

# BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Monday, August 5, 2024

Meeting was also Live Streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/garrettcountygovernment/>

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Paul C. Edwards  
Commissioner Ryan S. Savage  
Commissioner S. Larry Tichnell  
County Administrator Kevin G. Null

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

❖ **REAL PROPERTY EXEMPTION – Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.**

Request for Fiscal Year 2025 County Property Tax Abatement granted under the Annotated Code of Maryland §7-502.

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved a real property tax abatement of the total amount of **\$47,662.56** for Fiscal Year 2025 for the following properties owned by Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. that serve a public purpose with limited or no revenue producing potential:

**Approved**

- Overlook Early Child Education Center – 41 High View Drive, Oakland, MD – County Tax \$17,275.81
- Former M&T Bank Building – 234 Main Street, Kitzmiller, MD – County Tax \$290.40
- Liberty Street Nonprofit Center – 360 West Liberty Street, Oakland, MD – County Tax \$4,103.96
- Transit Maintenance Facility – 225 Frances Sanders Lane, Oakland, MD – County Tax \$14,742.11
- Training and Technology Center – 6500 Thayer Center – County Tax \$11,250.28

❖ **Declaration of Surplus County Property** – In accordance with Section 8-105 - Declaration of Surplus Property of the Garrett County Purchasing Policy, the Board of County Commissioners must declare items as surplus prior to the disposition/sale.

Scott Weeks, Director, Garrett County Department of Financial Services, presented the Board of County Commissioners with the following list of surplus vehicles and equipment:

- 2011 Chevrolet Silverado
- 2013 Chevrolet Equinox
- 2005 WeHaul Trailer
- 2012 Ford F-150 Truck

The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, declared the items presented as surplus.

❖ Mr. Null reviewed a number of administrative and managerial matters under his authority and jurisdiction with the Board of County Commissioners.

#### **CALL TO ORDER OF PUBLIC SESSION at 4:00 PM**

#### **PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Invocation by Commissioner Tichnell**

Chairman Edwards asked for a moment of silence for Michael Minnick, Chairman of the Garrett County Forestry Board who recently passed away.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Mr. Null indicated one deletion to the Public Meeting Agenda – the recognition for Mike Kozier has been cancelled. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Agenda for August 5, 2024.
2. The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, approved the Public Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2024.
3. Recognition:
  - ❖ Beitzel Corporation – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
4. Update on Broadband Project – Garrett County Department of Information & Technology presented to the Board of County Commissioners a power point presentation (attached).
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None
6. **ANNOUNCEMENT:**
  - ❖ The Board of Garrett County Commissioners announced that the next Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at the Avilton Community Center beginning at 6:00 p.m.

### **MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC MEETING AND OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

On a motion by Commissioner Tichnell, which was seconded by Commissioner Savage, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, the Public Meeting and closed and the Public Hearing was opened at 4:36 p.m.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Revisions and Adoption on the following Ordinances:
  - **Building Code Ordinance** – adopting and implementing the 2021 International Building Code, Residential Code and Energy Conservation Code. Ordinance would require engineered, stamp building plans with specific criteria to approve other plans.
  - **Mechanical Code Ordinance** – adopting The International Mechanical Code 2018 published by the International Code Council. Ordinance would require permits for HVAC work.
  - **Community Reinvestment & Repair Fund Ordinance** – adopting and implementing Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund for Garrett County, Maryland

The Cannabis Reform Act passed by the Maryland General Assembly during the 2023 session required Counties to establish a Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund. The requirement is established in the Maryland Code, Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Article, §1- 322. This fund is to be administered, at the state level, by the State Comptroller and must be used to serve underserved communities determined by the State Office of Social Equity. The fund will consist of sales and use tax revenues distributed to the Fund under §2-1302.2 of the Tax-General Article. Each County is required to establish its own Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund.

Maryland imposes a 9% state sales tax on adult use cannabis with 35% of these proceeds being allocated to the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund. Garrett County Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund allocation is .042% (\$17,916.19 - July 1-Sept. 30, 2023).

These funds may be used for funding community-based initiatives intended to benefit low-income communities or that serve disproportionately impacted areas. The funds may not be used for law enforcement agencies or activities, or to supplant funding that otherwise would be appropriated for preexisting local government programs.

Public Comments: Mechanical ordinance long overdue.

Building Code - Will joist dimensions be required when plans are submitted? - Yes

**MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING AND OPEN PUBLIC MEETING**

On a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, the Public Hearing was closed, and the Public Meeting was reopened at 4:48 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Board of County Commissioners, on a motion by Commissioner Savage, which was seconded by Commissioner Tichnell, and made unanimous by Chairman Edwards, adjourned the Public Meeting at 4:48 P.M.

**Attest:**

**By Order of the Board,**

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**KEVIN G. NULL**  
County Administrator

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**PAUL C. EDWARDS**, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

# Broadband Update

GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND



Garrett County Government  
Department of Technology and Communications

# What is Broadband?

- High Speed Internet
  - Download/Upload Speeds in Mbps
- How fast? FCC Definitions:
  - Back in 2010: 4/1
  - 2015: 25/3
  - March 2024: (Current definition) 100/20
- Some funding sources:
  - 100/100 (symmetrical)
- Future?



# Current Projects





## Verizon State Grant

- Goal: Connect ~2,000 Addresses
- ~31 Miles of Fiber Built So Far





## Xfinity/Comcast State Grant

- Goal: Connect ~340 Addresses
- Finzel Area







## NeuBeam Federal Grants/Loans

- Goal: Extend Fiber Service to
  - ~376 Unserved Addresses
  - ~1,011 Underserved Addresses
- East of Oakland, along Rt 135





# USDA

## County Earmark/Grant – Rt. 135 Fiber Partnership with NeuBeam

- Goal: Connect ~170 Addresses
- Rt 135 side roads



# ARC/ DHCD

## County Grants

- Chromebooks
- “Long Driveway” Subsidies





# EDA

## County Grant – Rt. 219 South

- Goal: Build ~18 miles “middle mile” fiber made available to providers
- Oakland south to Rt. 50, east to Table Rock



# Continued/Upcoming Efforts

- BEAD Map Challenge
- Continue “Long Driveway” projects
- BEAD Funding for reaching remaining unserved
- Digital Opportunity Plan/Funding

Timeline: ???

More info:

[www.GarrettCountyMD.gov/Broadband](http://www.GarrettCountyMD.gov/Broadband)

301-914-1543

[broadband@GarrettCountyMD.gov](mailto:broadband@GarrettCountyMD.gov)



Garrett County Government  
Department of Technology and Communications