

MINUTES

Baltimore County Planning Board Meeting

January 18, 2024

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**Appendix A** Basic Services Maps and Department of Public Works and Transportation Staff Presentation

*Note: A copy of the appendices is located in the official digital Planning Board files.*

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**Baltimore County Planning Board Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2024**

Call to Order, Introduction of Board Members

Chairwoman Hafford called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and welcomed everyone. A roll call to account for the members of the Board was conducted. Through the meeting, the following Board members were:

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Nancy Hafford, Chair</li> <li>2. Mr. Peter Arrey</li> <li>3. Ms. Emily Brophy</li> <li>4. Ms. Beverly German</li> <li>5. Mr. Mark Heckman</li> <li>6. Mr. Shafiyq Hinton</li> <li>7. Mr. Derick Johnson</li> <li>8. Mr. Wayne McGinnis</li> <li>9. Mr. Todd Warren</li> <li>10. Ms. Cathy Wolfson</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. S. Chris Haffer</li> <li>2. Mr. Steven Heintl</li> <li>3. Mr. C. Scott Holupka, Vice Chairman</li> <li>4. Mr. Howard Perlow</li> <li>5. Ms. Cathryn Pinheiro</li> </ol>

Attending County staff included: Mr. Steve Lafferty, Ms. Amy Mantay, Ms. Jenifer Nugent, Ms. Jennifer Meacham, Mr. Kristopher Weaver, Mr. Myles Muhlberger, Mr. Austin Broderick, Ms. Marina Goldgisser, Ms. Krystle Patchak, Ms. Courtney Rachuba, and Ms. Taylor Bensley, all of the Department of Planning; County Executive John A. Olszewski, Jr.; and Mr. Justin Hall, Ms. Lisa Eicholtz, Mr. Kristopher Nebre, and Ms. Jeannette Applauso from the Department of Public Works and Transportation.

**Review of Today’s Agenda**

Ms. Bensley reported there were no changes to the Tentative Agenda published January 11, 2024.

**Minutes of the January 4, 2024 Meeting**

Chairwoman Hafford asked the Planning Board members if they had any changes to the January 4, 2024 Minutes. Hearing none, Chairwoman Hafford called for a motion to approve the Minutes as drafted. Mr. Arrey moved to approve the Minutes as drafted. Mr. Warren seconded the motion, which passed at 4:32 PM with affirmative votes being cast by Mr. Arrey, Ms. Brophy, Ms. German, Mr. Heckman, Mr. Hinton, Mr. Johnson, Mr. McGinnis, Mr. Warren, and Ms. Wolfson. There were no dissenting votes.

**Items for Introduction**

1. Basic Services Maps

Chairwoman Hafford informed the Board that, since the County Executive was running a few minutes late, the first item on the agenda was a brief presentation by Mr. Justin Hall of the Department of Public Works and Transportation on the 2024 Draft Basic Services Maps. She continued that after the presentation, she would call for a motion to set a public hearing on the matter. She then welcomed Mr. Hall.

Mr. Hall introduced himself as the Chief of Design for Engineering and Construction with the Department of Public Works and Transportation and explained he was present to introduce the 2024 Basic Services Maps for public water, sewer, and transportation. Mr. Hall stated that the Basic Services Maps were part of the County wide Master Plan standards and guidelines; they were updated annually per the County Zoning Regulation’s and included areas that were deficient in public water, sewer, and transportation. He stated that Bill 19-23 was signed and enacted by the Baltimore County Council on June 1, 2023, which adopted the revised maps for 2023. He explained that in the current draft Basic Service Maps for 2024, there were no deficiencies in the public water system; the sewer section reported one deficiency in the Richland Manor area, which was the same deficiency area as in 2023; and the transportation section

reported eleven deficient intersections. He noted that compared to last year, one intersection changed from a level F to a level C and therefore was removed from the 2024 Basic Services Map for transportation. Mr. Hall concluded his presentation by defining what determined deficiencies in water, sewer, and transportation, and by requesting the Board set a Public Hearing for the 2024 Basic Services Maps.

