

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**April 5, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: President Robert Hodge, Vice President Alan McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey and George Patchell; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Eric Sennstrom, Director of Planning and Zoning; Winston Robinson, Director of Finance; Scott Flanigan, Director of Planning and Zoning; Stephen O'Connor, Zoning Administrator; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; members of the press; and members of the public.

**Absent:** Councilman Schneckenburger

**OPEN SESSION – Elk Room**

**9:00 a.m.** – Council President Hodge 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](http://www.ccgov.org).

**CLOSED SESSION**

**March 22, 2016**

**10:30 A.M.**

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to convene a closed session pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State Government, Section 10-508(a)(8) to consult with staff, consultants, and other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Roll Call Vote: McCarthy - Y, Bowsbey-Y, Schneckenburger - Y, Patchell- Y, and Hodge - Y.

Present: Council Members: President Hodge, Vice President McCarthy, Councilwoman Bowsbey, Councilman Schneckenburger, and Councilman Patchell; Jason Allison, County Attorney; James Massey, Council Manager; and Terry Hale, Council Assistant.

Mr. Allison updated the Council regarding pending and potential litigation.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to conclude the closed session at 10:52 a.m. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Roll Call Vote: McCarthy - Y, Bowsbey-Y, Schneckenburger - Y, Patchell - Y and Hodge - Y.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of March 22, 2016. Motion was carried by a vote of 4 to 0. Councilman Schneckenburger was absent.

On a motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of March 22, 2016. Motion was carried by a vote of 4 to 0. Councilman Schneckenburger was absent.

### **Review of State Legislation**

Council Manager Massey updated the Council on actions taken by the General Assembly on bills that the Council supported or opposed. He asked the Council if they wished to support amendments to SB 707 Freestanding Medical Facilities, as suggested by Delegate Lisanti that would add Cecil County and Harford County to the Rural Healthcare Workgroup and delay conversion of Harford Memorial Hospital until recommendations by the workgroup are complete. After discussion, the consensus of the Council was to take no position on either the legislation or amendments.

### **FY 2017 Annual Budget**

Mr. Wein summarized the County Executive's proposed operating budget for FY 2017, which will be introduced as Bill No. 2016-04 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. He stated that the budget proposed sets the property tax at the constant yield rate of .9914, an increase of .007 over the current rate of .9907. If the County stayed at the current rate of .9907, revenue would decline by approximately \$62,000. The total general fund budget proposed is \$183,072,458, which is approximately \$4.8M over the revised FY 2016 budget, and a 2.67% increase. The administration proposes to use \$2.6M of unassigned fund balance. The total budget, which includes the internal service, debt service and enterprise funds is approximately \$291M, a 4.1% increase in the total budget. The property tax rate will be introduced as Resolution No. 15-2016 Adoption of Property Tax.

Mr. Wein summarized proposed changes in County employee health care coverage and costs and compensation increases. He also reviewed proposed capital budget and projects to be funded, which will be introduced in Bill No. 2016-05 Capital Improvement Program - FY 2017-2021.

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Wein summarized the administration's proposal for the lease purchase of vehicles and equipment financing and the fee for non-consideration transfers of interest in land. These proposals will be introduced as Bill No. 2016-07 Fees - Transfer of Interest in Land and Bill No. 2016-06 Lease Purchase Agreement- Vehicles and Equipment Financing.

Changes in the rates charged by the Central Landfill are proposed as part of the budget, which will be introduced as Bill No. 2016-08 Disposal Fees - Central Landfill.

### **Review of Legislative Agenda**

Council President Hodge led a review of the legislative agenda.

Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Sennstrom provided introductory remarks about the rezoning case, File 2016-02 - Stephen B. Beiler. Council questions and comments ensued.

Mr. Sennstrom provided remarks about the Department of Planning and Zoning 2015 annual report. Council questions and comments ensued.

Bills for introduction were previously discussed during the FY 2017 Annual Budget presentation.

There were no comments or questions regarding the introduction of Resolution No. 14-2016 Appointment - Commission on Aging - Jamie McCloskey.

There were no comments or questions regarding the introduction of Resolution No. 15-2016 Adoption of Tax Rate - FY 2017.

