



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

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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, May 20, 2008

Commissioners' Vice-President Terry Baker presided over the proceedings.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Jim Kercheval thanked County staff for its work in setting up the FY 2008 budget presentation last week. A meeting with a builder and Planning Department Director Mike Thompson discussed growth plan policies and effects on water and sewer capacities. The Commissioner congratulated Callas Contractors on its 50th Anniversary. Public Works staff are to be commended for the setup and presentation of the Public Meeting on the Funkstown bridge last week. Friday's Local Management Board meeting discussed needs assessment issues, Kercheval said. A Certificate of Merit was presented to Charles Sekula on the 20th Anniversary of the Schmankerl Stube restaurant in downtown Hagerstown, and the Black Rock Golf Course Board discussed budget issues for the coming fiscal year, the Commissioner said.

Commissioner Kristin Aleshire reported on attending the Tough Talk presentation on teen pregnancy last week, the Women at the Table award presentation, and a meeting of the Health Department Advisory Board. Last week's student presentations at Salem Avenue Elementary were well-attended, Aleshire said, and the Hancock Mayor and Council thanked the County Commissioners for continued support of park projects in that municipality at its recent meeting.. The Commissioner also commented on attending the Funkstown Bridge citizen meeting, the Democratic Central Committee annual dinner and the Teen Pregnancy Coalition awards event last week. Aleshire stated his comments in a recent television interview did not convey his intentions. The Commissioner said he was disappointed in the manner in which the story was reported. Aleshire said a vote on the Funkstown Bridge should be taken soon and that his position on the matter had not varied from the previous vote in which the Commissioners gave staff approval too pursue advertising the bid for that repair. Aleshire said that he talked with all members of the Funkstown Fire and Rescue company about the proposed bridge closure and the Companies had no problems with the plans. Members of the Legion Post were not

interested in having a temporary bridge located on that property, and other property owners in the immediate area opposed locating a temporary bridge there.

Commissioner Bill Wivell reported on meeting with members of historic preservation groups on historic structures on the Airport property. Wivell said the structures could be stabilized for around \$30,000. Wivell stated he would like to see FAA documentation mandating demolition of the historic property. The Funkstown Bridge issue should be finalized soon if bids are to be advertised and work begun as soon as possible. Discussion on the issue included proposal of contractor incentives to equal liquidated damages for the project, to shorten the project's duration. The incentives, \$1,500.00 per day for each day the project came in under deadline, would be capped at 30 days. A motion to move ahead with a Request for Proposal, amended to include the incentives, was approved by unanimous vote.

Commissioners' Vice-President Terry Baker commented on participating in last weekend's graduation ceremonies at Hagerstown Community College. HCC President Dr. Guy Altieri thanked the Commissioners for continued support of the College. Baker also thanked staff for setup and presentation at the Funkstown Bridge meeting and commented on attending the Planning Hearing on Monday evening.

APPOINTMENT OF THE 2008 WASHINGTON COUNTY SALARY STUDY COMMISSION

Assistant County Attorney Andrew Wilkinson brought this item, Appointment of members of the 2008 Washington County Salary Study Commission before the Board. By state law the Washington County Salary Study Commission "shall meet before July 1, 1996, and before July 1 every fourth year thereafter." The law requires that a commission of nine members be appointed from organizations set forth in the statute to evaluate the salaries of various elected officials, including the Commissioners. Once appointed, the Commission must hold its first meeting before July 1, 2008, and issue a report to the Board of County Commissioners with their recommendations by December 1, 2008. The Board must then submit its recommendations to the Washington County Delegation by December 15, 2008. The statute requires that "The County Commissioners shall appoint the individual recommended by each organization to the Commission." Therefore, the Commissioners have no discretion in making the appointments. A recommendation has been received from each organization, with the exception of the Washington County Council of PTAs, which was disbanded in 2007. The statute provides that "If an organization fails to make a recommendation to the County Commissioners by June 1, the members who have been appointed to the Commission shall meet, solicit prospective members from the public, and select by majority vote a qualified substitute citizen member to the Commission to serve through the following December 1." The Democratic Party Central Committee nominated Patricia Heck; the Republican Party Central Committee nominee was Marilee Kerns; the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce chose Kent Reynolds; the Washington County Farm Bureau nominated Bette Jo Shifler; the League of Women Voters selected Monda Sagalkin; the Central Maryland AFL-CIO Council nominee was Donald Forcino; the Cumberland Valley Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. chose Jeff Bohn; the Joint Veterans Council of Washington County nominated Tony Pruchniewski; and the Washington County Council of PTAs representative would be chosen by the Salary Study Commission. The statute

requires that “The County Commissioners shall provide professional staff to the Commission as necessary for the Commission to issue its report” and that “The County Commissioners shall provide funds necessary for the Commission to advertise its hearings so that the public will receive sufficient notice and an opportunity to attend and present testimony at the hearings.” Commission members receive no compensation for their services. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

