

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**September 22, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: President Hodge, Vice President McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, and Dan Schneckenburger; Tari Moore, County Executive; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Winston Robinson, Director of Finance; Craig Whiteford, Budget Director; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; members of the press; and members of the public.

Absent: George Patchell

**OPEN SESSION – Elk Room**

**9:00 a.m.** – 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**

**September 15, 2015**

**9:33 a.m.**

On motion by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to convene in closed session, pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government 10-508(a) (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Present: Council Members: Vice President McCarthy, Councilwoman Bowsbey, Councilman Schneckenburger, Councilman Patchell and President Hodge; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Winston Robinson, Director of Finance; Craig Whiteford, Budget Manager; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant.

Mr. Wein and Mr. Robinson discussed the administration's proposal to purchase real property.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to adjourn the closed session at 10:17 a.m. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilman Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of September 15, 2015. Motion was carried by a vote of 4 to 0. Councilman Patchell was absent.

On a motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowlsbey, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of September 15, 2015. Motion was carried by a vote of 4 to 0. Councilman Patchell was absent.

#### **Proposed North East Library**

Denise Davis, Library Director, gave a presentation about the proposed North East Library. Ms. Davis explained that the proposed 45,000 SF building will house a public library of 30,000 SF and library office headquarters of 15,000 SF, which will free up space in the existing Elkton Library and relieve parking congestion. She stated that construction costs are about \$330 per square foot. She is hopeful to receive \$5M from state grants to be used for this construction project.

Council President Hodge asked Ms. Davis to provide a list of activities and functions of library headquarters.

Questions and comments ensued. Morgan Miller, Deputy Director; and Ken Wiggins, Chairman of the Board of Library Trustees also participated in the presentation.

#### **County Employee Health Benefit Changes**

Donna Nichols, Director of Human Resources, introduced Mike Shuster from Willis of Maryland. Mr. Schuster is the broker for the county's health benefits. Ms. Nichols described a new option for employees to have a High Deductible Health Plan for employees who wish to minimize their premium. Ms. Nichols also discussed the Pharmacy Management Plan that employees can choose where they obtain prescriptions. The County has renegotiated a new prescription plan with Express Script, which is estimated to save \$3M over three years. Mr. Schuster and Ms. Nichols also described how the "Cadillac tax" will hurt employers whose health plans are above an allowed cost. Questions and comments ensued.

#### **Consolidated Transportation Plan - Follow up**

Council President Hodge led a discussion of the Consolidated Transportation Plan meeting held on September 17, 2015. After discussion of the Route 222/95 bridge widening project, the Council agreed by consensus to request the administration work with the State Highway Administration to clarify whether the State will allow economic growth in this area without an expansion of this bridge.

#### **State legislative Initiatives - Follow up**

The Council expressed their appreciation that the state delegation was very receptive of the county's initiatives. Senator Norman agreed to pre-file several initiatives. The Council also discussed whether local pharmacists should approach the State about their dissatisfaction with prescription business management firms.

#### **Dispensary License**

The Council discussed the issue of distillery license, which had been mentioned at the State legislative initiatives meeting. Earl Bradford, Chief, Alcoholic Beverage Inspector, Liquor Control Board, provided information of a similar law in Worcester County.

**Council Manager Report**

Mr. Massey reminded the Council that there will be no work session on September 29, which is the fifth Tuesday of the month. He also stated that the tour of the Courthouse is confirmed on Thursday, October 8 at 10am. Presentations on Elkton West and Artesian Water have been scheduled at the Council work session of October 13. He also reminded the Council of the Upper Shore Regional Council Retreat on September 24, Hollywood Casino re-ribbon cutting on September 25, and several community events on September 26.

**Council Member Items**

Councilman Schneckenburger had no comments.

Vice President McCarthy reminded the public of the Sassafras River Bridge closing. He also stated that he attended the Elkton Fall Festival.

Councilwoman Bowsbey attended the Early Childhood Advisory Council and Planning Commission.

President Hodge stated that the detour around the Sassafras River Bridge was twenty-two miles. He suggested a short cut using Wards Hill Road.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**11:10 A.M.**

On motion made by Councilwoman Bowsbey, seconded by Vice President McCarthy, the Council moved to convene in closed session pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State Government, Section 10-508(a) (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. The motion was carried by a vote of 4 to 0. Councilman Patchell was absent.

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

**OPEN SESSION**

**11:35 A.M.**

President Hodge reconvened the meeting at 11:35 a.m.


**Adjournment**

President Hodge adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

  
Robert J. Hodge, President  
County Council of Cecil County

