

**Board of County Commissioners
Worksession Minutes
January 10, 2012**

PRESENT: Commissioners Mullin, Broomell, Moore, Dunn and Hodge, County Administrator Al Wein, Public Works Director Scott Flanigan and staff, Planning and Zoning Director Eric Sennstrom, Information Technology Director Scott Flanigan, Emergency Services Director Richard Brooks, Budget Manager Craig Whiteford, Executive Office Administrator Vicky Rinkerman, Counsel Norman Wilson, Treasurer Bill Feehley, Special Counsel Charles MacLeod from Funk and Bolton, members of the press, and members of the public.

NOTE: Audio recording of this meeting is available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

OPEN SESSION

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

Approval of Minutes – On motion made by Commissioner Broomell, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Board moved to approve the minutes for the January 3, 2012 Worksession meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Page 2 Request to Fill - Commissioner Hodge commented that the position was presented as an internal promotion opportunity, which would not be advertised.

Director Brooks advised that there is a requirement to advertise the position internally throughout county departments.

Presentation "An in depth look into Cecil County's housing market" – Dan Whitehurst from Clark Turner Development provided the Board a report on the housing market in Cecil County.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- . Trends for home purchases in Cecil County; and
- . Bank financing trends

Overview of Proposed Ordinance 2011 - 08 New Chapter A275 Cable Service Franchising – Special Counsel Charles MacLeod from the law firm of Funk and Bolton provided the Board an overview of the revisions to proposed Chapter A275 Cable Service Franchising. Counsel MacLeod advised the Board that the ordinance provides general guidelines and individual franchise agreements would be negotiated with each service provider in the county. He recommended that the Board consider adopting a Resolution to recover costs for renegotiating cable franchise agreements.

County Administrator Wein advised the Board that Counsel MacLeod would make the revisions, including reference to an application or re-application fee being established by resolutions. The proposed ordinance would be placed on an evening meeting agenda for consideration by the Board.

Counsel MacLeod advised the Board that the proposed revisions would not require another public hearing. Cable franchise agreements would be negotiated with each provider and the proposal would be forwarded to the Board for consideration and approval.

Pending appointment to Boards and Commissions – County Administrator Wein advised the Board that they have received a list of upcoming term expirations on several boards and commissions.

Director Sennstrom advised the Board that Ron and Audrey Edwards and Nancy Simperts have been active members of the Historic District Commission and would like to continue serving.

The Board concurred to proceed with considering the re-appointment of the individuals for the Historic District Commission at the January 17, 2012 Commissioners meeting.

Susquehanna Workforce Network appointments - Discussion ensued regarding the pending appointment of Dan Schneckenburger and Louis Najera to the Susquehanna Workforce Network. Since the initial discussion of these two appointments, Mr. Schneckenburger has filed his ethics disclosure form and Mr. Najera is working to meet the sponsorship requirement.

The Board concurred to proceed with considering the re-appointment of Dan Schneckenburger and Louis Najera, provided he has obtained the necessary paperwork, at the February 7, 2012 Commissioners meeting.

County Administrator Wein advised the Board that he would address the issues relative to filing the disclosure forms with the Ethics Commission.

Review of agenda for FY2013 Preliminary Budget Hearing for Citizen Input – Budget Manager Whiteford provided the Board an overview of the agenda and outlook for the FY2013 budget.

Director Flanigan provided the Board an overview of anticipated costs for stormwater and environmental management issues.

The Board concurred to add an additional bullet point referencing ongoing environmental concerns as an issue facing Cecil County.

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Dunn commented on the next Charter Transition meeting and the Cecil Night in Annapolis event.

Vice President Broomell commented on the MACo conference relative to rural counties coordinating efforts to have a stronger voice in Annapolis and a program in Harford County that designates high intensity drug traffic areas, which may be feasible to initiate in Cecil County.

Commissioner Moore commented on the MACo conference relative to networking opportunities. She advised the Board that she invited Sheriff Janney to provide an update on the drug court and other issues relative to law enforcement.

Commissioner Hodge commented on the MACo conference relative to networking opportunities, proposed gas tax increases, elimination of standard septic systems, impact of PlanMaryland on land use issues; proposed increase in the Bay Restoration fee; and the potential transfer of responsibility for teacher pensions to the counties.

Commissioner Moore commented on the unintended consequences of PlanMaryland that would force people to build in the rural areas of the county and would not prevent urban sprawl.

Commissioner Broomell commented that this initiative is another reason to pursue agricultural land preservation.

President Mullin commented on the MACo conference relative to information provided by state officials.

ADJOURNMENT

10:45 AM - On motion made by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Dunn, the Board moved to adjourn the worksession meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting – Cecil College update

1:00 p.m.

College President Dr. Stephen Pannill and staff provided the Board an update on programs at Cecil College.

Meeting – Cecil County Public Schools update

1:45 p.m.

Superintendent Dr. D'Ette Devine and staff provided the Board an update on public school programs.

CLOSED SESSION

3:00 P.M.

On motion made by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Hodge the Board moved to convene in closed session pursuant to Maryland Annotated Code State Government 10-508(a) (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. Briefing via conference call with Special Counsel Haislip and Suleau and Consultant John Bolen relating to the North East Public Service Commission (PSC) matter. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT CLOSED SESSION

3:30 P.M.

On motion made by Commissioner Hodge, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Board moved to adjourn the closed session meeting. Motion to adjourn carried unanimously

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