



Board of Carroll County Commissioners

County Office Building
Westminster, MD 21157

Delegation Meeting

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~ Minutes ~

Admin

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

2:00 PM

County Office Building Reagan Room

I. Call to Order

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Stephen Wantz	Board of Carroll County Commissioners	President	Present	
Richard Weaver	Board of Carroll County Commissioners	Vice-President	Present	
Dennis Frazier	Board of Carroll County Commissioners	Secretary	Present	
Richard Rothschild	Board of Carroll County Commissioners	Commissioner	Present	
Doug Howard	Board of Carroll County Commissioners	Commissioner	Present	

II. Joint Board of County Commissioners/Delegation Meeting

Delegate April Rose, Delegate Susan Krebs, Senator Justin Ready, Senator Gail Bates, Delegate Trent Kittleman, Delegate Haven Shoemaker, Roberta Windham, and Phil Hager were also in attendance.

A. **Overview/Discussion on impact of 2016 General Assembly Session on Carroll County and Moving Forward - Delegate Susan Krebs and Senator Justin Ready**

Senator Justin Ready gave a recap of what came out of this past session of the General Assembly. The Governor was able to preserve the \$4M of one time funding for Carroll County for the Board of Education; the Child Support Enforcement will go back under the State umbrella and be fully funded by the State which will save the County \$275,000.00; and also, the School System will be reimbursed for the school bus gas taxes for a savings of \$125,000.00. The Highway User Revenue Funds were increased this year but not as much as was hoped.

Delegate Susan Krebs stated that there were a few bills that the Delegation had sponsored and wanted to thank the Board for sending letters of support and for having Mr. Phil Hager testify on those bills. She stated that it was good to have Mr. Hager down in Annapolis and available to do those things. One of the issues was to have the Community College to be subject to collective bargaining. Baltimore County put in a bill to have all 24 counties to be subject to collective bargaining and the Carroll County Delegation felt it should be a decision that was made by the individual county's Community College. Delegate Krebs provided the Commissioners with the bills that were proposed for Carroll County and what the outcome of each of those bills were.

Both Senator Ready and Delegate Krebs said this has been one of the best sessions they have been involved in since they have been in office. A concern of the Delegation was that the legislature passed a lot of bills regarding mandated spending.

B. *Salary Committee ~ Standing Committee to Review Salaries of All Elected Officials - Delegate Susan Krebs*

Delegate Krebs stated that every 4 years some of the constitutional officers can re-evaluate their salaries but this can only be done in an election year. Usually, for new people taking office, whether it's the Sheriff, State's Attorney, Carroll County School Board, the Board of Orphan's Court or the County Commissioners. Delegate Krebs is suggesting to the Carroll County Board of Commissioners to do only if this is something they want to do. Some Counties actually have their own Review Committee for this. This is something that has to be passed by the county's legislators and Delegate Krebs stated that in the past this has been done in the year of the Election but she feels it would be advantageous to do this the year prior to the election instead of everything happening all at once. Delegate Krebs said that if the Commissioners want to put a committee together to look at the salaries the recommendation would then come to the Delegation.

C. *Governor's Regulatory Commission ~ Provide Information to Commission Regarding Regulation Change Suggestions - Delegate Susan Krebs*

Governor Hogan has put together a Regulatory Commission headed by Lt. Governor Rutherford. Delegate Krebs stated that she has spoken to him at length and it is a huge undertaking. We all say we need regulatory reform, it's big, thousands and thousands of regulations but he is only going to be as successful as people allow him to be. Legislators need to bring regulations by bringing him the ideas or concerns. He hears frequently the state makes us do this or the state makes us do that. Get the word out to your staff that if there is something that doesn't make sense and they think it needs to be changed and it is a state regulation or a state law, please bring it up to the Regulatory Commission up through the channels. There is a website for this for you to use asking for that. The Lt. Gov. is not going to go around to the counties asking or go through the county regulations and say what do you need, he is looking for feedback.

D. *Meet with Secretary David Brinkley to Explore State Funding ~ Delegate Susan Krebs*

The Delegation and the County Commissioners need to meet with Secretary David Brinkley because he is so familiar with Carroll County and share with him Carroll County's concerns and needs such as school funding. Carroll County does have needs for some of the other things these funds can be used for such as roofs, HVAC projects but with those things the county has to match funds and at the present time cannot afford to match the state funds. Commissioner Howard shared with the Delegation that Carroll County commits 9.09% of Carroll County's income tax to school construction voluntarily, if Carroll County could use some of those funds to catch up on projects by reducing the amount down to 7% for a few years. Delegate Krebs said that is what the Board should talk about with the Secretaries when they come out to meet with them starting with Senator Brinkley.

