

# Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, February 10, 2015)

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## Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy  
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt  
Commissioner Tom Jarboe  
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan  
Commissioner John E. O'Connor  
County Administrator, Dr. Rebecca Bridgett  
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

## 1. WELCOME

Commissioner President Guy called the meeting to order at 9:00 am in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

## ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner O'Connor made a motion for addition to the agenda - discussion and eventual vote on support or non-support of House Bill 184, Personal Property Tax Exemption. Seconded by Mike Hewitt. Motion carried.

Commissioner O'Connor noted he had an in-depth look at HB 184 and had spoken to Senator Waugh and Delegate Morgan concerning the Bill and they said they were open to further discussion about phasing it in and working with the Commissioners as a team. Commissioner O'Connor stated he supports the Bill. Commissioner Jarboe noted bad legislation has caused the state to be known as non-friendly to businesses, and this bill is an opportunity to start pulling back onerous bills that affect small businesses in the State and in Southern Maryland. He stands behind this bill noting that the state has a problem and needs to fix it. Commissioner Hewitt echoed Commissioner Jarboe's feelings. He noted that the County has gotten used to the \$3.1M, and now we will have to figure out how to do without it. He suggested the bill is a good thing that might attract additional businesses to the area which will give the County an economic boost. Commissioner Morgan noted he is not opposed to the Bill; however, he is concerned with the \$3.1M loss of revenue to the County and cautioned on making any decisions until we see what modifications might be considered and what the ramifications would be to the County. Commissioner Guy said he supports HB 184 but would like to see it phased in over a four-year year time period.

I make a motion to support House Bill 184 with the following amendments to Section 7-402 line 11 - (1) During the period from July 1, 2016 rather than 2015, and June 30, 2018 rather than 2017, new personal property purchased by a business is not subject to County property tax; and, (2) Effectively July 1, 2018, personal property is not subject to the County Property Tax.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Tom Jarboe  
Final Resolution: Motion carries  
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan, O'Connor

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

I move to approve the minutes of February 3, 2015 as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Tom Jarboe.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan, O'Connor

## **2. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

### **A. Draft Agenda for February 24, 2015**

### **B. DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION - Gibson Road Modified Shoreline Conservation Service Project Agreement**

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the Gibson Road Living Shoreline Erosion Control Project DNR Modified Shoreline Conservation Service Project Agreement between the County and the Department of Natural Resources on behalf of the Department of Public Works and Transportation, in the amount of \$99,285; and to execute the budget amendment realigning revenue sources to apply \$631 in Transfer Tax to the project and closeout the remaining balance to the FIN15 Capital Reserve.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan, O'Connor

### **C. COUNTY ATTORNEY - Re-conveyance of Extension of Barbet Drive**

I move that the Office of the County Attorney be authorized to schedule a public hearing on a re-conveyance of land deeded to St. Mary's County for an extension of Barbet Drive.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Tom Jarboe.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan, O'Connor

### **D. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - Tobacco Use Prevention FY2015**

I move to approve the Tobacco Enforcement Agreement, Project MD1544, in the amount of \$3,500, from the St. Mary's County Health Department on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, and authorize the Sheriff to execute the related agreement; and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the budget amendment to increase the project budget by \$3,500 in accordance with the agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Tom Jarboe, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan, O'Connor

### **E. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - Tobacco Enforcement FY2015**

I move to approve the Tobacco Enforcement Agreement, Project MD1543, in the amount of \$5,000, from the St. Mary's County Health Department on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, and authorize the Sheriff to execute the related agreement; and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the budget amendment to increase the project by \$5,000 in accordance with the agreement.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Tom Jarboe.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan, O'Connor

### **3. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** - Present "Sheriff's of St. Mary's County" Book and Provide Background on "Sheriff's 375" Book Project

**Present:** Sheriff Timothy Cameron

Sheriff Cameron presented each of the Commissioners a copy of the "Sheriff's of St. Mary's County" book. He noted how the Sheriff's Office had evolved from being appointed by the Royal Governor in 1704 to being an elected official today. He then acknowledged the authors and researchers who worked diligently on this project: Gracie Brady, Historic Planner II, LUGM; Carol Moody and Linda Reno, Historic Preservation Commission; Jeff McLane, Sheriff's Office (Retired); and, Mary Ann Thompson, Sheriff's Office, Corrections Division.

**B. SO. MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER** - Proposal to State for Construction of Classroom and Engineering Building III

**Present:** Dr. Mel Powell, Executive Director, SMHEC  
Joseph Anderson, Chairman, Board of Governors, SMHEC  
Matt Scassero, Executive Director UMUAS Test Site

Mr. Anderson provided the history and accomplishments of the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center. Dr. Powell provided an overview of proposed Building III at the Higher Education Center. The building will be used as a combined academic and research building. The Governor's budget currently does not include any funding for this project. He said the Southern Maryland Delegation was given a presentation which focused on the important economic development and diversification implications on Southern Maryland and the state of Maryland. The Delegation indicated they would do everything they could to get the \$3.85M dollars needed for A&E into the State's FY16 Capital Construction Budget. A letter of support from Commissioners was requested for this endeavor.

### **4. MAIN AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

**A. DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT** - Local Amendment of the Maryland Building Performance Standards

**Present:** Phil Shire, Director, Dept. of Land Use and Growth Management

The Department of Land Use and Growth Management requested a public hearing for proposed amendment to modify the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings to exempt dwellings on property not connected to an electrical utility and dwellings constructed on certain lots with unexpired utility agreements or lots with substandard public or community water supply from the fire sprinkler requirements.

I move that the Department of Land Use and Growth Management be authorized to schedule a public hearing on the proposed amendments.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan, O'Connor

## **B. DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT - Woodmore Property - Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan amendment**

**Present:** Phil Shire, Director, Dept. of Land Use and Growth Management

The Dept. of Land Use and Growth Management requested a public hearing for the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan to change the water and sewer service categories for a proposed subdivision on property located at 43946 Sandy Bottom Road.

I move that the Department be authorized to schedule a public hearing on the proposed amendment.

Motion by Commissioner John E O'Connor, second by Commissioner Tom Jarboe.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan, O'Connor

## **5. COMMISSIONER'S TIME**

The Commissioners highlighted events attended during the week and items of personal interest.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

Minutes Approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)