

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
August 28, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: President Bowsbey, Vice President Schneckenburger, Bob Meffley, and Jackie Gregory; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, County Assistant; members of the press; and members of the public.

**Absent:** Councilman Patchell

**OPEN SESSION – Elk Room**

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

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

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Councilman Meffley, seconded by Vice President Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of August 21, 2018, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Mosquito Spraying**

Brian Prendergast, program manager from the Mosquito Control Section of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, discussed the recent mosquito spraying in Colora. Mr. Prendergast explained that the State Health Department was notified of two cases of the West Nile virus reported in Colora. He stated that cold spraying method was used to spray the chemical, Permethrin, in a three- fourth (3/4) mile area around the residents who were affected. He explained that this chemical has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and its use is according to recommended practices. Mr. Prendergast described the method of notifying the public and stated that there were no other complaints about the spraying. Council questions and comments ensued.

**Cecil County Public Schools – School Security Funding**

Dr. Jeff Lawson, Superintendent of Cecil County Public Schools, introduced Perry Willis, Support Services Director, and Tom Kappra, Chief Financial Officer. Dr. Lawson provided copies of a Rationale and Use of Fund Balance, dated August 28, 2018. He stated that the board of education established a policy that their fund balance should be at least 5% of the total budget. He provided reasons why the fund balance is important with cash flow. He illustrated that partial state and county funding is received every 8 to 10 weeks, but the system must issue a payroll every two weeks of \$6M. He provided examples when the system dipped below their 5% threshold.

Dr. Lawson provided the school system's FY 2018 fund balance projections to show the amounts to meet the shortfall in the FY 2019 operating budget, the re-appropriation of FY18 projects being carried over, and the remaining amount. He then explained that the school system will allocate an amount to complete 14 additional security projects and security cameras. Then, he illustrated the amount carried forward into FY19 that would be committed to FY 19 shortfall that will reoccur in

FY20 and how the county's \$1M allocation for security projects will result in the school's fund balance being reduced to \$318,572 below the 5% threshold. Council questions and comments ensued.

The Council expressed concerns about security for the portable classroom buildings and the impact of the Kirwan Commission on the county funding. Dr. Lawson was asked to clarify the \$5M that was referred to in a letter from Dr. Devine, dated February 14, 2018. He stated that the parking lot at North East Elementary School, telephone system and security entrances were almost completed, but the field house at Perryville High School has been put on hold until the school security projects have been completed. There was discussion about the variance in security needs at individual schools and the difficulty in obtaining accurate estimates. Dr. Lawson also stated that Gilpin Manor Elementary School is open and welcomed Council Members to visit. He stated that there will be thirty (30) new positions in the system in FY 19.

#### **Elk Creek Preservation Society**

The presentation by the Elk Creek Preservation Society was postponed at the request of the presenter.

#### **Carbon Monoxide Detectors in Rental Units**

Councilman Meffley led discussion of an issue regarding state regulations for rental dwellings to have carbon monoxide detectors in new construction. He stated that the state regulations are unclear and that the State Fire Marshall had announced that detectors were not required in rental units that have no fuel burning equipment. Jason Allison, County Attorney, apologized that he originally considered detectors not required, but after further research, determined that the detectors were required. Bill Funk, Inspector, stated that he was requiring carbon monoxide detectors for rental units, regardless of whether they are fully electric or not.

Councilman Meffley asked the Council to support actions to request a legal opinion from the Attorney General about this issue. The Council agreed by consensus to submit this inquiry. Mr. Allison stated that the Attorney General's opinion may be useful, but it is not binding.

#### **Council Manager Report**

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

#### **Council Member Comments**

Councilman Meffley stated that the Upper Shore Regional Council will hold a retreat in Kent Council on September 13, 2018. He attended the ribbon cutting for the Veterans Village in Perry Point and commented on the seventy-five (75) units to be available to senior veterans. He also attended the new teacher reception and discussed school building security with them. He attended the Lincoln Reagan dinner in Harford County and commented on remarks in memory of Senator Wayne Norman. He attended Canal Days in Chesapeake City and commented on the exceptional event.

Councilwoman Gregory stated that she enjoyed her vacation in Ocean City. She also commented on the dinner with MACo officials and their staff's exceptional knowledge of issues.

Vice President Schneckenburger attended the ribbon cutting at the Veterans Village at Perry Point and commented on the good investment in Cecil County. He stated the MACo has an excellent staff and that the issue of used tires was raised with them. He toured the Terumo Medical Corporation and commented on the impressive company, which has hired 100 employees.

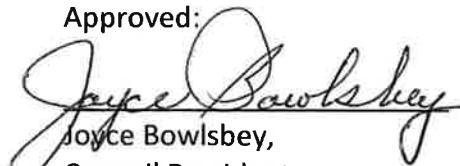
Council President Bowsbey commented that the dinner with MACo staff is worthwhile and valuable. She stated that county officials can learn so much from them.

**Adjournment**

On a motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the work session was adjourned by Council President Bowsbey at 10:14 am.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 9 am.

Approved:



Joyce Bowsbey,  
Council President

Attest:



James Massey  
Council Manager