



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

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John F. Barr, *President*
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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, April 1, 2008

THE BOARD ATTENDED THE ANNUAL BUDGET PRESENTATION FOR THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICE OF MARYLAND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
AT 7:30 A.M.

HUMANE SOCIETY BUDGET PRESENTATION

Humane Society Director Paul Miller and members of the Society's Board of Directors brought the agency's budget request for FY 2009 before the Board for review. State law mandates that the County provide animal control services, and the Humane Society has a contract with the County for provision of those services. The operational budget for FY '09 was requested at \$1.2 million. Miller told the Board that the increase is due to cost of fuel and utilities, insurance, and veterinary expenditures. The request would include a one-time appropriation to replace an Animal Control vehicle, and an increase in the Spay-Neuter program from \$25,000 to \$75,000. Discussion included licensing fees for dogs as a revenue source and licensing breeders in the County. Budgets will receive further review prior to the Public Hearing set for May.

SOLID WASTE OPERATIONAL BUDGET AND COST OF SERVICE

Division of Environmental Management Director Julie Pippel and Solid Waste Department Director Bob Davenport brought this budget discussion before the Board. The proposed revenue for Fiscal Year 2009 is \$8.68 million, a decrease of \$885,000 or 9.25%. The reduction in revenue is primarily due a loss of commercial tipping fees due to the decline in construction in the County. The Department manages cost centers for the 40-West Landfill, Composting, Resh Landfill, the Rubble Landfill, the Old City/County Landfill, 4 Transfer Stations, Recycling Operations as well as its General Operations. Commercial tipping fees and residential permit fees were recommended to remain at 2008 levels. Regular permit fees would remain at \$125.00 and Senior Citizens fees would remain at \$95.00. The cost model for Solid Waste reflects several waste streams, Resh landfill, the Rubble landfill, the old City/County landfill and the old Hancock landfill that did not produce revenue for many years, and the cost for capping and maintenance of those facilities is borne by the General Fund. Discussion included pricing of mulch sold

by the landfill, and the possibility of generating electricity from solid waste. Pippel told the Board that a Request for Proposals is in process for County-wide trash and recycling pickup, and further information will be available soon. Trash and Recycling Pickup is one of the Commissioners' Goals for the year. All budget requests will be reviewed by the Commissioners prior to the public hearing, in May.

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.

John Himes of the Sandy Hook Community brought traffic control issues on Maryland Route 34 before the Board. In commenting on the need for a communications tower in the community, Himes told the Board that his property would be a good location, if the current planned site was not feasible.

Phil Ridenour, speaking as Chief of the Maugansville Fire Company requested a letter of support from the Board in order that the fire company secure a low-interest loan for \$350,000 for a replacement fire engine. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Terry Baker reported on attending the Keep Tryst Road Communications Tower public meeting held last week. The meeting was crowded, Baker said, and he commended County staff for an excellent job in providing information to the public. Baker commented that citizens should have been given the opportunity to voice their comments. Comments are being accepted in writing by the Department of Public Works. Baker also said the County should work with all agencies affected to certify that there is no alternate site that would adequately serve the purpose.

Commissioner Jim Kercheval commented on his attendance at the recent Maryland Municipal League meeting, the Lowe's Ribbon Cutting, Black Rock Golf Course meeting, a tour of Parker Plastics, the Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee meeting and meetings of Hagerstown Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization, all held last week. The commissioner asked County Administrator Greg Murray to follow up with providing the Town Mayors and Councils with information regarding allocation of a portion of the Hotel Motel tax back to municipalities. The Commissioner attended a memorial service for Nancy Reamy, a longtime employee of the County, and expressed condolences to the family. Commissioner Kercheval met with Commissioner Zimmerman from Carroll County to discuss solid waste to energy initiatives in that County, and shared our County's efforts to address EMS challenges with the recently approved EMS Master plan. The Commissioner also attended a tour at a waste to energy technology company in Baltimore with staff and Commissioner Bill Wivell. The Commissioner thanked all those who sent letters and emails to appropriate legislators in regards to funding for the University of Maryland Hagerstown campus. He also sent letters to lobby for restored funding. The Commissioner was a guest speaker at a tribute to past Commissioner Greg Snook at Hagerstown Community College, which raised money for the HCC foundation.

