

**Board of County Commissioners
Worksession Minutes
May 10, 2011**

PRESENT: Commissioners Mullin, Moore, Dunn, Broomell and Hodge; County Administrator Al Wein, Public Works Director Scott Flanigan and staff; Economic Development Director Vernon Thompson; Planning and Zoning Director Eric Sennstrom; Budget Manager Craig Whiteford; Executive Office Administrator Vicky Rinkerman; Counsel Norman Wilson; members of the press, and members of the public.

NOTE: Audio recording of this meeting is available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

OPEN SESSION

9:00 a.m. – President Mullin called the meeting to order.

Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

Commissioner Hodge introduced Tom Sedowski, President and CEO of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore.

Mr. Sedowski stated that their public-private partnership organization is designed to lead economic growth and development in the greater Baltimore area. As a partner in this organization, Cecil County has played a vital role in bringing jobs to this region. He reviewed current initiatives and support provided for bringing any economic resources to the area, which includes private investment funds.

Discussion ensued relative to the return on investment and role of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore within Cecil County.

Cecil Land Trust

Mr. Bill Kilby, Cecil Land Trust, and Eric Shertz from the Office of Planning and Zoning provided the Board an update on land preservation proposals. Mr. Kilby provided information relative to future uses for the county property currently leased by the Farm Museum. He updated the Board on land preservation efforts in the northern area of the county, and provided a draft Memorandum of Understanding to establish a relationship between the entities in order to proceed with the purchase of an easement.

Discussion ensued relative to the Carson land preservation project and a proposed timeline for reimbursement of County funds for the easement purchase. There is funding available through the County's Purchase of Development Rights Program.

The Board concurred to authorize the parties to proceed with due diligence relative to this proposal.

Mr. Kilby continued outlining another preservation easement proposal of approximately 669 acres that are not located within the Rural Legacy Area; however, the owner is willing to consider installment payments through the PDR program. There is a possibility of using this property to assist the Town of Rising Sun with developing a wastewater re-charge area.

The Board concurred to authorize the parties to proceed with due diligence relative to this proposal.

Local Impact Grant Application

Director Thompson reviewed the revised grant application for local impact grant funds.

Discussion ensued relative to the ranking criteria, requiring financial data on the organization receiving funds, considering using grant funds for seed money to establish revenue generating projects, consideration for revising the language relative to accepting grant applications, and using members of the Local Development Council (LDC) to assist with the grant applications.

The Board concurred to authorize Director Thompson to contact LDC Chair Patchell relative to the members providing assistance with the grant applications and changing the title of the application to Cecil County Video Lottery Terminal Community Local Impact Grant Program.

Local Impact Grant Agreement

County Administrator Wein reviewed the revised draft for the local impact grant agreement with the Town of Perryville. Town officials revised the application and submitted a signed agreement. The Board concurred that they are not in agreement with the revisions as presented.

Discussion ensued relative to interpretation of the law, and the County's fiduciary responsibility for disbursement of the State grant.

Counsel Wilson advised the Board that Perryville officials have removed the requirements from the agreement relative to the term and reporting to the County.

The Board concurred to authorize County Administrator Wein to schedule a meeting between the Commissioners and elected officials from the Town of Perryville to discuss the terms of the agreement.

Chapter 209 Dogs and Other Animals – next steps

County Administrator Wein stated that the Board has received a draft of Chapter 209 Dogs and Other Animals from the Animal Care and Control Task Force.

Discussion ensued relative to the Board discussing the revisions to the draft with the task force members before scheduling a public hearing.

The Board concurred to authorize County Administrator Wein to request a meeting with members of the Animal Care and Control Task Force to discuss the revisions in more detail.

Budget Hearing Protocol and Review

County Administrator Wein reviewed the budget public hearing meeting process for the afternoon and evening budget hearings.

Commissioner Items

Commissioner Dunn commented on meetings and events he attended during the week.

Commissioner Broomell commented on meetings and events she attended during the week.

Commissioner Moore commented on meetings and events she attended during the week.

Commissioner Hodge commented on the draft revisions to the Ethics Code and suggested increasing the number of members on the Ethics Commission.

Commissioner Mullin commented on the Kentucky Derby. He asked Director Sennstrom to address concerns regarding approval of a late comprehensive rezoning application for a property owned by Ford Hall.

Director Sennstrom stated that the comprehensive rezoning application submitted by Ford Hall was accepted after the deadline, as approved by the Board. Through the Comprehensive Rezoning process, the Board voted four to one to change the zoning of the property owned by Mr. Hall from Village Residential to Maritime Business. Residents in the surrounding area have contacted the Commissioners regarding the process, lack of a requirement for notification and the decision to approve the request. Staff has provided the Board a response for the inquiries that explains the Comprehensive Rezoning process relative to the Board's decision that was made in accordance with applicable law.

CLOSED SESSION

10:55 a.m. - On motion made by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Dunn, the Board moved to convene in closed session pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State Government 10-508 (a) (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

President Mullin called for a fifteen-minute recess. The Board convened in closed session at 11:10 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

11:55 a.m.

On motion made by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Broomell, the Board adjourned the closed session.

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