

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
March 19, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: Robert Meffley, William Coutz, Al Miller, George Patchell and Jackie Gregory; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; members of the press; and members of the public.

**OPEN SESSION – Elk Room**

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

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

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of March 5, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Update on Cecil County Public Schools**

Dr. Jeff Lawson, School Superintendent, stated that he has been visiting each school to explain the budget process to staff. He stated that Cecil County Public Schools' policy is to maintain 5% in the fund balance, and explained that from a total annual budget of \$199M, a fund balance of \$10M is maintained. He stated that the fund balance has been used for the telephone system, security cameras at schools, and secure school entrances. Council Members asked several questions about the security. Dr. Lawson responded that the security entrance at Bohemia Manor High School will be completed by May 2019. He stated that security measures at eight schools are in progress.

Council Members inquired about his proposal for wage increases in the FY 2020 budget. Dr. Lawson stated that the Kirwan Commission funding is available to systems that have averaged 3% on the teachers' scale and that CCPS qualifies for this additional funding.

Council Members asked if CCPS is keeping teachers in Cecil County. Dr. Lawson explained that the scale is favorable for the first five to seven years. He stated that he is attempting to maintain staff by a favorable benefit package for families. He stated that he will provide a more detailed report of the wage package for all staff to the Council.

Dr. Lawson introduced Wesley Zimmerman, Director of Technology Services, and Kyle Rickansrud, Program Coordinator for Instructional Technology and Media Services. Mr. Zimmerman stated that CCPS has purchased twenty hot spots from T-Mobile in order to provide students with access to internet outside the school buildings. He explained that students are permitted to check out a Chromebook for one night.

Mr. Rickenreuter stated that the system owns over 500 Chromebooks to be loaned out to students. He stated that additional Chromebooks have been distributed to the public library, and other community agencies for students to borrow.

Mr. Zimmerman demonstrated “Pam”, which is a learning partner. He stated that CCPS has four of these units to loan to students who are unable to attend school. This unit provides two-way communications with video and audio. He said that the student must learn to operate the learning partner so that it can be maneuvered remotely. He said that the student is able to participate in most class activities remotely.

#### **State Legislation Update**

Mr. Massey provided an update of the current status of state legislation that the Council had taken a position.

#### **Council Budget Hearing Schedule**

Mr. Massey reviewed the final schedule of Council departmental budget hearings. Budget hearings are scheduled on Tuesdays at 4:30pm, from April 2 to May 14. The public hearing on the budget will be held on Thursday, May 23 at 7pm at Elkton High School. The Council is scheduled to deliberate the budget on Tuesday, May 28 and Thursday, May 30 at 4:30pm. Tentative consideration of the budget is scheduled on June 4, 2019.

#### **Review of Legislative Agenda**

A public hearing on Bill No. 2019-03 Budget Appropriation – Capital Projects Board of Education – Cherry Hill Middle School, is scheduled for tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments on the legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

A public hearing on Resolution No. 12-2019 Master Water and Sewer Plan 2018, is scheduled for tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments on the legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

There were no introductory comments on Resolution No. 20-2019 Appointment-Board of Library Trustees-Sтивен Pearson, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

There were no introductory comments on Resolution No. 21-2019 Appointment-Board of Library Trustees-Tanya Area, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

There were no introductory comments on Resolution No. 22-2019 Appointment—Human Services Agency – John Ness, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Christopher Moyer, Economic Development Director, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 23-2019 Approval – Maryland Economic Development Assistance and Authority Fund

– Loan for Northrop Grumman, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 24-2019 Approval – Tasers with Accessories – Multiple Year Contract, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. Captain Steve Brownhill, Cecil County Sheriff’s Office, provided additional details. Council questions and comments ensued.

Lisa Saxton, Finance Director, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 25-2019 Approval – Gasoline and Diesel Fuel – Multiple Year Contract, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 17-2019 General Fund Balance Policy will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued. Lisa Saxton, Finance Director, provided additional comments.

Resolution No. 18-2019 Budget Transfer and Appropriation-Road Maintenance-Snow Removal, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued. Mr. Wein responded that any funding remaining from snow removal will be allocated to road repair.

Bill No. 2019-02 Approval - Agricultural Preservation District – Leon King will be considered for final approval at tonight’s session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #60 will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

#### **Council Manager Report**

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

#### **Council Member Items**

Councilman Patchell will save his comments for tonight’s session.

Councilman Miller attended the Farm Bureau Banquet and Auction, and he commented on the exceptionally large crowd and the excellent menu.

Councilman Coutz also attended the Farm Bureau Banquet. He participated in the Arrow of Light program with Cub Packs #444 and #13, and he commended the leaders and parents for supporting this program to engage youth in positive activities.

Vice President Gregory attended the ribbon cutting of Cecil College’s Athletic Practice Facility and commended the project, which was built with private funding.

Council President Meffley attended the Farm Bureau Banquet and commented on the awards presented. He stated that he participated in a fundraiser for Friends of Cecil County Victim Memorial Services to raise \$500. He also attended the oath of office ceremony for acting State's Attorney James Dellmyer.

**10:00 A.M.**

**CLOSED SESSION**

On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to convene in closed session pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, § 3-305 (b) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y.

The motion was carried unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

**10:35 A.M.**

**OPEN SESSION**

The open session resumed at 10:35 am.

**Adjournment**

Vice President Gregory moved for adjournment, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz. Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 10:35 am.

Council President Meffley announced that the next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 9 am.

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

  
Robert Meffley,  
Council President