Commissioner Kristin Aleshire commented on the recent report on the increase in teen pregnancy rates in Washington County, and on attending the recent public hearing

held by the City of Hagerstown on its Comprehensive Plan. The County should provide comments to the City as soon as possible. County Administrator Greg Murray said that Planning Director Mike Thompson is submitting those comments this week. The Commissioner corrected himself on a comment regarding a public hearing on the Keep Tryst Road communications tower. There was no such meeting held. Aleshire pointed out that the plan was published in 2006 and citizens had 2 and one half years to comment. Attending the Pleasant Valley Fire Company (PVFC) meeting in Dargan on Monday, Aleshire said the discussion included the need for the communications system in the Sandy Hook area. First responders cannot communicate with each other by mobile radios when performing river rescues. The largest land owner in the PVFC resp[onse area is the Federal government, Aleshire said, but the National Parks Service does not contribute any funds to the operations of Fire and Rescue companies in the area. Aleshire also commented on attending a tree-planting ceremony in Byron Park in Williamsport last weekend. The recent Commission on Aging meeting discussed County options for use of Girls' Inc. for a Senior Center. Misleading information is being disseminated in the community regarding the Commissioners' intentions, when no decision has been made, he said.

Commissioner Bill Wivell discussed attending a meeting last week in Baltimore on an alternative to landfilling with Commissioner Kercheval and County Staff. Commissioner Wivell also discussed alternate sites for the communications tower at Sandy Hook. He urged staff to ensure that the proposed location is the only appropriate site in regards to location and tower height, and also discussed issues dealing with stealth tower options and discussions with the National Park Service, which to date has not identified a specific site.

Commissioners' President John Barr discussed attending last week's ribbon cutting ceremony at Abbey Carpet in Hagerstown, with County Administrator Greg Murray, as well as Saturday's tree-planting in Williamsport. The Transportation Advisory Committee discussed a number of ongoing issues at its meeting last week, including concerns on more special events on County roads on weekends. Increases in the number of requests for public safety assistance for bicycle, motorcycle and marathon races put a strain on the Sheriff's Department and other public safety entities. Barr also discussed attending a meeting at Smithsburg regarding an intersection at the school complex, and ongoing problems at the Pilot truck stop on Maryland Route 63 at French Lane. Barr said that trucks are lined up on both sides of the roadway, hampering ingress and egress to the site. The intersection at Western Maryland Parkway and Maryland Route 144 is problematic for Sheriff's Department vehicles. The Boonsboro Library is open to the Public following Monday evening's Grand Opening ceremony. Barr lauded the efforts of Boonsboro Citizens in making donations needed to assist construction of that library branch.



Open for Business!

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports from County Staff: Human Resources Director Bill Sonnik requested advertisements of two Senior Office Associate positions, in HR and at the Ag Center, a Civil Engineer position, a Senior Plant Operator in the Department of Water Quality, and a Land Preservation Planner. The positions were approved by unanimous vote.

Acting Department of Fire and Emergency Services Director Kevin Lewis brought two items before the Board. A Policy to establish general guidelines for Maintenance and Fuel Reimbursement costs for EMS transport vehicles as outlined in the EMS Master Plan. Authorized units would be reimbursed up to \$13,500 per fiscal year for diesel fuel, maintenance and repair expenses, Those funds are budgeted in the current fiscal year, Lewis said. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

Lewis also requested acceptance of a Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Grant in the amount of \$36,000 for infection and control kits for the Washington County and Frederick County jurisdictions. The grant is 100% state -funded. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

Lewis also announced that Hagerstown Regional Airport will hold an emergency drill on April 19th and that the Local Emergency Planning Council annual drill will be held on April; 26th as a joint jurisdictional event with Morgan County West Virginia, at a railroad yard just outside Hancock, MD.