Delegate Krebs said that she would like for the Delegation and the County Commissioners to come up with a date to meet and come up with a list of 6 or 8 discussion items. Have a nice clean list of those projects and then talk about Carroll County's current operating needs and also another thing the County needs to do is tap into grant money that is available. Then the Carroll Delegation will write letters of support for those grants. The Delegation is trying to make sure that Carroll County is tapping into every pot of money that is available and how the county can use and leverage these funds. Delegate Krebs stated that three (3) dates Secretary Brinkley is available to come out to Carroll County to meet with the Board of Commissioners and the Carroll Delegation: The dates are Monday, June 20, 2016; Thursday, June 23, 2016; or Friday, June 24, 2016. Secretary Brinkley shared with Delegate Krebs that when he goes out and visits the county's he usually sits and meets with them and then maybe goes on a site visit. The Delegation would like to meet with the

County Commissioners and just sit down and brainstorm on the discussion items prior to meeting with Secretary Brinkley.

The date for the meeting with Senator Brinkley will be on Monday, June 20, 2016. More details will follow.

E. Update on Thornton Formula Evaluation ~ Senator Justin Ready

One of the things based on what we know, is it looks like we won't have any legislation for a new formula until the 2018 session (FY19 Budget). One thing the Delegation is concerned about is that there won't be any expansion of the pie of money to be distributed. It is believed the money will be divided differently rather than expanded. Senator Ready stated that he feels that with it being an election year the legislators will push and try to mandate an expansion of the pie for education and therefore either make the Governor look like if he doesn't do this -- anti-education or if he does it will make a mess of the state budget for the next 10 years like the previous Thornton Formula did. Senator Ready said that will be interesting for the Delegation because they want to help Carroll County but they also want to make sure that it's financially sustainable.

Commissioner Rothschild stated that he wanted to make sure he was heard regarding the Thornton Formula. He said that out of the 23 counties in Maryland 2 of those counties are sanctuary counties and should not be included because they allow illegal immigrants into their counties and schools. They should not be allowed to count those students in the formula.

F. 5 - Year School Funding Plan ~ Commissioner Doug Howard

Commissioner Howard feels this is an extraordinarily huge challenge and how important it is to us and he was adamant about getting this meeting in since the Board is in the middle of Carroll County budget deliberations. One of the hallmarks of Carroll County's financial success is that we don't just adopt a budget of the current year but we adopt a budget going 5 years forward. Not only have that budget plan year but we also adopt a balanced 5-year plan. There would be a lot of decisions that would make the current years budget balanced that would leave the out years in somewhat of a disarray. To that end, the county makes sure the process of getting our 5 year plan is balanced.

The Formula itself and what Carroll County's situation is a real problem for the county plan right now that is about \$3M short of what the Board of Education is asking for. At the end of the day, the County Commissioners are in a "State of Emergency" for the Board of Education. From the Delegations standpoint what do we do with this? Carroll County just got 100% of the "Hold Harmless" from the past few years and for future years even if Carroll County does get 100% of the one years "Hold Harmless" it will only be \$1.3M -- \$1.5M. The Delegation does not have any idea of future funding. Just to get a teacher salary raise a year costs \$5M. Carroll County needs more dollars with the challenges of declining school enrollment. Commissioner Rothschild says that the School Board needs to scale down and close more schools and teachers do their part. Carroll County School System is too big. Carroll County needs some help to get out of this!

G. Accountability for Dispensing Opiate Pills - Commissioner C. Richard Weaver

Commissioner Weaver requested that the Delegation support any legislation in Annapolis that would address the problems related to Heroin that Carroll County is currently facing. Help get the prescription opiates off the streets. Some medical professionals are not doing enough to warn patients of the addictive nature of opiate pain medications before prescribing them. Delegate Krebs said that the General Assembly passed a number of bills

this session designed to address the connection between prescription opiates and heroin addiction and allow addicts to more easily access treatment.

H. Request for Information Regarding Freedom Area Comprehensive Plan ~ Senator Gail Bates

Senator Gail Bates inquired about the Freedom Comprehensive Plan, she said she has been getting some calls from her constituents who are concerned about an "Employment Campus" in the Freedom/Sykesville land use designation. Commissioner Howard stated that there will be several more meetings on the Freedom Plan and chances for citizen input prior to anything being changed. The Freedom Comprehensive Plan is similar to the Finksburg Mini Plan and the Westminster Comprehensive Plan who does their own plans.

I. Carroll County's Economic Development Efforts ~ Senator Gail Bates

Senator Bates was going to bring this discussion item up for discussion in connection with the Freedom Comprehensive Plan. No need for any discussion.

III. Adjourn ~ 5:10 PM

1. Motion To: adjourn

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Doug Howard, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Dennis Frazier, Secretary
AYES:	Stephen Wantz, Richard Weaver, Dennis Frazier, Doug Howard
EXCUSED:	Richard Rothschild