

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris
County Administrator, Dr. Rebecca Bridgett
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the minutes of March 11, 2014, as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Jarboe abstained.

DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES: EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION

Present: Sue Sabo, Human Resources Director and Chief of Staff
June Robrecht, Deputy Human Resources Director

Commissioners presented employee service awards to the following individuals:

10 Years - Jennifer Talton; ES&T; Joann V. Copsey - DPW&T; Eugene J. McGolrick - DPW&T; Joseph C. Bean - DPW&T; Linda M. Baird - DPW&T; Lisa M. Ledman - DECD

15 Years - Jeannett Cudmore- Finance; Robert A. Bailey - R&P'S; Mary C. Bell – Finance; Corporal James R. Molitor – SO; James C. Farren - R&P; John J. Groeger - DPW&T

20 Years - Francis P. Arnold - LUGM

25 Years - Lucy M. Erskine -R&P; David M. Guyther - R&P; Thomas L. Biscoe - DPW&T; Melanie G. Guy - DPW&T

Those receiving awards but unable to attend were:

10 Years - Kathryn M.Chaney - LUGM; Sergeant Kelly L. Corcoran - SO; Corporal William J. Coyne - SO; Corporal Michael D. George Jr. - SO; Deputy First Class Melissa L. Green - SO; Corporal Jason E. Maletto – SO; Corporal Robert A. Padgett- SO; Keira D. Patterson-Rice - SO; Corporal Keith D. Moritz - SO; Deputy First Class Scott D. Ruest - SO; Corporal Sarah J. Russell - SO; Corporal Michael D. Thompson - SO; Barbara J. Williams - DPW&T

15 Years - Jennifer L. Connelly- ES&T; Larry S. Johnson – SO; Corporal Ralph J. Butler – SO; Corporal Douglas S. Mills - SO; Valerie A. Hayden – SO; Mark S. Miller - DPW&T; Corporal Mark D. Howard – SO; Kelly J. Crosby - ES&T; Lieutenant David M. Yingling – SO; Corporal David L. Corcoran - SO

25 Years – Lieutenant John E. Payne – SO; Corporal Deborah L. Milam – SO; Captain Deborah L. Diedrich – SO; Corporal Delores M. Gray – SO; Corporal Jane M. Thompson – SO; David M. Oliver - R&P's

30 Years - Joy Farrell - SAO

35 Years – Debbie Zylak - SO

A PROCLAMATION WAS PRESENTED FOR THE 2014 SOUTHERN MARYLAND SUDOKU TOURNAMENT

COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for March 25 and April 1, 2014.

2. Department of Public Works and Transportation (*George Erichsen, Director*)

(Zane Rettstatt, Project Engineer, Dept. of Public Works and Transportation)

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Thomas Road Shore 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 \$133,200 and the related budget amendment decreasing the project amount by \$58,926 and returning the remaining funding to the FIN14 Capital Reserve. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment using

\$131,700 of the Commissioners' Emergency Appropriations to increase the Department of Public Works & Transportation's FY2014 operating budget accounts for snow removal operations as recommended by staff. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Department of Economic and Community Development (*Robin Finnacom, Acting Director; Carolyn Laray, Tourism Manager*)

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the FY2014 "War of 1812 in Southern Maryland Special Mini-Grant" grant agreement, Project MD1491, from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium on behalf of the Department of Economic and Community Development, Tourism Division for production of the Raiders & Invaders Passport in the amount of \$2,500 and the related budget amendment that includes realigning \$2,787 from the Tourism Printing account to cover the increase in County Funding. Motion carried 5-0.

4. County Administrator (*Dr. Rebecca Bridgett*)

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the revised employment contract for Lori Jennings-Harris effective March 18, 2014. Motion carried 5-0.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE: FINAL APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED FY 2015 BUDGET TO TAKE TO PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 15, 2014

Present: Elaine Kramer, Chief Financial Officer
Jeannett Cudmore, Deputy Finance Director

The FY15 recommended general fund budget is \$220,036,696, 1.2% less than the approved 2014 budget. Public hearings on the proposed budget, constant yield rates and the 7th District fire tax increase will be held April 15, 2014, at 6:30 pm at Chopticon High School. Public comments will be received during the public hearing and through the open comment period that ends on April 25, 2014. Two additional Budget Work Sessions will be held on April 28 and May 5, 2014, with the final FY2015 Budget approval on May 13, 2014.

Unchanged in this year's proposed budget are property taxes, local income taxes, and constant yield rates. Highlights of the proposed budget include: an increase in the 7th District fire tax; compensation for County employees to receive step/merit increase with top of grade employees to receive a \$1,000 stipend; 35 vehicle replacements (23 for Sheriff's Office); \$250,000 for development of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; \$125,000 for a Compensation Study for County and Office of the Sheriff employees; increase of FTE's (County, Sheriff's Office, Health Department, Cooperative Extension, Board of Education; and College of

Southern Maryland); and \$93,910,979 for the Board of Education, an increase of \$4 million from last year. The budget also includes \$800,000 in a hearing reserve which can be utilized by the BOCC to respond to public comments received as a result of the public hearing or address revenue or cost changes including the impact of State legislative actions. Full details of the proposed budget will be posted on the County's Website and hard copies will be available at all three libraries prior to the budget hearing.

Commissioner Morris noted he has been opposed to any new hires in general and expressed concern with the number of new FTEs in the proposed budget. Recognizing that some of the positions are needed, he said he can't be supportive of FTEs that do not serve the county in general or make the drug issues better. He said he does not want to leave the next Board with positions that are not necessary.

Commissioner Jarboe noted he would like to see the age limit for the senior property tax credit changed from 70 to 65 years and suggested he would be supportive of an energy tax credit.

Commissioners Morgan, Jones, and Russell noted they were satisfied with the discussions and presentation of the recommended budget and were ready to move forward to the public hearing.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the FY 2015 Recommended Budget, as presented, to take to the public hearing at Chopticon High School on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, and to sign the "Recommended Estimate of Revenues and Appropriations" evidencing our approval. Motion carried 3-2. Commissioners Jarboe and Morris voted nay.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events of the past week.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Russell adjourned the Board of County Commissioners meeting at 10:21 am.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)