

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 20, 2018**

PRESENT: Council Members: President Bowsbey, Vice President Dan Schneckeburger, George Patchell and Jackie Gregory; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, members of the press; and members of the public.

Absent: Councilman Meffley

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 Schneckeburger, seconded by Councilwoman Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 6, 2018, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Wet Season Testing Update

Fred VonStaden, Environmental Health Director, Cecil County Health Department, provided an update of the wet season testing. He explained that wet testing is usually done between February 1 and April 30 each year. Because of the drought last year, no wet testing could be undertaken and all applications for percolation testing was suspended. Mr. VonStaden provided maps of the mid-Atlantic area and Cecil County that showed that conditions in the county varied by the soil composition. The Health Department has two testing sites in west Cecil while one site in the southeastern county.

Because the southeast part of Cecil County is flat shore coastal plain, this area's water table is sufficient for valid wet season testing. Of the 55 applications for percolation testing, 13 are within the southeast area of the county, which can be tested.

Council questions and comments ensued. Mr. VonStaden explained that developments that have been approved for building have already received approvals during the development process.

Council Appointment to Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness

Gwen Parrack, chair of the Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness has requested that a Council representative serve on the board.

Council President Bowsbey stated that Councilman Meffley has been very interested in homelessness and expressed an interest to serve on the board.

Councilwoman Gregory made a motion to appoint Councilman Meffley to the Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness. Vice President Schneckenburger seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote of four to zero. Councilman Meffley was absent.

State Legislation

The Council reviewed legislation proposed in the Maryland General Assembly for consideration of support.

SB 636 Cecil County – Office of the Sheriff – Employees and Collective Bargaining, is cross filed with HB 284, which the Council has already agreed to support. The Council agreed to send a letter of support for SB 636.

SB 637 Correctional Services - Cecil County – Release and Home Detention Program, is cross filed with HB 373, which the Council has already agreed to support. The Council agreed to send a letter of support for SB 637.

SB 1057 Cecil County – Alcoholic Beverages – Alcohol Awareness Program, is cross filed with HB 411, which the Council has already agreed to support. The Council agreed to send a letter of support for SB 1057.

Earl Bradford, Cecil County Liquor Board, provided comments in support of HB 518 Alcoholic Beverages – Reform on Tape Act 2018. After discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter of support for HB 518.

MACo Legislative Committee Update

Vice President Schneckenburger, the Council representative on the MACo Legislative Committee reported on pending legislation of interest. He stated that there are eighteen bills on taxes and tax credits. The State has estimated that Maryland will see a surplus of \$350M as a result of the new federal tax laws. He stated that there have been discussions that the State may mitigate the cost for the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, which had been an unfunded mandate to the counties last year.

Vice President Schneckenburger stated that MACo was opposing a bill to require vision screening at public schools. Council President Bowsbey mentioned a vision program sponsored by the Chesapeake City Lions Club.

He also stated that Bob Neale, a senior advisor to Governor Hogan, announced that there is a new strategy for opioid crisis. Forty percent of the opioid related deaths occur in rural Maryland counties.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Council President Bowsbey stated that Resolution No. 07-2018 Appointment – Board of Library Trustees – Phyllis Kilby, will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Bowsbey stated that Resolution No. 08-2018 Appointment – Planning Commission – Donald C. Harmer, Jr., will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Bowsbey stated that Resolution No. 09-2018 Budget Amendment – Board of Education – Bohemia Manor High School, will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Bowsbey stated that Resolution No. 04-2018 Appointment—Weed Control Advisory Board, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Bowsbey stated that Resolution No. 05-2018 Appointment—Board of Parks and Recreation – Donald C. Harmer, Jr., will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Bowsbey stated that Resolution No. 06-2018 Budget Amendment – Roads Maintenance – Snow Removal, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Under new business, Tom Kappra, Chief Financial Officer, and Perry Willis, Executive Director of Support Services, Cecil County Public Schools provided information about Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #47. Council questions and comments ensued. The Council asked if all schools have adequate security. Mr. Kappra and Mr. Willis stated that there was adequate security at most schools but additional security will be requested.

Council Manager Report

Mr. Massey updated Council Members about upcoming meetings and events.

Council Member Comments

Councilman Patchell and Councilwoman Gregory will make comments during tonight’s legislative session.

Vice President Schneckeburger attended the Young Farmers Legislative Breakfast and discussed agriculture related legislation. He also attended the Cecil Leadership Institute Alumni Breakfast and the County Executive’s public input session on the FY19 budget.

Council President Bowsbey stated that the Upper Shore Regional Council met recently and recognized Susan O’Neill as the new Executive Director. She stated that Ms. O’Neill, former Cecil County Economic Development Manager, was hired in December 2017. Ms. Bowsbey praised Ms. O’Neill for her work to catch up with six months without a director. She explained that the USRC received \$200,000 from the Maryland Department of Commerce, \$111,000 from the Rural

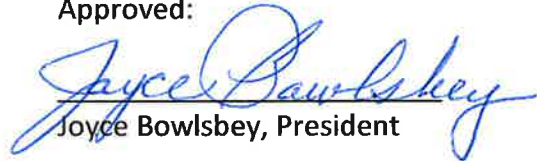
Maryland Council and \$12,000 from each of the three member counties. She thought that Cecil County will benefit from the funding for our county projects.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Vice President Schneckenburger, the work session was adjourned by Council President Bowsbey at 9:45 a.m.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 9 a.m.

Approved:


Joyce Bowsbey, President

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager