

County Connection

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Carroll County
*a great place to live
 a great place to work
 a great place to play*

Board pursues regional solution

Waste-to-energy facility considered with Frederick

Rising fuel prices and competition for space are expected to drastically increase Carroll County's cost to drive its garbage out of state after this year.

Because of the anticipated increase, Carroll County officials have been seeking alternative ways to get rid of solid waste.

On April 17, the Board of County Commissioners voted 2-1 to pursue a regional approach to solving the problem. Commissioners Dean L. Minnich and Michael D. Zimmer accepted an offer by Frederick County officials to get bids for a jointly owned waste-to-energy facility.

The vote does not commit Carroll to the construction. An acceptable bid still must be approved by both counties.

The proposed plant would convert 1,500 tons of waste a day into electricity.

Commissioner Julia W. Gouge had said she preferred looking for other alternatives to address the issue.

BREAKING NEW GROUND



Office of Public Information

Commissioners Michael D. Zimmer (left) and Julia W. Gouge (right) ceremonially toss dirt at the site of Carroll Community College's Classroom Building No. 4 on April 17. Between them are college President Faye Pappalardo and board Chairman David Bollinger (not visible) and state Senator Larry Haines.

Housing crunch, fuel prices lead to tight budget for '09

When a slow economy hits families' budgets, it also affects local governments' spending plans.

That is one reason why the budget proposed by the Board of County Commissioners for fiscal year 2009, which starts this July 1, is so tight. Under the plan, the tax rate of \$1.048 remains unchanged.

Falling interest rates, a dropping number of home sales, and rising fuel prices all contributed to the pinch. Added to that were changes in the state budget that forced more expenses onto counties.

Carroll County's general fund for FY09 is proposed to be \$353 million, or 7.5 percent higher than this year.

Most of that increase, however, comes in the form of a transfer back from the Community Improvement Plan budget, which at \$134 million is 28.38 percent lower than the current spending plan.

A public hearing on the budget will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, in the Scott Center of Carroll Community College. After any adjustments, the plan will be adopted on Tuesday, May 27.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 300 fourth-graders in Carroll County were visited in their classrooms by Carroll County's Department of Recreation and Parks during National County Government Week.
- The week's theme was "Protecting Our Children." Programs from the Local Management Board were profiled each day between April 7-11.
- At least 100 people stopped by displays at the County Office Building to learn about ways the County helps to protect children. Others learned through a trivia contest on radio station WTTR.

Votes made, actions taken by the Board of County Commissioners during April

APRIL 3

◆ Senior Center. Awarded on a 3-0 vote a \$7,843,800 contract to Roy Kirby and Sons for the construction of the South Carroll Senior and Community Center at 5928 Mineral Hill Road, Eldersburg.

◆ Trade services. On a 2-1 vote, with Commissioner Julia W. Gouge opposed, awarded contracts to 30 firms who will provide the following services for small projects on an as-needed basis: plumbing; excavating, utility installation and repair; general earthwork and paving; general contractors; concrete construction; flooring specialists; painting; fire protection; bridge and small drainage structure repairs; electric; finish carpentry; and mechanical services.

◆ Bid approval. Voted 3-0 to award C. J. Miller with a \$3,492,645.96 contract for hot mix asphalt overlay of 10 roads: Chapel, Deep Run, Fairmount, Grand Valley, Manchester/Gorsuch, Miller Station, Nicodemus, Old Hanover, and Upper Beckleysville roads and Stoner Avenue.

◆ Annexation. Agreed 3-0 to a request from the Town of Hampstead for the annexation of the Crockett Property. The property owners want to connect to the town's community water supply system. The annexation involves 0.542 acres on the west side of South Carroll Street.

◆ Water and sewer plan. Agreed 3-0 to proceed to public hearing with two proposed amendments to the Master Plan for Water and Sewerage. The Town of New Windsor requests a correction of a minor boundary error on its water plan map, and the Town of Mount Airy requests that a new production well and associated waterline be added to its plan. The amendments were certified as consistent with the Master Plan by the Planning Commission on March 18.

