritorious Awards to outstanding students in area middle schools for the months of November and December, 2007. The Washington County Community Partnership for Children and Families Community Outreach Committee makes the selections based on Academic and community leadership criteria.

The Middle School award winner for November 2007 is Alexa Mills, an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at Clear Spring Middle School, daughter of Charles and Krista Mills. Alexa is an outstanding student who has been on the Honor Roll and Distinguished Honor Roll many

times throughout her school career. She received the S.T.A.R.S Award in 6<sup>th</sup> grade for Science and in 7<sup>th</sup> grade for English. She also received a Leadership Award from the National Alliance for Autism Research in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She enjoys sports and has participated on the volleyball, basketball and softball teams during her time at Clear Spring Middle School, and is also a member of the school band. Alexa has participated in the Autism Walk and other efforts to raise public awareness about Autism. Alexa was nominated by Guidance Counselor Earl Meagher.

The Middle School honoree for December, 2007 is Rachel House, an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at Clear Spring Middle School , daughter of Stephen and Mary House. Rachel is an outstanding student and citizen who has been on the Honor Roll and Distinguished Honor Roll and the recipient of academic and community awards many times throughout her young life. She has been an active participant in the Student Government and is serving as President this school year. She also serves as the second vice president middle school representative for the Washington County Association of Student Councils. Rachel was nominated by Guidance Counselor Earl Meagher.

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