THE BOARD ATTENDED THE ANNUAL BUDGET PRESENTATION FOR HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT THE NOON HOUR

Hagerstown Community College (HCC) President Dr. Guy Altieri and members of the HCC Board of Trustees presented the FY 2009 operating budget request to the Commissioners for review. The Community College is funded by the State and County , with the County portion averaging 30%. Tuition and fees generate 43% of the budget and State aid amounts to about 27%. Total budget request for the coming fiscal year is just below \$29 million, an increase of 7.65% over Fiscal Year 2008. The County portion of that total was requested at \$8.7 million, including an increase of \$754,545 or 9.55%.

All budgets will be reviewed prior to the Public Hearing set for May at HCC's Kepler Theater.

BID AWARD: SINGLE AXLE DIESEL VACUUM TRUCK

County Purchasing Department Buyer Rick Curry and Rocky Bishop, Superintendent of Maintenance Operations in the Division of Environmental Protection-Department of Water Quality requested award of the bid for the purchase for one Vacuum truck to the responsive, responsible low bidder, Transteck Inc., dba Freightliner of Hagerstown, for the Total Price of \$111,263.00.. The new vehicle will replace a 1989 unit that meets the County's replacement criteria; the 1989 unit will be sold at auction. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Buildings, Grounds and Parks Director Jim Sterling brought this request before the Board, to approve the appointments to the Agricultural Education Center Board of Directors as recommended. As a follow up to a discussion on November 13, 2007 concerning the mission of the Agricultural Education Center Board of Directors Board, and lowering the membership from 15 to 9, Sterling presented names of the members to be formally re-appointed by the BOCC and term lengths. Gerald Poffenberger, William Poffenberger, and Peter Callas would be appointed to a one-year term. William Blair, Hal Spielman, and Ronald Web would be appointed for 2 years. Galen Long and Ronald Frey would be appointed for three year terms. In addition three names were submitted for consideration to be appointed for the one vacant three year term. The measures were approved on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Aleshire voting ":no".

PUBLIC HEARING: REQUEST FOR INCLUSION TO LIST OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS - CONTEMPORARY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS & GALLERY, INC. AND THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, INC.

County Attorney John Martirano brought these requests to Public Hearing. Contemporary School of the Arts and Gallery, Inc. and The Boys & Girls Club of Washington County, Inc. have submitted requests to be added to the list of nonprofit organizations to which the Board of County Commissioners may contribute funds in its annual budget, under section 1-108 of the Code of the Public Local Laws of Washington County, Maryland. Approval by the Board of County Commissioners of the request of a nonprofit organization to be added to the list does not assure that the organization will receive funding from the Board. That decision is made separately as a part of the budgetary process. Today's meeting was designed to give the public the opportunity to provide input in support of or against the agencies' requests. Ron Lytle and Willie Conyers presented an update of the Contemporary School of the Arts and Gallery request. Buck Browning and Jim Deaner of the Boys and Girls' Club presented the agency's request to the Board. The club serves children and youth ages 6-18 with a variety of after-school programs at its main location on Pennsylvania Avenue, and will seek to expand on three acres of land donated by the City of Hagerstown at Nolan Village. No one appeared either in favor of or in opposition to the requests. Decision was not required on this date and will be made at a later date.