Chairwoman Hafford thanked Mr. Hall for his presentation and opened up the floor for questions or comments from the Board.

Mr. Warren questioned what intersection was removed from the transportation map. Mr. Hall replied that it was the York Road and Ridgely Road intersection.

Ms. Wolfson asked how many fire hydrants were tested for pressure in Baltimore County. Mr. Hall stated that he did not have the number on hand, but that he would look into it and get back to the Board with that information.

There were no further questions or comments from the Board.

With no further questions or comments, Chairwoman Hafford called for a motion to set a Public Hearing. Ms. Wolfson moved that the Baltimore County Planning Board set a virtual public hearing, as specified under BCZR Section 4A02.3.E.1, for Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 4:30 PM for the Board to receive comments and concerns from the citizens of Baltimore County on the 2024 Basic Services Maps. Mr. Arrey seconded the motion, which passed at 4:37 PM with affirmative votes being cast by Mr. Arrey, Ms. Brophy, Ms. German, Mr. Heckman, Mr. Hinton, Mr. Johnson, Mr. McGinnis, Mr. Warren, and Ms. Wolfson. There were no dissenting votes.

### **Capital Improvement Program Process Special Presentation**

*A Special Presentation by County Executive John A. Olszewski, Jr.  
An Introduction of the Fiscal Year 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program Process*

Chairwoman Hafford welcomed County Executive Olszewski to deliver a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program Process.

County Executive Olszewski thanked Chairwoman Hafford and members of the Board for being present as he kicked off the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget and Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program. He explained that the County had seen significant challenges in the past six years – including an \$81 million deficit that was buried in a budget footnote and a global pandemic – but had also made record investments each year, closed the deficit, brought the government into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, continued to maintain a AAA bond rating, and continued to deliver on promises. He noted that he was very proud of the ways the Department Heads and leaders came together to thoughtfully and strategically leverage federal funding, which addressed long-standing inequities.

County Executive Olszewski explained that the County had begun to and continued to responsibly deploy funds with the support of general fund dollars and other outside sources. He mentioned that in maintaining transparency, he wanted to be clear that the upcoming season would be a season of discipline and restraint. He referenced a statement from Governor Moore that when the State Government catches a cold, the County Government catches the flu. He stated that he was confident the County would continue to make the important investments that were necessary to move forward, while being fiscally responsible. He continued to say our challenges were not just limited State support, as the County was also faced with rising costs through inflation and supply chain challenges. He explained that the County was seeing the

ending of federal dollars, but that the County as a whole would meet those obstacles together. He was proud that the current Fiscal 2024 budget continued the progress by being committed to fundamentally transforming the County for the better.

County Executive Olszewski discussed the record-breaking funds for the maintenance of schools, and the new Capital Spending for new or like new schools for Lansdowne, Towson, and Dulaney High. He continued that the budget would address overcrowding in schools, a new Chesapeake Terrace Elementary School, and solutions, renovations, and improvements throughout the County. He spoke to the continued investments to the County's transportation options with the launch of the Towson Loop in October 2021, and explained that the County was committed to the enhancement and expansion of safe bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure with the release of the first Countywide Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. He discussed the renovation and expansion of the Woodlawn, Lansdowne, Randallstown, and Essex Libraries.

He mentioned public safety needs to address the Catonsville and Sparrows Point Fire Stations, the Essex Police Precinct, and the County's 911 Center. He noted that money was allocated for patrol officers, which allowed them to take their county vehicles home. He spoke to Operation Re-Tree, an equity-based tree planting initiative which fundamentally shifted and adjusted the approach for reforestation. In addition, the County had started a Street Tree Program that allowed for the replacement of urban trees. County Executive Olszewski stated the County had dedicated money to enhance and expand the recreational opportunities across Baltimore County, which included a new disc golf course and splash pad at Northwest Regional. He mentioned that it would also include renovations at Whole Park, Oregon Ridge, Cromwell Valley, and Cloverland Parks. He continued that the County had broken ground on the new Sparrows Point Park, the Hazelwood Skate Park, and the Meadow Creek Park.

