

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
June 11, 2019**

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

**Absent:** Councilman Miller

**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 June 4, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Human Trafficking**

Kristen Berkowich, LMSW, Child Protective Services Assessor, Child Advocacy Center, Department of Social Services, introduced Anne Bean, LCSW-C, Coordinator of Family Violence Programs, Child Advocacy Center, Department of Social Services; Marion Gill, LCSW-C, Supervisor, Department of Social Services; and Jennifer Crooks, LCSW-C, Supervisor, Child Advocacy Center, Department of Social Services.

Ms. Bean discussed the definition of human trafficking and the creation of the Cecil County Human Trafficking Task Force, which was formed after the county's first reported case in 2017. She also reviewed the member agencies of the task force, which includes the State's Attorney's Office, Maryland State Police, Sheriff's Office, Elkton Police, FBI, Department of Juvenile Services, Union Hospital, Cecil County Public Schools, Bridge-Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Center, Child Advocacy Center and the Department of Social Services.

Ms. Brooks reviewed the task force's mission statement that supports victims of human trafficking and their families. Ms. Berkowich summarized the task force's fundraising efforts and discussed training provided to the public and organizations. She also reviewed additional training that task force members have received.

Ms. Gill discussed the development of the task force into units of investigative, preventative and resources. She also reviewed their statistics of between 10 and 13 cases in 2017 and 2018. She also reported that two cases in 2017 resulted in two federal convictions.

Council questions and comments ensued.

### **2018 Annual Report – Planning Commission**

Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, presented the 2018 Annual Report by the Planning Commission, which he explained is required by state law. Council questions and comments ensued.

When asked about solar farms, Mr. Sennstrom stated that his department has seen few applications since the initial surge. He confirmed that mobile homes in Cecil County now require sprinklers.

### **Cecil County Public Schools - Update**

Dr. Jeff Lawson, School Superintendent, thanked the Council for their support of the school system's FY 2020 budget request. He stated that the county increased school funding by 3%. He also stated that 60% of the school budget is provided by the State.

He stated that he reduced the number of administrators in order to use funding to establish student support centers in fourteen schools. He stated that the school system is offering Title I summer programming at seven schools to help students to reinforce learning progress. He has presented a new strategy plan to the board of education. He stated that the school system will use \$2M fund balance in FY 2020. He commented that the Kirwan Commission funding will finance teacher salaries and special education costs. He is also hopeful that the school system will receive two large federal grants. He has appointed a new citizens advisory group to provide budget direction. He discussed a new program, AVID, which supports students who need assistance with college planning.

Council President Meffley commented that he was very impressed with the number of student awards at Bohemia Manor High School. Councilman Coutz commended Dr. Lawson for his efforts to keep the Council informed and up-to-date with the school system. Vice President Gregory stated that Dr. Lawson's presentations benefited the Council and public at large.

### **COUNCIL MANAGER REPORT**

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

### **COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS**

Councilman Patchell commented on being relieved that the budget is finished for FY 2020.

Councilman Coutz attended the Economic Development Commission at Fairwinds Farms. He attended the Opportunity Zone Leadership Task Force and stated that the program has not been finalized. He attended the Sheriff's Office Intel meeting and stated that overdose cases are increasing with nineteen last month, including four fatalities. He attended the Elkton High School graduation.

Vice President Gregory commented that last week was graduation in all county high schools and she congratulates all high school graduates. She attended North East High School graduation and was impressed at the variety of talents and interests of students.

Council President Meffley attended the awards assembly and graduation at Bohemia Manor High School. He attended Economic Development Commission and summarized several projects underway. He stated that there was discussion on marketing local farm products at popular venues such as Calvert Park.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Gregory made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz and approved unanimously. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 9:50 a.m.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 9am in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

Approved:

  
Robert Meffley  
Council President

  
James Massey  
Council Manager