

**Wicomico County Council
Open Work Session
November 19, 2013**

Work sessions require written minutes that reflect each item that the public body considered, the action that the public body took on each item and each vote that was recorded. **It should be noted that at work sessions, the Wicomico County Council does not take formal action, nor is a vote taken on any item discussed.**

Present: Matt Holloway, President; Bob Culver, Vice President; Sheree Sample-Hughes, Stevie Prettyman, Gail M. Bartkovich, John B. Hall and Joe Holloway.
In attendance: Matthew E. Creamer, Council Administrator; Steve Roser, Internal Auditor, Sheriff Mike Lewis; Tod Richardson, Sheriff's Office; and Melissa Holland, Recording Secretary.

Sheriff's Salary Discussion :

Sheriff Lewis said four years ago he declined consideration for a salary increase. He said that many Sheriff's across the state have received increases. He said he requested a survey be conducted by the Executive Director of the Maryland Sheriff's Association and he presented the survey to the Council. The Sheriff's salary is \$85,000 currently. He said there are nine Sheriff's expecting a pay raise in 2014. He said in Baltimore the Sheriff's office primarily does their constitutional duties such as courtroom security and transporting inmates. Sheriff Lewis said the Sheriff's office handles 74% of all calls for service in Wicomico County. He said the Sheriff's office handles criminal complaints and have assumed primary responsibility of all secondary road accidents. He asked the Council to consider an increase of \$10,000 the first year and then a 2.5% increase per year through 2019 which will begin the term of the next Sheriff. Sheriff Lewis said he appreciates any consideration given to this. He said his salary is below his commanders at the Sheriff's Office. He said there are three commanders making more than the Sheriff and they are crucial to the Sheriff's office. He said he is still conducting traffic stops daily and he feels it is important for him to lead. Mr. Baker said once he gets direction from the Executive and Council he will see what can be done as far as increments given to the Sheriff. Mr. Hall asked what he feels about Animal Control to which Sheriff Lewis said he would be glad to accept the responsibility if it was properly funded. He said they receive Animal Control calls daily. Mr. Hall asked how many hours a week the Sheriff works. Mr. Richardson said he doesn't remember the last weekend that he didn't have something to attend along with working a full week. Mrs. Sample-Hughes thanked him for attending all of the community meetings. Sheriff Lewis said people are not obeying the texting and talking on cell phone law. Most people are following the seatbelt law however. Mrs. Prettyman asked about the move over law to which Sheriff Lewis said that marijuana was confiscated due to a driver not following the move over law in Cecil County.

School Building Commission Bylaws :

Mrs. Prettyman said currently that Mr. Joe Holloway and Mr. Matt Holloway serve on the School Building Commission. Mr. Creamer said it might make sense to have one representative from the Council and one from the Executive office. He likes the thought

of bringing in people from the community who have subject matter expertise and that was what was intended and what was the practice when the School Building Commission was established. He said for many years the commission really spent a great deal of time on the school plans and made many cost saving suggestions over the year. Mr. Creamer suggested that instead of the School Building Commission appointing citizens to serve he suggested that the School Building Commission submit nominations to the Executive office for consideration and the Executive send his appointments for the Council for confirmation. Mr. Baker said they recommend one from the Council, one from the Executive, one from the Board and one from the staff and then appointing other people of interest to the commission. Mrs. Prettyman feels they need to change the bylaws to spell out what background the people need to serve. Mr. Hall said they need to do it with the approval of the Executive and Council and then the requirements can be determined. Mr. Joe Holloway said that some people may be concerned about bidding on a job if they serve on the commission. He feels it may be a conflict of interest or could be a conflict. Mrs. Bartkovich said some commission members sit on the board to decide proposals. Mrs. Prettyman said Wicomico County is the only county in the state to have a School Building Commission. Mr. Joe Holloway said multiple schools are discussed. Mr. Matt Holloway said if they are discussing a school they will take the School Building Commission to that school. Mr. Joe Holloway said it is a rubber stamp commission. Mr. Hall said if the commission was changed it may not be a rubber stamp commission. The Council is in favor of changing the format so other people are on the commission.

Mr. Joe Holloway said the Council has been told they are part time and he asked what part time is considered. Mr. Baker said that 20 hours is considered part time. Mr. Lanigan said full time is 40 hours. Mr. Joe Holloway would like clarification as some members put in a lot of time during the week for meetings and other events. Mrs. Prettyman does not feel it was in the Compensation and Allowance Commission scope to address the benefits of the Council. Mrs. Prettyman said this is not a business, it is government. She would like the minutes reviewed from the previous Charter Review Commission and see how they determined the County Executive salary when it was first established. Mr. Joe Holloway asked when a person determined is not part time and full time. Mr. Baker said part time is 20 hours per week. Mr. Baker said the question the Council will face is what required work is and what is relating to the election. Mrs. Prettyman asked where it says the Council is part time. Mr. Baker said the charter doesn't state full time or part time. Mrs. Prettyman asked if the Council should do a resolution stating they are full time members. Mr. Baker said this will not affect county benefits or pay but will affect public perception if that is what the Council is trying to accomplish. Mr. Hall said he doesn't need anyone to validate the hours he puts in for the Council. Mr. Joe Holloway feels the public needs clarification as the Council serves more than part time. Mr. Joe Holloway said someone has said before it should be the Executive serving on the boards to which Mr. Creamer said the Executive wouldn't be able to sit on all of the boards that the Council members do. Mrs. Prettyman said she wonders why the commission felt the Council receives health benefits as they are confidential.

Mrs. Sample-Hughes said the MACo conference is coming up in December and there are a couple of sessions such as Open Meetings that would relate to Ms. Holland and Mr. Roser. Mr. Roser is attending the MACo conference. Mr. Creamer said he and Mr. Roser are required to attend the conference. Mrs. Sample-Hughes asked if Ms. Holland can attend as well. Mr. Creamer said there will be no one in the office if she attended. Mrs. Sample-Hughes said three Council members are leaving and she feels that continuity is important. Mr. Culver said he has no problem with Ms. Holland attending. Mrs. Sample-Hughes said the open meetings act information is valuable and she feels hearing it first hand is valuable. Mrs. Prettyman said on February 25th someone may change their minds and file. She also said there could be seven new members on Council. Mrs. Bartkovich said that if the office is vacant the phones are forwarded to the Executive office and she said there is Scottie who also fills in for the Public Works Department. Ms. Holland said she will find out who pays the salary for Scottie.

Mr. Matt Holloway said he spoke with Wayne Strausburg about forming a committee regarding the Liquor Control Board and have them bring forth recommendations.

Open Work Session adjourned.