County Executive Olszewski discussed the continued effort to serve the County's senior citizens, which included funds for the expansion of the Woodlawn Senior Center, the Jacksonville Senior Center, and the continued progress of a new North County Senior Center. He spoke to the enhancements at Security Square Mall and the Pikesville Armory. He mentioned that the County was excited to continue its partnership with State and local leaders, and, in August, the State approved the County's commitment to pass ownership of the Pikesville Armory. He noted that the County had a new Community Improvement Program, and funds were dedicated for the transformation of the Jury Selection Room in the Courthouse. He discussed that the sixth signature Town Hall Series, which allowed the public to hear about the County's current status and what had been done in each community, would be kicking off in a few weeks.

He stated that last year, each of Baltimore County's Departments appeared before the Board to discuss their capital needs, identify projects for the future, and innovate new ways to build sustainability and resilience into their projects. He noted that this year's CIP was an on-year cycle and the bi-annual Capital Budget Process started with the meeting tonight and ended with the County Council approval in May. He explained that to determine the bond referendum, it would be put before the voters. He noted that in his first five years, the County had provided record funding for public education and shovel ready school construction projects; that included the multi-year improvement plan for all schools (MYIPAS), which included a road map to continue investing over \$3 billion by 2037. He noted that with the sustained State partnership and continued local investment, the County was well on its way to achieving that goal. He mentioned continued efforts to expand pre-kindergarten programs, invest in safety infrastructure, and improve older schools, to improve all learning environments.

County Executive Olszewski reminded the Board about the rising cost constraints on the economy and limited Capital funds that would force the County to be pragmatic when considering the next budget. He stressed the importance of being more focused and intentional about every capital investment, stating that without new resources, some initiatives would have to be delayed, and the County would need to pace out

existing projects in order to sustain the historic investments; this meant matching up the budget cycle with the construction cycle, so the dollars were going when the projects were absolutely shovel ready.

County Executive Olszewski stated he wanted to make sure the Planning Board was aware of the challenges facing the County to overcome each of them together. He noted that more specific details would be coming at the Annual Budget Town Hall, which he hoped would engage the Board and all community members. He thanked the Board again for all their time and energy and stated he was grateful for their willingness to serve and their commitment to the residents of Baltimore County. He thanked Chairwoman Hafford for her outstanding leadership, and concluded his remarks by stating he looked forward to hearing the Board's recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget and the Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program.

Chairwoman Hafford thanked the County Executive and opened up the floor for questions or comments from the Board.

Mr. McGinnis thanked County Executive Olszewski for his efforts and help with establishing the Agricultural Department, which would cover issues for a large portion of the County with preserved land. He continued that children in the Hereford Zone did not have something to do after school and that in the last 40 years, there had been no expansions to the indoor facilities, despite being one of the top schools in the State for individual and team championships. He stressed the need for a year-round gym facility, and mentioned that the Board had recommended this be added to the budget for the past 7 years, but had no results. Mr. McGinnis urged County Executive Olszewski to think about that in the future. County Executive Olszewski replied that he appreciated Mr. McGinnis's persistency, and that the County was intentional in the designing of the new North County Senior Center to have an athletic basketball facility; he continued that it wouldn't just be a Senior Center, but would include a community space as well.

Mr. Arrey thanked County Executive Olszewski for presenting and stated he was proud of the work the County was doing.

With no other questions or comments from the Board, Chairwoman Hafford thanked County Executive Olszewski for his time.

**Other Business**

- 2. Report from the January 11, 2024 Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission

Ms. Bensley gave a report on the major actions of the Landmarks Preservation Commission at their January 11, 2024 meeting.

**Adjournment of the Board Meeting**

Chairwoman Hafford called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Warren moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wolfson seconded the motion, which passed at 4:55 PM with affirmative votes being cast by Mr. Arrey, Ms. Brophy, Ms. German, Mr. Heckman, Mr. Hinton, Mr. Johnson, Mr. McGinnis, Mr. Mr. Warren, and Ms. Wolfson. There were no dissenting votes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

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