

**PROCEEDINGS OF BUDGET WORK SESSION
OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND**

April 17, 2012

212 S. MAIN STREET, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

2:30 P.M.

The budget work session was called to order by Council President Boniface with all members present except Mr. Woods, Ms. Lisanti, and Mr. Dave Williams, Citizens Budget Advisory Board Member representing District B. Also present were the members of the Citizens Budget Advisory Board – Mr. J. Alan Thompson, representing Council President Boniface; Mrs. Gloria Moon, representing District A; Mrs. Susan Heselton, representing District C; Mr. Robert Tibbs, representing District D; Mr. Charles Ramsay, Jr., representing District E; and Mr. Glenn Dudderar, representing District F.

County Executive Overview

County Executive David Craig and Kimberly Spence, Budget Office, were present.

The budget remained almost flat with only approximately at 1% difference. The budget has stayed below a constant yield, and there have been no pay increases except for some promotions. There were no COLAS, furloughs, layoffs or pension changes. There are some changes in health care benefits however.

Education funding remains at 51% of total operating budget, and public safety is at 20%. The budget only increased by .02 % which is a \$14,000 increase. There were decreases in 9 of the Executive branch departments.

Capital projects will be kept within affordability range and no new school construction at this point has been made. The biggest capital project is the EOC Center, which is a \$20 million project. There is funding for Parks and Recreation at Churchville and sharing our costs for a new building at Harford Community College.

Mr. Craig stated that we have a flat tax rate, and also maintained AAA bond rating in December. He explained that we could have reduced the Board of Education budget by about \$1 million because of declining Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and population, but funding remained level.

Teacher pension shift is not current in this budget because the state budget so it's still important to keep it in mind. If the shift is approved, it could mean a \$17 million increase.

Mr. Craig responded to President Boniface's questions.

Mr. Woods arrived at 2:38 PM.

Spending Affordability Report

County Executive David Craig and Kimberly Spence, Budget Office, were present while Mr. C. Joseph Kelly, Jr., Chair, reviewed the report contained in the budget book and answered questions from Council Members and Citizens Budget Advisory Board.

County Executive Office/Chief of Staff

The County Executive reviewed the budget for his office. Kimberly Spence reviewed the budget of the County Executive's Office. She noted that there was a net decrease of \$11,737.

Kimberly Spence was joined by Aaron Tomarchio, Chief of Staff, as she reviewed the budget of the Chief of Staff Office. She noted that there was a net decrease of \$17,995.

Aaron Tomarchio responded to questions from the Citizens Budget Advisory Board Member, Ms. Moon.

Kimberly Spence reviewed the budget of the Agricultural Affairs division. She noted there was a net decrease of \$84,482. Mr. Craig, Ms. Spence, and Mr. Tomarchio answered questions from the Council.

Kimberly spence reviewed the budget of the County Executive's division of Constituent Services. She noted a net increase of \$105,168.

Aaron Tomarchio answered questions from the Citizens Budget Advisory Board.

Director of Administration

Mary Chance, County Administrator, and Kimberly Spence, Budget Office, were present. Mrs. Spence reviewed the budget. She noted that there was a net decrease of \$21,194.

Mrs. Chance was available for questions from the Council Members and the Budget Advisory Board Members. Mrs. Chance recognized that Carolyn Lamdin plans to retire in July 2012.

Budget and Management Research

Kimberly Spence, Budget Office, was present and introduced her staff to the Council. Mrs. Spence reviewed the budget, noting that there was a net increase of \$56,646.

Mrs. Spence responded to questions from the Council.

Sustainability Office

Kimberly Spence, Budget Office, Mary Chance, County Administrator, and Dr. Erin Ferriter, Sustainability Coordinator, were present. Mrs. Spence reviewed the budget, noting that there was a net decrease of \$18,001. Two capital projects were noted. One is under General and is called the Efficiency Capital Investment Project and the other is under Highways Other and is called the same as above. Mrs. Spence and Dr. Ferriter responded to questions from the Council and the Budget Advisory Board.

Facilities and Operations

Timothy Myers, Chief, Facilities and Operations, Mary Chance, County Administrator, and Kimberly Spence, Budget Office, were present. Mrs. Spence reviewed the budget, noting that there was a net decrease of \$93,031.

Mr. Myers, Mrs. Chance, and Mrs. Spence responded to questions from the Council and Budget Advisory Board.

Central Services

Timothy Myers, Chief, Facilities and Operations, Mary Chance, County Administrator, and Kimberly Spence, Budget Office, were present. Mrs. Spence reviewed the budget, noting that there was a net decrease of \$24,286.

Mr. Myers, Mrs. Chance, and Mrs. Spence responded to questions from the Council.

Risk Management

Mary Chance, County Administrator, and Kimberly Spence, Budget Office, were present. Mrs. Spence reviewed the budget and noted that there was a net decrease of \$31,211.

Mrs. Chance, and Mrs. Spence responded to questions from the Council.

Rocky Gonzalez, Risk Manager joined the work session at 3:29 PM. Mr. Gonzales responded to questions from the Council. Mrs. Chance, and Mrs. Spence responded to questions from the Budget Advisory Board.

The council recessed at 3:39 PM.

Miss Lisanti arrived at 3:50 PM. The budget work session resumed at 3:59 PM.

Board of Elections

Dale Livingston, Acting Election Director, Shawn Larson, Acting Deputy and Kevin Keene, Election Board Member, and Kimberly Spence, Budget Office, were present. Mrs. Spence reviewed the budget, noting that there was a net increase of \$253,047.

Ms. Livingston responded to questions from the Council and Citizens Budget Advisory Board.

President Boniface left at 4:17 PM and returned at 4:27 PM.

Extension Services

Kimberly Spence stated that there are no changes in funding of the Extension Services budget. Jeff Myers, Director; Sara Meagher, Faculty Extension Assistant, Agriculture & Natural Resources; and Robin Wigley, Administrative Assistant II, County Extension Director/Agriculture & Natural Resources, discussed programming.

Mr. Myers, Ms. Meagher, and Ms. Wigley were available for questions from the Council and the Citizens Budget Advisory Board.

Soil Conservation

Kimberly Spence reviewed the Soil Conservation budget and stated that there is a net increase of \$11,887. William Tharpe, District Manager, Conservation and Natural Resources, reviewed the Soil Conservation budget.

Mr. Tharpe was available for questions from the Council and the Citizens Budget Advisory Board..

The work session adjourned at 4:47 PM

APPROVED Richard C. Hertz 7/10/12
Vice President Date