Mr. Flanigan provided introductory remarks about Resolution No. 16-2016 Old Elk Neck Road - Speed Limit, which will be introduced at tonight's legislative session. Council questions and comments ensued.

The Council will be considering Resolution No. 11-2016 Appointment - Compensation Review Commission at tonight's session. Questions and comments ensued.

The Council will be considering approval of Resolution No. 12-2016 Budget Amendment - Information Technology Internal Fund - State Attorney's Office at tonight's session. Questions and comments ensued.

There were no comments or questions about Resolution No. 13-2016 Appointment- Ethics Commission - Donna Caudell, which will be considered at tonight's session.

The Council will be considering approval of Bill No. 2016-02 Budget Transfer - Roads and Bridges Capital improvement Program - Waibel Road Bridge and Road Improvement Projects at tonight's session. Councilman Patchell stated that this bridge has been out for ten years.

The Council will be considering Bill No. 2016-03 Budget Amendment - Capital Budget - Animal Care and Control Facility at tonight's session. Council questions and comments ensued.

The Council will be considering Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #27 at tonight's session. Tom Kappra, Chief Financial Officer, Cecil County Public Schools, will be available at tonight's session to answer any questions from the Council. Councilman Patchell stated that the majority of revenue shown in the report was from donations.

#### **Council Manager Report**

Mr. Massey stated that Vince Fiorelli from Chesapeake Utilities will make a presentation at the work session on April 26. In addition, he reviewed upcoming events, which included the tour of the Havre de Grace Library on April 21 and North East VFC banquet on May 7. He provided copies of the budget hearing schedule. Council Members were reminded that the

Council work session, budget hearing and legislative session will be held at the Elkton Town Hall, due to early voting use of the Elk Room.

Councilwoman Bowsbey added that the CASA open house will be held April 7 and Chef's Challenge at North East VFC to benefit Union Hospital will be held on April 8.

Council President Hodge commented on the Long Term Disaster Recovery Partnership meeting being held on April 6.

Vice President McCarthy asked about a possible protest to be held during tonight's legislative session. Mr. Massey explained that a protest was to occur at 4:00 p.m. in front of the County Administration Building in support of animals and in opposition for euthanizing animals at the animal shelter. Mr. Wein and Mr. Allison provided further explanation of how the protest would be handled and the false allegation that the County intended to euthanize the remaining animals at the animal shelter.

#### **Council Member Comments**

Councilwoman Bowsbey attended the Department of Community Services Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, the Town of Elkton's Citizen of the Year banquet, and the dedication for the marriage ceremony room in memory of Derrick Lowe.

Councilman Patchell attended the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and the County Executive's press conference on the FY 2017 budget.

Vice President McCarthy attended the Elkton Citizen of the Year award banquet and Cecilton Volunteer Fire Company Banquet. He also stated that he participated in a community cleanup along Bohemia River.

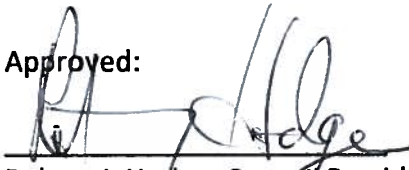
Council President Hodge announced that Vice President McCarthy and he attended a meeting of the Septic System Installer Licensing Work Group. He reported that the stakeholders gave opinions on licensing septic system installers. He stated that most attendees generally agreed that it would be in their best interest to license installers, but a multiple approach should be made to educate homeowners about septic system maintenance. He stated that representatives of the Council, Health Department and the Department of Permits and Inspection will meet to discuss their next steps.

Council President Hodge commented on misinformation contained in a Letter to the Editor in the Cecil Whig regarding the Compensation Review Commission and County employee health insurance costs. He stated that the formation of the Compensation Review Commission was mandated by the Charter of Cecil County every four years. He also refuted the implication that the County had mismanaged the health insurance fund and paid \$500,000 for a consultant, which is not true. He stated that the Council did not follow the consultant's advice to raise premiums to the employees. The Council and administration did not want to put an extra burden on the County employees by raising health care premiums when there were no increase in compensation in the past years.

**Adjournment**

Council President Hodge adjourned the work session at 10:04 a.m.

Approved:

  
Robert J. Hodge, Council President  
County Council of Cecil County

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