APRIL 10

◆ Housing assistance plan. Held a

public hearing and approved 3-0 the Bureau of Housing's Streamlined Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2008 for submittal to the Department of Housing and Urban Development and signed the necessary certifications for compliance.

◆ Carroll Community College. Voted 3-0 to approve a transfer of \$70,000 in unspent funds and a \$300,000 increase in the FY2008 budget due to additional revenues generated by higher than anticipated enrollment.

◆ Bid approval. Awarded 3-0 a contract to M. T. Laney Co. for \$1,576,971 to perform pavement improvements of 28 neighborhood roads.

APRIL 16

The following items were voted on, in addition to the recommended budget, to be included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2009 Operating Budget. Expenses are divided between ongoing and one-time costs:

◆ Circuit Court's request for increase in bailiff salary from \$13.80 to \$16.43 per hour. \$25,000 ongoing. Approved 3-0.

◆ Sheriff's Office request for an information and data coordinator. \$53,530 ongoing, \$4,700 one-time. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Sheriff's request for three certified positions under law enforcement. \$158,040 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Rape Crisis Center's request for 13 new pagers and maintenance of 12 others. \$3,700 ongoing. Approved 2-1, with Commissioner Michael D. Zimmer opposed.

◆ Rape Crisis Center's request for additional funding for training. \$3,500 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Rape Crisis Center's request for a part-time administrative assistant position including salary and benefits. \$9,960 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Rape Crisis Center's request for funding to increase hours for one crisis counselor. \$12,450 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Rape Crisis Center's request for additional funding to help with operating expenses. \$6,300 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Rape Crisis Center's request for additional funding for postage. \$1,800 ongoing. Opposed 2-1 with Commissioner Dean L. Minnich voting to approve.

◆ Agreed to delay vote for Access Carroll's request for funding toward operating expenses. Officials hope to discuss in-kind options.

◆ D.O.V.E.S. request for new funding to provide after-school and summer care program for youth. \$385,910 ongoing. Opposed 3-0

◆ Recreation and Parks' request for partial funding for a proposed dog park at Bennett Cerf Park. \$7,180 one-time. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Technology Services' request for back-up data center. \$500,000 one-time, ongoing amount to be determined. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Board of Education's request for funding due to loss of federal funds for Medical Assistance. \$622,000 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Board of Education's request for a 1 percent salary increase in addition to the 2 percent cost-of-living allowance and no step raise. \$1,900,000 ongoing. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Board of Education's request for additional funding beyond original operating impact request for Ebb Valley Elementary School. \$700,000 one-time. Approved 2-1 with Gouge opposed.

◆ Board of Education's request for additional funding for technology improvements. Unspecified amount. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Board of Education's request to move the Mount Airy Elementary School roof replacement construction funding of approximately \$300,000 from FY09 to FY10 and to fund design costs in FY09 of approximately \$200,000. Approved 2-1 with Zimmer opposed.

◆ Board of Education's request for

additional funding for paving. Unspecified amount. Opposed 3-0.

◆ CCVESA's request for additional operating funds, including: \$25,600 to increase to full time the liaison and EMS coordinator; \$4,050 for 54 Class A foam 5-gallon containers (\$75 each); and replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus (two at \$7,500 each). Total \$44,650 ongoing. Approved 3-0.

◆ CCVESA's request for additional funding for apparatus fuel for all 14 companies. Costs have far exceeded 5 percent increase recommended. \$54,000 ongoing. Approved 3-0.

◆ CCVESA's request for additional funding for utilities such as propane, heating oil, electric, natural gas, and water/sewer. Costs have exceeded 5 percent recommended. \$39,500 ongoing. Approved 3-0.

◆ Community Media Center's request for back-up generator. \$74,400 one-time. Opposed 3-0.

◆ American Red Cross Central Maryland Chapter's request for funding to support direct aid to disaster victims in the form of shelter, food, clothing, medical necessities and other immediate needs. \$5,000 one-time. Opposed 3-0.

◆ Walters Art Museum's request for additional funding for operating expenses to offset the free admission policy that began on Oct. 1, 2006. \$3,200 one-time. Opposed 2-1 with Gouge voting to approve.

