

Open Work Session – Topics for Legislative Breakfast in December

Bob Culver, Wicomico County Executive, and Wayne Strausburg, Director of Administration, came before County Council. Mr. Strausburg went over several proposed items that he would like to discuss with the local delegation on December 12th. The legislative topics include (1) Elected School Board. (2) Restoration of highway user revenue funding. (3) Maintenance of Effort, at least discussion on the process. (4) Disparity Grants. Mr. Strausburg said we are not fully funded for disparity grants. (5) Zero Waste. He stated that everybody saw when we looked at our Solid Waste Plan that zero waste mandates are going to be problematic. (6) School Construction. The Cade Formula still needs to be fully funded. The State has not fully funded the Cade Formula, which provides support to the community colleges since it was formulated. If we are looking at job creation, job training, and retraining, our community colleges are our best training ground. We think this is critical. (7) BAT regulations for septic systems. We just talked about sprinklers, but the BAT system has been problematic, particularly with modest homes and most of the homes being built in Wicomico County are modest residences. Mr. Davis asked if he was speaking about the mounds. Mr. Strausburg explained that BAT refers to Best Available Technology. Mr. Joe Holloway said that it could be mounds or it could be septic pump systems. Mr. Strausburg said the BAT requirement greatly increases the cost of a new septic system, or to replace a failed existing septic system, It is a barrier to home construction. Mr. Davis explained that it is also commercial because a few years ago his church built a community center, they got the largest mound system and it cost them a great deal of money. Mr. Strausburg said you might recall the septic regulation, if fully implemented, would reduce approximately 2% nitrogen being discharged in the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Cannon stated that is a very minimal amount. Mr. Strausburg continued, he said that it is very minimal when you consider all the municipal waste water treatment plants that are not being addressed. Mr. Strausburg said that is all the topics that he would like to discuss at the legislative breakfast. He would, however, like to lead with a brief summary of the presentation they gave in New York to the credit rating agencies on the health of the County's finances. Mr. Culver said he has already been told by the Board of Education that the Maintenance of Effort will probably go up \$800,000 this year, because they are expecting approximately 300 more students. Part of it is because of immigrants, part of it is because having to be 17 years old to quit school now, but a lot of it is because of pre-k. Mr. Culver said that we are looking at a hit of \$800,000 to the Board of Education. Mr. Strausburg stated that most of the increase enrollment is due to elementary schools. Mr. Kilmer clarified that it is maintenance of effort, per student, but they are expanding the number of students that they have to serve, to which Mr. Strausburg and Mr. Culver stated that is correct. Mr. Strausburg said when enrollment increases, maintenance of effort increases, it is about \$2,700. Mr. Creamer asked if there was any explanation as why that big of an increase occurred. Mr. Strausburg explained that they are just getting the preliminary numbers now. Mr. Joe Holloway stated that we have seen a decline over the last few years, not an increase. He also asked how the Council would feel about talking to the delegation about sending a message to the Governor about immigrants from

Syria coming into the state. Mr. Joe Holloway said that he knows that Maryland has not sent that message to the President and it could have an effect if they start taking in Syrian immigrants. Do we want to put it on the list? It could have a lot of ramifications, not just in our schools. Mr. Cannon said we could add it to the list, it is open to discussion. Mr. Culver said that addressing the Maintenance of Effort in the Thornton Bill is something that we need to discuss soon because all counties are starting to have the same problem, which is why we need to talk to them about changing the legislation to a certain extent. Mr. Creamer said the Maintenance of Effort is on the Council's list of items for discussion with delegation as well. Mr. Culver said they just happened to have their CIP meeting with the Board of Education yesterday and it was dropped on them at that time. Mr. Matt Holloway said that he was at a retreat last week with the board of directors for MACO. He said regarding highway user revenues, they met with Hogan's administration and they said that it is in the consolidated transportation plan for this year. They said the plan is still an 8-year phase-in back to full the amount and in the first year there is \$51 million in the budget coming back to the counties. Mr. Culver indicated that since everyone is saying the same thing, we should not spend a lot of time on the highway user revenues at the meeting. He would like to keep it a two-hour meeting. Mr. Matt Holloway said he also spoke to the Secretary of the Environment, and he is supporting BATs only in critical areas. Mr. Cannon said that it is how it was supposed to have been to start with. Mr. Creamer said, going back to the highway user revenues, it is fabulous that the Governor is supporting it, but it is important to discuss it with our legislators because the legislators play a huge part on the budget process. We need to keep the heat up on the entire legislator. Mr. Strausburg stated it is again this year one of MACO's primary legislative initiatives, restoration of highway user revenues; he thinks this is their third year. Mr. Cannon asked Mr. Culver and Mr. Strausburg if they could have their list of legislative topics to them in a couple of days, to which Mr. Culver said yes. There was no further discussion.

Signatures are on the next page.

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November 17, 2015**



John T. Cannon, President



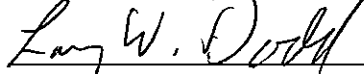
Matt Holloway, Vice President



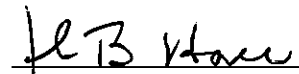
Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Marc Kilmer, District 2




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John B. Hall, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



Matthew E. Creamer, Council Administrator