

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 15, 2017

PRESENT: Council Members: President Joyce Bowsbey, Vice President Dan Schneckenburger, Bob Meffley, George Patchell and Jackie Gregory; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Winston Robinson, Finance Director; Brian Miller, Director of Information Technology-Nominee; members of the press; and members of the public.

Guests: Dr. D'Ette Devine, Superintendent, Cecil County Public Schools; Tom Kappra, Chief Financial Officer; and Perry Willis, Executive Director of Support Services.

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

9:00 A.M. –Council President Bowsbey called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and determined a quorum.

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

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Vice President Schneckenburger, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of August 1, 2017, as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Financial Management Practices Audit Report

Dr. D'Ette Devine, Superintendent, Cecil County Public Schools, provided introductory comments that Mr. Kappra and she will be sharing the results of the legislative audit that is conducted every six years in each Maryland school system.

She stated that the objectives of the audit were to evaluate whether CCPS procedures and controls were effective in accounting for and safeguarding its assets, and whether CCPS policies provided for the efficient use of financial resources.

Dr. Devine noted that CCPS was in the midst of implementing a new financial system that will address most of the recommendations raised. She also stated that they take exception to two of the recommendations involving solar array and bus contracts.

Tom Kappra, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed federal, state and local audits that have been conducted on CCPS as well as their independent audit. Mr. Kappra then addressed auditor findings that have been resolved by the new financial system. These items include: independent verification of collections, internal controls on automated accounts payable functions, use of award criteria of Request for Proposal, use of intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreements, independent reviews of HR and payroll transactions, independent review of automated equipment inventory records, insufficient database and server controls, no disaster recovery plan for computer operations recovery, insufficient network security, and insufficient protection against malware.

Mr. Kappra stated that CCPS takes exception to two of the findings regarding power purchasing agreements with solar providers and bus contracts.

School Capital Projects Update

Perry Willis, Executive Director of Support Services for Cecil County Public Schools, provided an update of school capital projects. Gilpin Manor Elementary School project has been delayed about eight weeks due to the weather. Weather has also delayed the Cecil Manor Elementary School roof replacement project. Boiler projects are in design and plans for Bohemia Manor High School roof replacement are progressing. Preliminary planning on Chesapeake City Elementary School replacement project continues.

Director of Information Technology Nominee

Al Wein, Director of Administration, introduced Brian Miller, nominated by the County Executive to the position of Director of Information Technology. Mr. Miller made a brief presentation about his experience. Council questions and comments ensued. Consideration for confirmation of Mr. Miller is scheduled for this evening's legislative session.

Mandatory Connection to County Sanitation Sewer System

Councilwoman Gregory led discussion of her concern for the mandatory connection for the expanded sewer lines along Route 40. Her concern is requiring residents to hook up within ten years, which could be economically infeasible for those on lower fixed incomes. She stated that the administration should reduce the fee and provide other incentives to hook up.

The Council discussed statistics provided by the administration regarding the number of residences and commercial properties. The Marley Road project includes six residences and four commercial/industrial properties. The Mill Run project includes fifteen residences and twenty-two commercial/industrial properties.

Mr. Wein stated that the administration is offering a reduction of hookup fees from \$12,000 to \$6,000 during the next 30 months. He also stated that the County can provide financing through a grant program of 1/3 down and the balance financed for ten years at prime plus 2%. He also stated that the extension of the sewer lines is consistent with the Master Plan for Water and Sewer as well as the Comprehensive Plan.

The Council discussed their authority to prevent a mandatory hookup. Jason Allison, County Attorney, stated that the current Code of Cecil County gives the County Executive jurisdiction over the sanitary district, these projects are paid by enterprise fund through bonds, and the administration had a fiduciary obligation to ensure adequate funding.

Councilman Meffley stated that homeowners who hook up to the county system will have additional expenses to bring the septic line to the house and to properly close their existing septic system.

After discussion, the Council agreed to request legal advice from the Council Attorney regarding the Council's possible options.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Council President Bowsbey led a review of tonight's legislative agenda.

A public hearing for Bill No. 2017-14 Budget Transfer- Capital Budget- Board of Education- Rising Sun Elementary School- Boiler Project, is scheduled for tonight's legislative session. There were no Council questions or comments.

A public hearing for Bill No. 2017-15 Budget Transfer- Capital Budget- Board of Education- North East High School- Girls Locker Room, is scheduled for tonight's legislative session. There were no Council questions or comments.

A public hearing for Resolution No. 37-2017 Expedited Legislation - Approval- Transfer of Real Property- Site Plan CCPS Athletic Building - Town of Elkton, is scheduled for tonight's legislative session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Bowsbey announced that Resolution No. 39-2017 Appointment - Board of Library Trustees - Phyllis Kilby, will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 35-2017 Appointment- Building Board of Appeals- Leroy H. Scott, III, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 36-2017 Appointment- Cecil County Plumbing Board- Ronald Dixon, Thomas Vaughn, Sr., and Melvin Reburn, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 37-2017 Expedited Legislation- Approval- Transfer of Real Property- Site Plan CCPS Athletic Building- Town of Elkton, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Under New Business, the Council will consider confirmation of Brian Miller as the County Executive's nominee for Director of Information Technology

Council Manager Report

Mr. Massey provided a summary of programs at the MACo summer conference. He also updated the Council on the State's medical cannabis process and Senator Hershey's proposal to give counties the option to become "Right to Work" counties.

Council Member Comments

Councilman Patchell had no comments.

Councilman Meffley attended the Poultry CAFOs Committee meeting and reported on its progress.

He stated that Council Members Bowsbey, Schneckenburger, Gregory and he attended the Governor's Conowingo Dam Summit.

Councilwoman Gregory thanked the audience for their attendance. She also commented on the Governor's proposal for a pilot project at Conowingo Dam to determine the economic feasibility to remove and recycle the sediment.

Vice President Schneckenburger commented that Governor Hogan asked what the impact of Conowingo Dam has on the towns of Perryville and Port Deposit. He thanked Councilman Meffley for attending the Poultry CAFOs committee meeting and commented on additional documents being reviewed by committee members. He commented on meeting with Greg Holsey from State Highways Administration regarding the progress on several roundabouts. Vice President Schneckenburger stated that Councilman Meffley and he met with the Perryville Volunteer Fire Company about their need to connect with public water because of a failing well. He also met with Mike Pugh, chair of the Bainbridge Development Corporation, to discuss their redevelopment study.

Council President Bowsbey attended the CASA fundraiser and commented on their efforts to recruit a volunteer for every foster child in Cecil County. She provided an update on the Local Management Board. She invited Council Members to attend a race and bias workshop at Cecil College on October 17.

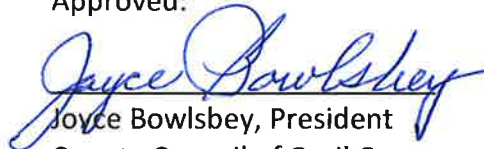
Adjournment

On a motion made by Vice President Schneckenburger, seconded by Councilwoman Gregory, the work session was adjourned by Council President Bowsbey at 10:50 a.m.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Joyce Bowsbey, President
County Council of Cecil County