APRIL 17, 2008

◆ Gateway Tax Credit. Voted 3-0 to close the public hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 209, Taxation, creating a tax credit that is designed to encourage eligible local business and property owners to invest in making facilities more visually appealing. The record will be kept open for 10 business days for further public comment.

Director steps down after 30 years of service

After 30 years working for Carroll County Government, Ralph Green, the director of the Carroll County Department of General Services, has retired. Commissioners named longtime bureau chief Tom Rio as acting director.

Green, 60, a Carroll County native, was hired as a building inspector in 1978. In 1984, he was named chief of the Bureau of Permits and Inspections. He was promoted to director of the Department of Permits, Inspections and Review in 1999. After a restructuring in 2003, Green was appointed director of the Department of General Services.

“Carroll County has been a great place to work. But I’m looking forward to spending more time with my family, especially my grandchildren,” he said.

Commissioners were sorry to see Green retire. “During the years I have known Ralph,” Commissioner Julia W. Gouge said, “I have seen him take on many additional responsibilities. With each new job he has proven strong leadership for his employees as well as teamwork with other directors. He has been an asset to Carroll County and I know he will be missed by all of us. I wish him well in his retirement.”

Taking over for Green will be one of the people who served under him for years. Rio was hired in



Office of Public Information

Ralph Green (above) has resigned as director of the Department of General Services. Tom Rio (right) has been named acting director.



1990 as chief of the Bureau of Construction, a division of the Department of General Services.

Prior to serving Carroll County Government, he was capital projects coordinator for the city of Leesburg, Va., for 17 years.

A graduate of the State University of New York, Rio earned his degree in civil engineering. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in the Corps of Engineers. He serves on the board of directors for the Community Media Center in Westminster.

May 5 ceremony to mark opening of Moton Center

The Board of County Commissioners will officially open the Robert Moton Center at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, May 5, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The center houses the county’s Department of Recreation and Parks, the Board of Elections, the nonprofit Change Inc., and Friends of Robert Moton.

The building at 300 S. Center St. in Westminster housed the county’s unified high school for African-American students from 1948-1955. After desegregation, it served as an elementary school until 1976.

Named for educator Robert Russo Moton (1865-1940), the concrete block structure later housed the Carroll Community College Annex.

Demolition of the interior began in the spring of 2004. Design work for new offices began a year later. In the spring of 2007, construction began for the \$4 million renovation project. The gymnasium has been restored so area recreation councils can use it for indoor sports.

Votes *(continued from Page 2)*

- ◆ Wind energy systems. Voted 3-0 to close the public hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 223, Zoning, that set minimum standards to accommodate small wind energy systems. The record will be kept open for 10 business days.
- ◆ Victim assistance. Approved 3-0 matching funds for the third year of a grant from the State’s Attorney to the Maryland Victims of Crime program. The funds will support an administrative assistant position required to remain compliant with paperwork requirements of Maryland Victims’ Rights legislation.
- ◆ Community resource development. Approved 3-0 the submittal by the Carroll County Local Management Board of a Community Resource Development grant from the Governor’s Office for Children. Funds are being requested for two projects: \$25,540 to develop the Catholic Charities’ Family to Family Respite program and \$40,231 for United Hands of Carroll County for Interpreter and Translation services. No county match is required.
- ◆ Public safety. On a 3-0 vote, approved an amendment of the Federal FY2006 Homeland Security Grant Memorandum of Agreement to extend the agreement through Sept. 30, 2008.
- ◆ Tipping fees. Approved 3-0 an increase to solid waste tipping fees from \$61 to \$76 per ton.
- ◆ Bid approval. Awarded 3-0 a \$95,673 contract to Iacoboni Site Specialists to install a 30,000-gallon underground water storage tank for fire protection in Harney.
- ◆ Solid waste. On a 2-1 vote, with Commissioner Gouge opposed, agreed to work with officials from neighboring Frederick County toward a regional approach to solid waste management which includes determining the actual cost of a waste-to-energy facility.
- ◆ Mental health. Voted 3-0 to approve a joint grant application from the Core Service Agency and the Carroll County Detention Center to the Department of Justice for funds to hire a consultant to develop a strategic plan to increase access to treatment for people with mental illness through the collaboration of justice and mental health systems. Grant funds of \$50,000 will be matched by the Core Service Agency (\$6,468) and the Detention Center (\$8,686) for a total project cost of \$65,154.
- ◆ Senior Inclusion Program. Agreed 3-0 to sign two applications from the Bureau of Aging regarding licensing for the Senior Inclusion Program.

