



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Deb Jung, Chair
District 4

Liz Walsh, Vice Chair
District 1

Opel Jones
District 2

Christiana Rigby
District 3

David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes – Approved

Capital Budget Work Session #1

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and WebEx)

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
10:00 a.m.

Chair Jung opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Council members present: Chair Deb Jung, Vice-Chair Liz Walsh, Council Member Christiana Rigby, and Council Member David Yungmann.

Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Office of Law; Lisa Geerman, Acting County Auditor; Lori Buchman, Auditor; Rebecca Gold, Auditor; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Owen Kahn, Legislative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant; and Brenda Smith, Administrative Aide were also present.

Administration staff: Noted below.

Agenda

CIP Overview

Ms. Geerman and Ms. Buchman gave an overview of the proposed capital budget, including notable changes in the proposed capital budget from FY 2024. Ms. Buchman broke down the CIP by program, showed a comparison of programs since the last fiscal year, illustrated the proposed funding sources, compared funding sources to the last fiscal year, highlighted funding sources that have trended upwards, showed the schedule of other revenue sources, highlighted some of the larger proposed capital projects, discussed the trends in school system capital budgets, listed the projects that have been removed since the last fiscal year, showed State funding to Howard County, and showed capital projects that have not had any expenditures in the last three years.

Ms. Geerman and Ms. Buchman responded to questions from the Council on State funding for the Rockland Arts Center and prior requests to the State; what the status is for a project for Linwood School Parking and what happens when a project lapses; why police capital funding is down 83%; why GO bond funding increased in this fiscal year; why General County funding

increased and what the specific projects causing the increase are; and other projects funded by the State.

Police

The Police Department discussed projects that are being put on hold, including progress on a third police station.

The Police Department and County Facilities responded to questions from the Council on the assessment of space needs for the Police Department and the organizations that perform those assessments; the status of a CALEA assessment that was performed in 2015; what CALEA is and what their role is in auditing police departments; when the Police Department is going to prioritize the new station; the facilities master plan; potential locations for a new police station; connection between a new district station, a new headquarters, and a new library regarding the capital and site requests; a cohesive analysis of County leased space and needs; details space needs for the Police Departments; and what the timeline is to be discussing more concrete plans.

Fire

The Fire Department gave an overview of their capital budget request and the status of previously approved projects. The Fire Department responded to questions from the Council on updates to the Fire and Rescue Master Plan; long term capital budget planning; the new prototype fire station including cost to build the new template in 2024; number of acres the Fire Station would need for a template fire station; where the fueling station can be relocated to avoid environmental concerns; planned uses for rural fire protection funds; how many tanks are going to be needed per year and how many are proposed in the capital budget; how much has accumulated under the separate fire tax and the transfer tax; and update on the ISO rating.

Agricultural Preservation

The Department of Planning and Zoning gave an overview of the agricultural land preservation capital program and how the capital budget would be used to purchase agricultural easements.

The Department responded to questions from the Council on rolling over funds from a previously funded capital project; the transfer tax as a funding source; a list of properties that may be good to bring into the ag program; details of the proposed acquisition of a University of Maryland property; the zoning and development rights at the UMD site; and what will happen to the \$165 million in the former capital budget line item.

Sewer and Water

The Department of Public Works gave an overview of the proposed capital budget and the major changes from last fiscal year. Chair Jung recognized the need for DPW workers to stay safe, especially on roads, in light of the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse.

The Department responded to questions from the Council on updates on land acquisitions; the long term plan to deal with future needs to replace a system that may be aging out of use in the next 30 to 40 years; national averages on how much a community needs to budget to predict future needs for the system; WSSC plans for their water and sewer system; how the Howard County system compares technologically to nearby jurisdictions; details of federal dollars supporting the hauled grease acceptance facility; future plans for the use of biogas; flood and water protection; details about the metropolitan district assessment and bonds; compliance with PFAS testing and transparency of the results; historical information about federal earmarks; alternative to gravity flow for wastewater; and impact of the aging infrastructure and future development.

Chair Jung closed the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

Council requested follow up:

- *Chair Jung requested that the Police Department find and review a 2015 CALEA report on the space needs of the Police Department and Council Member Walsh requested that a new assessment be performed.*
- *Chair Jung requested a conversation with the Police Department's facility committee to talk about space needs and facility blueprints.*
- *Chair Jung requested the amount that has accumulated under the separate fire tax and the transfer tax over the next three years.*
- *Council Member Yungmann requested the development rights at the University of Maryland site that has requested an agricultural preservation easement.*
- *Council Member Walsh requested the contact information from the University of Maryland to discuss the application for the agricultural preservation easement.*
- *Council Member Walsh asked if the County was still testing wastewater for COVID and other diseases.*

4/17/2023 CIP Work Session Attendee List:

Budget

Holly Sun
Brook Mamo

DPW

Yosef Kebede
John Seefried
Susan Voyce

Finance

Rafiu Ighile
Angie Price
John Vu

Executive Team

Brandee Ganz
Raul Delerme
Brian Shepter
Angela Cabellon

CIP Overview

Lisa Geerman
Lori Buchman

Police projects

Chief Gregory Der
Gary McLhinney
Major Cory Zirk
Major Justin Baker
Major Tom Ehart
Sergeant Joseph Barbato
Major Terrance Benn
Sean Hollywood

Facilities

Sharon Walsh
Zach Hollenbeck

Fire projects

Chief Louis Winston
Deputy Chief Gordon Wallace
Assistant Chief Sean Alliger

Facilities

Sharon Walsh
Tae Jung
Zach Hollenbeck

Agricultural Preservation

Lynda Eisenberg
Joy Levy
Brian Shepter
Mary Kendall

Water & Sewer

Daniel Davis
Ross Beschner
Zack Knight

Visit the Council's website (<http://cc.howardcountymd.gov>) to view legislation, send written testimony, and sign-up electronically to testify at public hearings.

Persons needing accommodations to fully participate in the meeting, please contact the Council Office, 410-313-2001.