

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/MUNICIPALITIES MEETING
MINUTES FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2011

Commissioner Blaine R. Young, *President*, called to order a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County, Maryland, (“Board”) and the municipal officials of Frederick County for Thursday, August 11, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. Present were Commissioners Billy Shreve, David Gray and Kirby Delauter. Commissioner C. Paul Smith, *Vice President*, was absent.

Elected municipal officials present were Carroll Jones, Mayor, and Karin Tome, Councilman, City of Brunswick; Jim Hoover, Mayor, and Patrick Joy, Councilman, Town of Emmitsburg; Randy McClement, Mayor, Shelly Aloï and Karen Young, Aldermen, The City of Frederick; Jake Romanell, Councilman, Town of New Market; Ralph Whitmore, Burgess, Town of Walkersville; and Martin Burns, Town Commission President, Town of Thurmont. Also present was Ragen Cherney, County Manager’s Office.

Frederick County Delegate Patrick Hogan was also present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Romanell moved to approve the minutes for Thursday, May 26, 2011. Mayor Hoover seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Discussion Regarding the Expansion of Transit Services – Jim Hoover, Mayor, Town of Emmitsburg

(Commissioner Young departed the meeting.)

Mayor Hoover noted the Town of Emmitsburg would be in support of expanded TransIT bus service to the northern portion of the county in the future. Currently, the town is served by only one shuttle in the morning and one shuttle in the afternoon.

Commissioner Shreve expressed a desire to review all TransIT routes in Frederick County and focus on improving and streamlining for more efficient and effective service.

Commissioner Delauter requested a formal written communication from the Town of Emmitsburg to the Board noting the request for future expanded TransIT bus service.

Mayor Burns of Thurmont also spoke in support of future service for the Town of Thurmont.

(Commissioner Young returned to the meeting.)

Tax Set-Off Discussion – Dave Dunn, Office of the County Manager

Acting County Budget Officer Kelly Weaver detailed the history of the municipal tax set-off, the structure of the review process and how the calculations for the municipalities were derived.

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Acting County Manager Dunn reported the Tax Equity Committee, consisting of municipal and county government representatives had been meeting throughout the year and planned to have a final report for the Board and the municipal leaders by the fall. However, in light of recent concerns, the committee may not be able to complete their review and issue a report.

Brunswick Mayor Jones noted the Frederick County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League had an upcoming meeting to discuss the tax equity issues and would have a municipal recommendation on the matter for the Board and municipal leaders by September 15.

**Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Issues – Shannon Moore,
Community Development Division**

Ms. Moore updated her report from the May 26, 2011, meeting, and reported to the elected officials regarding the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). She noted the possible cost to Frederick County and the local municipalities to implement could be between \$500 million to \$2 billion. The state has the Maryland Assessment Scenario Tool to model the county projections but raised concerns that the tool contained incorrect assumptions and dated material. She notified MDE about the problem.

Additionally, data that is to be provided by the federal Environmental Protection Agency has not been forwarded to the county; however, the Frederick County Watershed Implementation Plan was due by October 2011.

**Discussion on How to Interpret the "Five-Year Rule" When Express Approval of an
Annexation is Denied by the Board of County Commissioners**

Denis Superczynski of the Frederick County Community Development Division (CDD) updated the county and municipal officials on the topic that was continued from the May 26, 2011, meeting. He noted the legislation on the matter was vague, and there were questions on what activity allowed a land owner and developer to move forward in regard to the five year policy. He noted the staff believed that pre-permitting activities would be allowed, thus allowing for a greater certainty on land use for adjoining property owners. He noted CDD was interested in receiving feedback and input from the municipalities on the matter.

The municipal leaders agreed to further discuss the matter and return to a joint County/Municipalities meeting with a recommendation on a form of agreement between the county and municipal governments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Ragen Cherney
County Manager's Office