

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 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.

Approval of Minutes

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

Public Schools State Funding Process

Dr. Lawson, Superintendent of Cecil County Public Schools, introduced Steve Brooks, financial advisor to the Maryland State Department of Education. Mr. Brooks made a presentation on behalf of Dr. Amalie Brandenburg, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Administration.

Mr. Brooks provided a packet of information entitled, Review of Maryland Education Aid. He explained that state education funding is based on county enrollment and county wealth. He illustrated that Cecil County enrollment has decreased from 14,782.25 to 14,682.25, a difference of -0.68%. He also illustrated that Cecil County wealth increased by 4.62% as compared with the state's wealth that increased by 3.69%. He also reviewed foundation funding between the state and local shares. He also explained other category factors including geographic cost of education index, transportation for students with disabilities, compensatory education, grant, limited English proficient grant, special education formula program, guaranteed tax base program, net taxable income and tax increment financials grants, and supplemental prekindergarten grants.

Dr. Lawson summarized the impact of the state funding for FY 2020. He stated that the increase in county wealth of 4.6% and the decrease in enrollment of 3.3%, state funding for CCPS will decline.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Cecil County Public Schools Update

Dr. Lawson introduced Perry Willis, Executive Director of Support Services, to discuss water testing at schools. Mr. Willis explained that a recent state law requires school systems to test for lead in their facilities. He said that twenty-one schools are supplied by municipal or private water systems. He stated that thirteen of twenty-one sites have been tested. He stated that fourteen outlets out of

235 were found to contain lead. In these cases, the fixtures are replaced. Mr. Willis also stated that the Maryland Department of the Environment assists them in resolving these issues.

Council questions and comments ensued. Mr. Willis stated that nitrogen levels are also monitored. He also stated that water is provided to facilities where levels of lead or nitrogen exceed the standards.

Review of State Legislation

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

Vice President Gregory reviewed legislation that had been discussed at the MACo Legislative Committee. She provided a list of legislation to be considered for support or opposition in the areas of education, land use, health, elections and guns.

She suggested that Council Members review the legislation and discuss taking further action at the next work session.

Review of Legislative Agenda

A public hearing on Bill No. 2019-01 Budget Transfer- Capital Budget-Board of Education-Various School Capital Projects, is scheduled at tonight's legislation session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory comments on Bill No. 2019-03 Budget Appropriation – Capital Projects – Board of Education – Cherry Hill Middle School, which will be introduced at tonight's session. Council questions and comments ensued.

There were no introductory comments on Resolution No. 14-2019 Appointment—Weed Control Advisory Board, 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. 15-2019 Appointment—Board of Parks and Recreation—Bernard Brown, III, which will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 05-2019 Appointment—Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board- Dale K. DeWeese, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 06-2019 Appointment—Board of Parks and Recreation-Matthew Morris, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 07-2019 Appointment—Planning Commission – Joyce Bowsbey, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 08-2019 Appointment—Cecil County Ethics Commission-Bradley Moore, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 09-2019 Appointment - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council – Rebecca J. Flood, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 10-2019 Appointment - Historic District Commission – Macon H. Coleman, IV and Heidi M. Coleman, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 11-2019 Appointment—Cecil County Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Board – Eric M. Upperman, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 13-2019 Supplemental Appropriation- Grant Funds- Solid Waste Enterprise Fund- Agricultural Tire Recycling, 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 Comments

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

Councilman Miller attended the Young Farmers Breakfast and stated that it was well attended by county farmers and county officials, including Dr. McCarthy, Senator Gallion and Delegate Hornberger, and Delegate Cassilly. He also attended the US 301 meeting and commented on the dramatic increase of traffic on Sassafras Road, and Edgar Price Road, which is attributed to traffic bypassing the tolls on US 301. He attended the County Executive’s budget meeting for public comments and commended the positive comments made.

Councilman Coutz thanked Dr. Lawson and Mr. Brooks for their presentation on the school funding formula and update on Cecil County Public Schools. He attended the WILMAPCO sponsored Planning for Tomorrow town meeting that predicts Cecil County will be prospering in the next thirty years.

Vice President Gregory attended a program at Cecil Manor where April Foster of Step Recovery Resources provided information on services that are provided to families. She also attended the County Executive’s public meeting on the budget. She attended the Taste of the Eastern Shore in Annapolis where cheeses from Cecil County’s Chesapeake Gold Farm were served. She also announced a golf fundraiser, sponsored by the VFW, which will be held at Chesapeake Bay Golf Club to benefit veterans.

Council President Meffley thanked Council Members for helping him cover events and meetings. He attended the US 301 meeting in Cecilton and commented on discussion with DeIDOT, Maryland State Highways Administration, Maryland State Police, the towns of Cecilton, Galena, and Chesapeake City, and county government. He stated that DeIDOT had not met with Maryland representatives since the Commissioners were in office. Various solutions to the traffic issue were discussed, which included added signage, increased patrolling, reducing the fee for EZ pass, and even blocking the roads at the state line. He also stated that there will be added concerns in the spring as farmers begin their planting. There was discussion of asking DeIDOT to pay Maryland for damage to local roads.

Adjournment

Councilman Coutz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory. Council President Meffley adjourned the Council work session at 10:16 a.m.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 9 am.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley,
Council President