



# Howard County Council

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## COUNCILMEMBERS

Christiana Mercer Rigby, Chairperson  
District 3

Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson  
District 2

Deb Jung  
District 4

Liz Walsh  
District 1

David Yungmann  
District 5

Work Session  
Monday, March 25, 2019  
C. Vernon Gray Room  
10:00 a.m.

### Minutes (approved)

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Council Members Present: Opel Jones, Deb Jung, Christiana Mercer Rigby, Liz Walsh, Dave Yungmann.

Staff Present: Theodore Wimberly, Council Administrator (Acting); Craig Glendenning, County Auditor; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor.

#### Council Bill 9 – 2019 Emergency Fee Reimbursements

Chief Ulhorn and Deputy Chief John Jerome, Department of Fire and Rescue Services

Ulhorn led a discussion about how fees would be collected. There was a subsequent discussion about reimbursement for medical helicopter services. Also, there was a discussion about billing County residents v. out of County persons. The discussion then turned to the issue of billing business owners. Ms. Walsh stated that she would like to see an amendment from the Administration that would exempt small businesses from the fee. Lastly, there was a discussion about the public outreach pertaining to this new fee.

#### Council Bill 10 – 2019 Stormwater Drainage

Jim Irvin, of DPW represented the Administration and Lori Lilly from EcoWorks. Irvin gave a brief summary of the bill. There was a conversation of the definition of discharge. Discussion was had about how DPW handles commercial properties and accidental discharges. Also, there was a discussion about homeowners' responsibilities for stormwater facilities on private properties. There was then a discussion about if existing stormwater facilities should be inventoried? The issue of how DPW currently obtains consent to enter private property was discussed. The group discussed the need for the bill considering that the County is in compliance and what is the genesis of the housekeeping changes in the bill. There was also a

discussion about whether this bill should be made an Emergency measure. The group then discussed if there were plans/plats about the existing stream conveyance system. Next, there was a discussion about whether DPW intended to go after homeowners that illegally tie into the public drainage system. DPW was then questioned about downed trees on land near streams but hang over stream channels and their prioritization for identifying streams that have blockages. Ms. Lilly discussed EcoWorks role for identifying and clearing blocked streams. Then there was a discussion about limiting the scope of this legislation to Watersheds in Old Ellicott City. Lastly, the pipes in Valley Meade were discussed. Capital project or cost sharing arrangement would be needed to address the problem. Ms. Lilly feels this bill will help in EcoWorks in doing their job. Dumping is one of the main problems with streams.

#### Council Bill 11 – 2019 – Scenic Roads

Joy Levy, DPZ; Susan Overstreet, James Zoller, the County’s Agricultural Coordinator, Amy Gowan, DPZ, Val Lazdins, DPZ.

The discussion began with a discussion of Child lots and unrestricted lots and the policy of placing those lots closer to the road and any the unintended consequences. There was a discussion of the problem of uniform buffering requirements for all scenic roads although the scenic roads can be different (ie Main Street v. Haverland Mill Road). College Avenue was discussed as the example for why these regulations are needed. There was a conversation about how Calvert County appropriately uses their Scenic Rd regulations. There was a discussion about Ilchester Rd., Lacey Property Scenic Road 35-foot buffer requirements being waived by DPZ. There was also a discussion of the definition of Scenic Roads and how a road is put on the Scenic Road Inventory. The group then discussed what was an appropriate buffer distance since it is being proposed to increase it to 100 feet. The definition of forest and trees were discussed. There was then a discussion about having a broader Scenic Rd. discussion with Context Sensitive Street Design. There was a request for the Scenic Road Waivers granted by DPZ since 2014. There was a discussion of Constrained Roads Facilities in which the criteria was established in 1992. The Council wanted to know how does Gov. Warfield Pkwy. being scenic impact Downtown Columbia...it would impact the Downtown Planning area. The Council also wanted to know the impact of exempting areas that are held to the Design Guidelines/Manuals for both large and small developments. There was then a discussion of traffic and Scenic Roads. Subsequently, there was a discussion of the problem to be solved...College Ave and Gorman Rd. and the waivers granted for developments along scenic roads. The last discussion was about the relationship between buffers and Open space. DPZ states in general buffers do count toward Open Space requirements. There was a final question about the standard “to the extent practicable” and where else the standard is used.

The meeting was adjourned 12:07 p.m.