

# Garrett Transit Presents Annual Program Review

Former Garrett Transit Service director Gregan Crawford presented an overview of Community Action's transportation program during the Garrett County commissioners' public meeting on Monday at the courthouse. The commissioners also set the time and date for the annual tax sale and awarded a bid for a prefabricated bridge.

"It's a demand-response service," Crawford said about Garrett Transit. "It's open to all residents and visitors of the county, as long as your [pickup] address originates within the county. We can take you out of the county, but the address has to originate here."

The service currently has a fleet of 21 transit vehicles (18 white buses and three mini vans) and employs 20 drivers. All vehicles are equipped to handle wheelchairs.

In fiscal year 2015, Crawford reported, Garrett Transit facilitated 101,648 rides, traveled 656,849 miles, and accumulated 24,100 service hours with no reportable injuries, accidents, or fatalities.

"That's a lot of miles, a lot of trips without any reportable accidents or injuries," said Commissioner Jim Hinebaugh.

Crawford concurred.

"They're a great group of dedicated drivers and support staff," he said. "The average driver has been with Garrett Transit Service a little over nine years."

Crawford reviewed Garrett Transit's FY 2017 budget request to the Maryland Transportation Administration (MTA). Community Action is asking \$541,101 for capital.

Subject to MTA approval, Garrett Transit would use the funding for preventive maintenance, a two-way radio system, the purchase of three new buses and a mini van, security fence gates, and other facility related items.

Garrett Transit is also seeking \$1.9 million for its FY 2017 operational budget

through the Federal 5311 and Special Statewide Transportation Assistance Program. Crawford noted that funding sources for the program is generally 80 percent federal, 10 percent state, and 10 percent local.

"Local transportation is leveraged 9:1 for operational and capital requests," Crawford said. "It's a very good deal for county taxpayers."

The commissioners were presented grant applications to sign for the federal/state operational and capital budget requests.

Garrett County Community Action president Duane Yoder announced during the meeting that Crawford has moved to a yet-to-be determined position at the agency's Center Street office in Oakland. Mark Rodeheaver will become Garrett Transit's new director in about two weeks. Rodeheaver recently retired from the Maryland State Police. His previous position was commander of MSP's McHenry barrack.

Also during their Monday meeting, the commissioners set the date and time for the 2016 Garrett County tax sale. The event is scheduled for Friday, June 10, at 10 a.m. in the commissioners' meeting room at the courthouse.

The commissioners also awarded a bid on Monday for a prefabricated bridge, which will replace Dung Hill Road Bridge No. G-104. Two companies submitted bids for the project.

Contech Engineered Solutions won with a bid of \$183,640. The Linthicum company has 90 days to deliver the structure to the site.

County purchasing agent Brian Bowers noted that Contech was not the lowest bidder for the project. The other company, Cameron Bridge Works LLC, submitted a bid of \$179,550 and delivery within 12 weeks. After reviewing both bids for compliance with administrative requirements and receiving feedback from the county's Engineering Department, the Purchasing Department recommended that the commissioners award the bid to Contech.

Bowers noted that Cameron is geared more toward pedestrian type bridges, not vehicular ones.

"So, we decided to reject their bid, and move on," Bowers said. "It was actually going to cost the county more money in rental equipment and labor if we were to move forward with Cameron Bridge Works."

The commissioners' next public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, at 4 p.m. at the courthouse.