APRIL 24

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Unless noted otherwise, meetings will be held in the County Office Building at 225 North Center Street, Westminster. All times are subject to change. Check the County's Web site closer to the date of the meeting, or call 410-386-2400.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
1:30 p.m. Circle of Caring/Homeless Board Ten-Year Planning Committee – Human Services Programs Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
7 p.m. Community meeting on budget – Room 003

MONDAY, MAY 5

7 p.m. Community meeting on budget – Hampstead Elementary School cafeteria, 3737 Shiloh Road, Hampstead

TUESDAY, MAY 6

10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 003
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

7 p.m. Community meeting on budget – Sykesville Middle School Media Center, 7301 Springfield Ave., Sykesville

THURSDAY, MAY 8

9 a.m. Design and Architectural Review Committee – Room 205

MONDAY, MAY 12

1 p.m. Carroll County Farm Museum Board of Governors – George Grier Meeting Room, Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S Center St., Westminster
2 p.m. Circle of Caring Governance Committee – Department of Citizen Services Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster

TUESDAY, MAY 13

10 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Public hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 44, Pensions and Retirement regarding post-employment benefits – Room 311
3 p.m. Environmental Advisory Council – Room 311
4 p.m. Behavioral Health and Addictions Council – Room 153, Carroll County Health Department, 290 S. Center St., Westminster

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7:30 p.m. Public hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 budget – Scott Center, Carroll Community College, 1601 Washington Road, Westminster

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

9 a.m. Board of License Commissioners – Room 003
10:30 a.m. Commission on Aging – Bureau of Aging Administrative Conference Room, 125 Stoner Ave., Westminster
3 p.m. Circle of Caring Committee – Human Services Programs Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission – Room 003

THURSDAY, MAY 15

9:30 a.m. Open community discussion with Commissioners – Room 311
10 a.m. Commissioners' work session on budget – Room 311

FRIDAY, MAY 16

9:30 a.m. Commissioners' work session on budget – Room 311

MONDAY, MAY 19

9 a.m. Technical Review Committee – Room 003

TUESDAY, MAY 20

8 a.m. Department of Social Services Board, DSS Conference Room, 10 Distillery Drive, Westminster
9 a.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

7:30 a.m. Industrial Development Authority – Room 105
8 a.m. Electrical Board, Baugher's Country Restaurant, 289 W. Main St., Westminster

THURSDAY, MAY 22

8 a.m. Economic Development Commission – Room 105
10 a.m. Roundtable discussion with Cabinet and allied agencies – Room 003
11 a.m. Board of County Commissioners – Room 311

MONDAY, MAY 26

County offices closed in observance of Memorial Day

TUESDAY, MAY 27

2:30 p.m. Board of County Commissioners Budget Adoption – Room 311

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

3 p.m. Water Resource Coordination Council – Room 105
7:30 p.m. Recreation & Parks Advisory Board – Room 003

THURSDAY, MAY 29

6 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission – Room 003

Vision

Carroll County offers a safe environment in which all its residents may live, work, and play. The rural character of our county is preserved through measures that protect our natural and cultural resources, minimize future residential sprawl, and save farmland. Carroll County is enriched by sustainable agriculture and agribusiness as well as responsible, productive business and industry that offer family-wage jobs and employ the county's skilled workforce.



Mission statement

The mission of Carroll County Government is to provide excellent, efficient service to our residents in a courteous, friendly manner. We conduct business openly. We encourage each resident to play a role in keeping Carroll County a great place to live, to work, and to play.

CARROLL COUNTY

a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play

Email your commissioners

Julia W. Gouge: jgouge@ccg.carr.org

Dean Minnich: dminnich@ccg.carr.org

Michael Zimmer: mzimmer@ccg.carr.org

Commissioners@ccg.carr.org

Not sure who to contact?

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