BID AWARD: RESH ROAD LANDFILL PHASE 2 CLOSURE CAP CONSTRUCTION

County Purchasing Agent Karen Luther and Dave Mason, Environmental Engineer in the Department of Engineering Services brought this Bid Award for Resh Road Landfill Phase 2 Closure Cap Construction to the Board. The recommendation was to award the bid to the responsible, responsive bidder with the lowest bid, Kinsley Construction, Inc. of Timonium, MD for the Base Bid Sum of \$5,579,678.00, and Total Contingent Items \$1,129,132.00 for a Grand Total Bid of \$6,708,810.00. The contract consists of the construction and inspection of the final close out cap for the Resh Road Landfill. Project includes the installation of an active landfill gas collection system. Phase 2 consists of Cells 1 - 5. The project is to be completed in a 537 consecutive calendar day period. The bid was below the total Engineer’s Estimate of \$8,995,000.00. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

BID AWARD : JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICE BUILDINGS

Purchasing Agent Karen Luther and Jim Sterling, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities brought this Bid Award for Janitorial Services for Washington County Office Buildings to the Board. The recommendation was to award the contracts to the responsible, responsive, bidders with the lowest bid prices as follows for individual locations under Option No. 2: the County Administration building at 100 West Washington Street in the amount of \$24,788.00, Court House Annex at 24 Summit Avenue in the amount of \$46,900.00, Administrative Annex, 80 West Baltimore Street in the amount of \$12,256.00, and the County Office Building at 33-35 West Washington Street in the amount of \$36,844.00 to Servtec Custodial, Inc. of Hagerstown, MD; Extension Service and Rural Heritage Museum at 7313 Sharpsburg Pike in the amount of \$10,350.00 and Landfill complex in the amount of \$4,000.00 to Superior Cleaning Systems, Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland with unit costs for optional carpet cleaning and hourly rates for any additional work as required and indicated on the attached bid tabulation sheet for each vendor; to also grant withdrawal, without prejudice, the bids with evident errors from Abacus Corporation and Dust Fairries Cleaning, as requested by the submitting vendors. The contract term is for one year with four one-year renewal options commencing July 1, 2008. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any request for renewal by the Bidder and any increase in monthly costs for each specified building. The sum total annual contracted award amount for the six locations is \$135,138; the sum total annual contracted amount in FY '08 was \$149,691. Since the County has never contracted in the past with Superior Cleaning Systems, Inc., reference checks were performed. No comments were received from the vendor’s references that

would preclude staff from recommending the company for this contract award. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.



Historic Preservation Award for 2008. L-R Omer Long, Commissioner Terry Baker, Preston Law

2008 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

Preston Law, former Chair of the Washington County Historical Advisory Committee brought the 2008 John Frye Historic Preservation Award in recognition of efforts to promote historic preservation in Washington County before the Board. Nominated for this year's award was Omer Long of Hagerstown, Md. In supporting documents, Law wrote that the Rural Heritage Museum at the Washington County Agricultural Museum will be adding a the Fahrney Medical Museum to its collection in the near future. This small museum, currently located in an old wooden, one room cottage on the Fahrney-Keedy Home & Village grounds in Boonsboro, is a century-old Fahrney family heirloom. It owes its existence largely due to the personal dedication and efforts of 87- year old Omer Long of Hagerstown. Law said Mr. Long's grandmother was a Fahrney. She was a cousin to the Fahrneys who donated the original land for the Nursing Home, and she felt a strong duty to see that the Fahrney cottage co-located on the land be preserved in perpetuity. In time, this obligation fell to her grandson, Omer Long, and for the past 50 years he has single-handedly kept the cottage intact, making repairs, painting, fixing the roof, performing periodic inspections, and acting as curator of the museum inside. The museum itself contains a superb display of antique medical implements, memorabilia, books, medicine bottles, prescriptions, and papers used by the Fahrney line of physicians in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Not related to the medical mementos, but fascinating in their own right, are several Civil War artifacts from the Battle of Antietam and local camping of the opposing armies around Sharpsburg. These relics were picked up and collected over the years on the Long family farms during plowing and cultivating, and are on display thanks to the foresight and

generosity of Omer Long and his daughter. For many years Mr. Long opened the museum to the public each Tuesday. However, age and medical conditions have caused him to close the building except by appointment only. When the museum is moved to its new home at the Ag Center, it will receive regular maintenance, and be viewed and appreciated by a large number of visitors day-to-day. The Commissioners commended Long for his commitment to historic preservation.

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.

Phil Physioc of the Beaver Creek area commented on access to property on South Mountain.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Appointments to County Boards & Commissions: County Clerk Joni Bittner brought as request from the Economic Development Commission for appointment of Richard Seibert as representative of the Greater Hagerstown Committee. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

County Administrator's Comments: County Administrator Greg Murray reported that a sinkhole opened at the intersection of Massey Boulevard and Virginia Avenue on Sunday, and emergency repairs are underway. Contractor C. William Hetzer was able to respond to the County request for assistance. The fissure is 175 feet long and at least 15 feet deep, and work to remedy the problem is underway, with traffic rerouted through the area. Cost estimate of the repair is \$50,000-\$60,000 and Murray requested approval of an emergency sole-source contract. The measure was approved by unanimous vote. Murray also told the Board that informational items about County activities have been included as inserts in the tax bills this year as an outreach to our citizens.