CHILD & FAMILY TEAM FACILITATOR PROGRAM

County Purchasing Agent Karen Luther and Stephanie Stone, Director of the Washington County Community Partnership for Children & Families (WCCP) brought proposals for Child & Family Team Facilitator Program before the Board with a request to

reject the proposals received for the Child & Family Team Facilitator (CFTF) Program and to issue a revised Request for Proposal that includes the following provisions: The proposal specified that the vendor for the Child & Family Team Facilitator Program could not be 1 a public agency represented on the Local Coordinating Council (LCC) or any other direct service provider from whom the family and youth could potentially access services as part of the Plan of Care. An agency with the Child and Family Team Facilitator Program and direct service programs under their umbrella that serve the target population of the RFP would be inherently vulnerable to a conflict of interest. The contract was to be for an initial term tentatively to have commenced April 1, 2008 and ended June 30, 2008. Four (4) providers were represented at the pre-proposal conference. Three proposals were received; one was considered non-responsive and one was received late and was not considered by the Committee. The remaining proposal considered by the Committee was submitted by the Washington County Department of Social Services. The Committee felt that a "conflict of interest" existed with the potential awarding of a contract to this entity and sought advice from the County Attorney before proceeding further and, therefore, did not open its Price Proposal. The County Attorney concurred with the Committee. A total of \$60,000.00 is available for the implementation of the CFTF Program directly for staffing and operations. The vendor chosen for the CFTF Program will have access to identify, coordinate and procure direct services for children qualifying for the CSI or Rehab Options Program approved through the LCC. The measure was approved by a 4-0-1 vote with Commissioner Wivell abstaining.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BUDGET WORKSHOP

Budget and Finance Director Debra Murray brought a further review of the Capital; Improvement Plan (CIP) budget to the Board for review. Murray provided information requested by the Commissioners relative to the Investment Income budget projection and Income Tax growth rates. Public Works Director Joe Kroboth presented further detail of the Fiscal Year 2009 Capital Improvement Plan budget for Roads, which showed a request of \$14.8 million, including \$5 million for pavement maintenance, \$3.03 million for the Robinwood Corridor II project, \$3.4 million for the Halfway and Massey Boulevards Intersection, \$1.76 million for the Marsh Pike/Longmeadow Road intersection, \$628,000 for the Edgewood Drive/U.S. 40 intersection, \$220,000 for Eastern Boulevard extended, \$339,000 for the Mount Aetna and U.S. 40 intersection and \$440,000 for spot improvements to Burnside Road. The creek has eroded the roadway in that area and is in need of considerable repair Kroboth said. The additional funding for the Edgewood/40 project would take the total amount funded by the County to \$7.15 million in fund set-asides from previous years. The Transit Department CIP request was seen at \$1.5 million for the fiscal year, with \$400,000 for buses, and \$1 million for possible land acquisition, design and construction for a Transfer Center. Discussion

centered on savings that could be realized if the transfer point was located at a facility already owned by the County. The majority of those requested funds would come from State and Federal sources, with an impact of about \$150,000 on the County budget. The Solid Waste CIP budget request stood at \$6.48 million, with the largest item seen as \$4.5 million for the final closeout for capping of the Resh Landfill. Other items receiving funding for FY 2009 in Solid Waste would be Spring Control for Cells 5,6, and 7 at \$575,000, with \$250,000 for construction of Cell #7. Discussion centered on a potential savings of over \$3 million that could be realized by combining construction of cells 6 and 7. The plan allocates \$906,000 for the Weigh Scale relocation project, \$202,000 for the construction and demolition waste Staging Area and \$30,000 to the contingency fund. The Water Quality Capital Improvement Plan budget is requested at \$23.76 million for Utility Administration, Wastewater Utility and Water Utility. The largest cost center in that request would be for Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) upgrades for the Conococheague Wastewater Treatment Plant, with \$18.5 million of that cost coming from Maryland Department of the Environment and other state grants. All budgets will be reviewed by line item prior to the Budget Public Hearing set for May 13th at Hagerstown Community College's Kepler Theater.

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BID AWARD

OTHER BUSINESS

County Attorney Issues: County Attorney John Martirano

Appointments to Boards and Commissions: County Clerk Joni Bittner

County Administrator's Comments: County Administrator Greg Murray