

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

February 18, 2025

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

4:30 P.M.

NOTE: The recording and transcription of this meeting are available on the County website at www.ccgov.org/council.

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Donna Culberson and Dawn Branch; David Culver, Council Manager; Christine Palmer, Council Assistant, members of the administration and members of the public.

Call to Order

President Miller called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and announced that there were five Council Members present which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 11, 2025, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council Closed Session of February 11, 2025, as presented. The motion passed 5 to 0.

CLOSED SESSION

FEBRUARY 11, 2025

5:16 pm

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller and Dawn Branch; Sally Dulin, Director of Human Resources; David Culver, Council Manager; Christine Palmer, Council Assistant.

Council President Miller asked for a motion to recess the work session and to go into a closed session. Vice President Meffley made a motion to go into closed session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Branch - Y

The motion was approved 5 to 0

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions §3-305 (b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Council President Miller recessed the work session at 5:09 pm and opened the closed session at 5:16 pm.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to open the closed session, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller - Y

The motion was approved 5 to 0

Council Manger Culver recused himself at 5:19 pm.

Council had a discussion on applicants for the Council Manager Position. The Council consensus was to interview three candidates and requested Director Dulin to contact the

applicants and request they attend a Closed Session on February 15, 2025 and that this meeting be a continuation of the process under the original notice.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to recess the Closed Session until February 15, 2025 and reconvene the Work Session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller - Y

The motion was approved 5 to 0

President Miller adjourned the closed session at 6:13 pm.

CLOSED SESSION

FEBRUARY 15, 2025

9:00 am

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller and Dawn Branch; Sally Dulin, Director of Human Resources; Christine Palmer, Council Assistant.

Council President Miller asked for a motion to continue the closed session from February 11, 2025. Councilwoman Branch made a motion to go into closed session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Branch - Y

The motion was approved 5 to 0

Council Assistant Palmer stated for the record:

Pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions §3-305 (b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Council interviewed the applicants for the Council Manager Position.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to adjourn the Closed Session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller - Y

The motion was approved 5 to 0

President Miller adjourned the closed session at 1:06 pm.

Review of Legislative Agenda

a. New Business

1. Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #132

Cecil County Public School Director of Finance Denise Sopa noted this budget amendment was for \$349,995. She reviewed the restricted local, state and federal revenues as well as the unrestricted revenue along with the grants and donations made to the various schools. She also noted the changes in funding for Title I because of changes on State funding and the movement of fund balance to support additional teachers, paraprofessionals and student support. Councilwoman Hamilton noted the changes in the last budget amendment for Title II, III and IV and if this is along the same line of program changes and Director Sopa noted it was because the amount changes after the budget is approved. Director Sopa also reviewed how the deductions were made to the various programs in the restricted and unrestricted funds. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the fixed costs and Director Sopa noted it was the health care, social security, pension and so forth for employees. Director Sopa also reviewed the three year budget and that they are on target so far in this fiscal year. Councilwoman Hamilton also inquire on the transportation grant and supplies for

students that were displaced, and Director Sopa reviewed the grant and the use of funds to transport students to the school they were in if they were displaced and choose to attend the same school. Dr. Lawson also noted that this may require the use of taxi services.

b. Introduction of Resolutions

1. Resolution 13-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – ENOUGH Act Local Management Board Capacity Building Grant

Director of Community Services David Trolio noted 4 or 5 months ago he did a presentation to Council on the Local Management Board and noted the ENOUGH Act initiative was passed at last year's session. He noted this stands for Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households and had the overarching goal of eradicating childhood poverty. He also noted that Cecil County has four census tracks do qualify for this funding, but we did not receive any funding as part of the competitive funding portion of the grant but did receive funding through formula funding. Director Trolio noted this portion of the grant requires them to do a survey in these tracks to collect data on what is needed to help stabilize families. He noted that if they receive funding again next year, they will target programs in this census tracks. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the location of the census tracks that qualify, and Director Trolio noted two are in Elkton, one in Chesapeake City and one is North East. Councilwoman Hamilton noted we could do this survey but without funding next year we could not help those identified and Director Trolio noted that is possible but numerous programs are funded now to help these areas and a shift in these programs could be done for the ENOUGH program. He also noted he does not know how the funding will be allocated in future fiscal years because of State budget issues. He also noted asset mapping would be utilized with a consultant, and we received a three-month extension to spend these funds. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the survey would focus on entire neighborhood or just household needs and Director Trolio noted at this point in time the survey is on what organizational needs are necessary to serve both neighborhoods and household in these communities.

2. Resolution 14-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Roads Division – Department of Public Works – Asphalt Overlay

Director of Public Works Scott Flanigan noted this resolution for funding had been done the past several years. He noted a baseline is put into the budget for road projects and after the audit is completed and they have a good handle on winter snow costs additional funding, if available, is allocated to do additional paving. He noted this year \$750,000 was budgeted for road maintenance and this will add an additional \$3,500,000 and will enable them to do an additional 14 miles of roads and additional patching work.

Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if this paving would be done this fiscal year and what roads are being proposed for paving. Director Flannigan noted it would be done by the end of June and would include parts of Love Run Road, Theodore Road, Principio Road, Calvert Road, Brick Meeting House Road, Irish Town Road, Nottingham Road and Tony's Road for a total of a little over 14 miles. He also noted this work would start in April. President Miller inquired how the bid packages were prepared and Director Flanigan noted the bid packet included all the aforementioned roads but noted that if during milling they discover other issue that need to be repaired that may reduce the amount of paving they can do in this round. Councilwoman Branch inquired on the process used over the past several years and if this will be done differently going forward and Director of Administrator Dan Schneckenburger noted they will be looking at this issue. Director Flanigan noted that over the past few years uncertainty in funding from the State and Federal government made it difficult to budget the funds and this system was utilized to allow funds to be added if the budget depending on funding availability. Director Schneckenburger noted that highway user funds are going lower and this is also a concern. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the total miles of County roads and Director Flanigan noted about 605 centerline miles which equates to 1,210 lane miles. Vice President Meffley inquired on the use of the millings and Director Flanigan noted it depends on how it is put out to bid and sometime the millings will be kept by the County and delivered to the County and sometimes it is the responsibility of the contractor to dispose of the millings. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the expected life of the paving and how is the priority of road paving determined. Director Flanigan noted the paving life expectancy depends, and normally 20 years but could be as little as 7 to 10 years depending on traffic. He also noted the Roads Division will do the analysis of the roads and set the priority for paving but it could change at

the time of bidding. President Miller noted that the roads listed for paving is only for a portion of the road not the entire road and Director Flanigan noted that is correct.

3. Resolution 15-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund – Department of Parks and Recreation – Program Open Space – County Matching

Director of Parks and Recreation Clyde Van Dyke noted this resolution is the County's match portion of the State Program Open Space funding and will be used to repave the parking lot at Brantwood and for new turf and HVAC system at Cecil Arena. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired what lot at Brantwood would be paved and Director Van Dyke noted the main lot. Councilwoman Hamilton requested verification that the funding is \$392,000 and the County only needs to match 10% and Acting Director of Finance Andrew Ondish noted that was correct it is a 90% to 10% match. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the new HVAC would help with renting the Cecil Arena and would the paving at Brantwood help reduce repair costs. Director Van Dyke noted it would help in renting the Cecil Arena in the summer months and reduce maintenance costs at Brantwood since they are continually spending funds on pothole patching. Vice President Meffley inquired on the repair of the equipment at Brantwood and Director Van Dyke note it is ongoing. Councilwoman Hamilton requested an update on the Fund Balance used this year and Acting Director Ondish noted Finance will update and report back to Council. Director Van Dyke also noted that the Open Space funding has been decreasing, and they are working on changing how the funds are allowed to be spent with the State.

4. Resolution 16-2025 - Appointments - Department of Social Services Board

Director of Administrator Dan Schneckenburger noted these three appointments will fill the board.

c. Consideration of Resolutions

1. Resolution 10-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Human Services Division – Rape Crisis Funding

Director for Community Services David Trolie noted this grant comes from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy and is for \$50,000 to provide service to the rape crisis center.

2. Resolution No. 11-2025 - Appointment – Public Safety Pension Plan Board of Trustees – Tyler Adams

Director of Administrator Dan Schneckenburger noted Mr. Adams is a new appointment to the Pension Board and this will fill all vacancies on this Boards.

Resolution No. 12-2025 - Appointment—Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board – Patrick Campbell

Director of Administrator Dan Schneckenburger noted Mr. Campbell's application was sent to Council. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if this appointed is based on his new position with Cecil County and Director Schneckenburger noted it was.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet.

Legislative Update

President Miller noted HB1036/SB0931 Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act) would allow land to be condemn for utility transmission wires and this is a dangerous precedent. President Miller inquired if Council had any other updates and Councilwoman Hamilton reported on the Rural Coalition call was on February 17 and the MACO Legislative Committee did meet to review pending legislation. She also noted the Governor's Budget was supported by the House but the Senate is still looking at other options. Director of Administrator Dan Schneckenburger noted the bill to delay FAMLI Act implementation was being supported by the Department of Labor. President Miller noted that the two-year delay would be helpful to small businesses. Councilwoman Hamilton reminded everyone to contact Council if they had concerns on any bills.

Council Member Items

Council members deferred comments to the Legislative Session of February 18, 2025.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley. President Miller adjourned the work session at 5:38 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 4:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administrative Building. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council's webpage at www.ccgov.org/council.

Approved:



Al Miller
Council President



David M. Culver
Council Manager