Reports from County Staff: Gaming Commission Office Director Jim Hovis told the Board that an email had been received requesting the Commissioners take a position on "Tavern Poker" games. Hovis stated that the Board should take no opinion as the regulation of such games lies outside the scope of the Gaming Commission and the County Commissioners.

Real Property Administrator Joe Kuhna reported that Homewood Assisted Living had been in contact with his office requesting the sale of a strip of right of way near that facility, on Governor Lane Boulevard. The County had been leasing the property to the company, while improvements to the facility were underway. The Board decided a similar issue recently, when it denied sale of a portion of right-of-way to a company located on that Boulevard. Consensus of the Board was to continue the lease, but not sell the right of way.

PROCLAMATION: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN DAY

The Commissioners proclaimed May 21st, 2008 as Emergency Medical Services for Children Day in Washington County. In presenting the proclamation, Commissioner Bill Wivell noted that Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) supports EMS, the community based public service, whose presence is vital to children in need; recognizing that the needs of children are different than the needs of adults in medical

emergencies and promotes the high-level emergency care given by EMS providers with pediatric emergency skills. EMSC assists in the implementation of training for use of advanced technical equipment and services in preparation to save the life of a child; and EMS providers are unceasingly prepared to respond to children who access the system and return them to an optimum level of health. EMSC works with physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others to identify and address the issues surrounding the provision of optimal pediatric care; and assists in the development of training programs and guidelines for emergency care providers so that children with special health care needs receive timely, appropriate care. The designation brings recognition to the value and accomplishments of such dedicated men and women that strive to meet the emergency medical needs of our youngest citizens.



Emergency Services Week: L-R Commissioner Kristin Aleshire, Kevin Lewis, Brigitte Heller

PROCLAMATION; EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

Commissioner Kristin Aleshire presented a proclamation designating May 18-24, 2008 as Emergency Medical Services Week in Washington County to Kevin Lewis, Acting Director of the Division of Fire and Emergency Services, and EMS coordinator Brigitte Heller. The Board cited Emergency Medical Services as a vital public service; with the members of emergency medical services teams ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury. The emergency medical services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others. Members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills. The Commissioners encouraged

all citizens to recognize the value and accomplishments of the dedicated men and women that meet the emergency medical needs of our citizens.



Certificate of Merit: Commissioner Jim Kercheval, Karen Luther



Certificate of Merit: Commissioner Baker, Paula Blenard

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Commissioners Terry Baker and Jim Kercheval presented Certificates of Merit to two County employees for educational attainment. County Purchasing Agent Karen Luther is graduating from HCC with an Associates degree in Business Administration.

Budget Analyst Paula Blenard in the Department of Budget and Finance is graduating from Phoenix University with a Bachelors of Science degree in Business/Accounting.

ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET

Budget and Finance Director Debra Murray and Assistant Director Kim Edlund brought this issue before the Board. On May 13th, the Commissioners took a balanced budget of \$338.4 million to Public Hearing. The budget must be formally adopted by resolution. Murray brought a summary for all funds before the Board, amended due to state and local revenue changes. Murray said the State has increased the cost of leasing voting machines in the County by \$130,000, and has imposed a \$9,700 fee for administration of the Homestead Tax Credit program. Murray said these General Fund costs were offset by moving one-time funds for the Commission on Aging and the Central Library Branch from the 2009 budget to the current budget, and paying for those items before the end of the fiscal year. In addition, the Solid Waste Fund revenue is being increased by \$16,000 as the result of the increase in mulch fees, approved by the Board last week. Additional adjustments to the Capital Improvement Plan were made for State reductions in Program Open Space and Technology project funds. The new overall balanced budget is \$338.3 million. Commissioners' President John Barr was not in attendance at the meeting, and final approval of the FY 2009 budget will come at the next meeting of the Board, on June 3rd.

DISCUSSION ON WEED CONTROL ISSUES

The Board held an informal discussion on control of weeds and grasses due to unoccupied houses and the inordinate amount of rain in recent weeks. There are many homes on the market in the County due to foreclosures, and grass is going uncut, in violation of the County weed ordinance. Houses are often in control of out-of-town lenders or real estate agents and enforcement of the ordinance is difficult. The County Attorney's Office will address the issue with businesses handling the properties.

THE BOARD ATTENDED THE YOUTH MERITORIOUS AWARD AND
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CHARACTER COUNTS AWARD YEAR-END
LUNCHEON ELGIN STATION COMMUNITY CENTER AT THE NOON HOUR.

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