

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**January 7, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: President Robert Hodge, Vice President Alan McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, Michael Dunn, and Diana Broomell, Council Manager James Massey, Director of Administration Al Wein, Director of Finance Winston Robinson, Director of Public Works Scott Flanigan, Council Assistant Teri Birney, members of the press, and members of the public.

**OPEN SESSION – Elk Room**

**9:00 a.m.** – President Hodge called the meeting to order.

**NOTE:** Audio recording of this meeting is available on the County website [www.ccgov.org](http://www.ccgov.org).

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion made by Councilwoman Broomell, seconded by Vice President McCarthy, the Council moved to postpone the approval of the minutes of the work session of December 17, 2013. Motion was carried unanimously.

**Special Funding Request to Governor - Letter of Support**

The Council reviewed a letter of support for the County Executive's special funding request to the Governor. Councilwoman Broomell voiced concerns about the need to prioritize the requests for opening of the Whitsitt Center, the lab technician and residential transitional housing. Questions and comments ensued.

On motion made by Councilwoman Bowsbey, seconded by Vice President McCarthy, the Council moved to send the letter as presented. Motion was carried by a vote of 3 to 2. Councilwoman Broomell and Councilman Dunn were opposed.

**Discussion - Public Service Commission - Public Hearing - Old Dominion Electrical Cooperative**

Council President Hodge led discussion regarding the Public Service Commission's offer to allow the County Council to sit jointly with the PSC for the hearing on Old Dominion Electrical Cooperative to be held on January 22, 2014. Questions and comments ensued.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved not to sit jointly with the PSC. Motion was carried unanimously. Council Members agreed that they can provide comments and ask questions at the hearing.

**Discussion - Plan of Organization**

Council President Hodge led discussion regarding the proposed Cecil County Plan of Organization as proposed in Resolution No. 99-2013. Councilwoman Broomell voiced concern that the Ethics Commission should not be under the County Executive responsibility and discussed drafting legislation to propose this change.

In addition, Councilwoman Broomell suggested that the Plan of Organization Chart should be changed to show that the County Attorney works for the County Council and County Executive. After discussion, the administration was asked to make this change on the chart. In addition,

there was a typographical error on page 8 of the document. Council Members agreed to cancel the afternoon workshop on the Plan of Organization.

### **Council Budget FY 2015**

Council Manager Massey reviewed the proposed Council departmental budget for FY 2015 by categories. The cost of hiring the independent auditor was discussed. Mr. Massey was asked to work with Mr. Robinson to confirm the auditing costs. Councilwoman Broomell requested consideration of an internal auditor and the possibility of hiring a part-time auditor on a trial basis. However, the majority of Council Members was not in support of her request.

### **Citizens Budget Advisory Board**

Council President Hodge led discussion regarding the Citizens Budget Advisory Board and whether Council Members were supportive of reconstituting this board. It was agreed by consensus that each Council Member will designate one member of the board. Council Members were asked to be prepared to designate their nominee during the work session on January 14, 2014. Mr. Massey will provide the schedule of hearings for the Council Members. Also, the Finance Department offered to provide an orientation to board members.

### **Independent Auditor Selection Process**

Council Manager Massey reviewed the process for the Council to hire the independent auditor for the County. Proposed members of the independent auditor selection committee include two Council Members, a representative from the Finance Department, CPA representative, former County Treasurer, and Council Manager. Council Members were asked to consider who should serve on this selection committee.

Mr. Massey was requested to contact former County Treasurers to determine who is interested in serving on this selection committee; and to request a legal opinion about Section 203 of the Charter to determine if two Council Members are prohibited from serving on this committee.

### **Review of Legislative Agenda**

Council Manager Massey reviewed the legislative agenda. Council members reviewed Amendments 1 to 12 to Bill No. 2013-19 - Amendment - Animal Care and Control Ordinance. Councilwoman Broomell expressed concern about the administration's authority to change forms in the ordinance.

Scott Flanigan, Director of Public Works, reviewed Bill No. 2014-01 - Amendment - Budget Ordinance FY 2014 - Capital Budget - Capital Improvement Program - Route 40 West Sanitary Sewer Interceptor. Mr. Flanigan was asked to provide a map of this project.

Al Wein, Director of Administration and Winston Robinson, Director of Finance, reviewed the need for emergency legislation for snow removal funds as proposed in Bill No. 2014-03 Emergency Legislation - Amendment - Budget Ordinance FY2014 - Snow Removal.

Mr. Flanigan also explained the truck restrictions being proposed in Resolution Nos. 01 to 04-2014.

**Council Manager Report**

Council Manager Massey distributed a recommendation from the County Executive to increase the Cecil County Sheriff's salary. After discussion, Council President Hodge asked that Council Members be prepared to finalize their recommendation at the January 14th work session.

Council Members were reminded of Cecil County Night in Annapolis on January 9. A Council Workshop is scheduled on the Animal Care and Control Ordinance on January 14. The Council Scholarship to Cecil College will be presented to Christan Keithley on January 14. Charles MacLeod from Clean Chesapeake Coalition has agreed to make a presentation to the Council on January 21 about the use of coordination. The presentation of MTA regarding the MARC layover plans is scheduled on January 28 Council work session. The Chamber of Commerce will hold the State of the County breakfast on January 30, 2014.

**Council Member Items**

Councilwoman Broomell reported on the progress with Clean Chesapeake Coalition and several counties that have invoked Coordination. She also commented about the County Executive's Town Hall meeting held on January 6. Councilwoman Broomell stated that she will introduce legislation to make the Ethics Commission independent of the administration. She also made comments about Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council and a letter published in the Cecil Whig by John Bennett.

Councilwoman Bowsbey, Vice President McCarthy and Councilman Dunn had no comments.

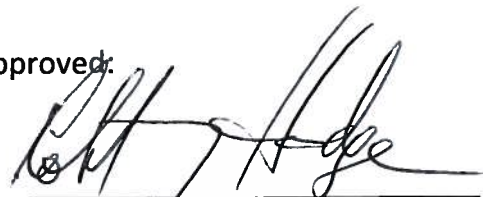
Council President Hodge commented on the Ethics Commission and the County Executive.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy , seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to go in to closed session. Council Manager Massey read into the record that pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State Government 10-508(a)(8) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. The motion passed unanimously.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the County President adjourned the work session meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Approved:



Robert J. Hodge, President  
County Council of Cecil County

Attest:



James Massey  
Council Manager

