

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, March 31, 2015)

Generated by Sharon Ferris on Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Members present

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

Absent: Commissioner John E. O'Connor

1. WELCOME

Commissioner Guy called the meeting to order at 9:01 am in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

Approval of Minutes

I move to approve the minutes of March 24, 2015 as approved or amended.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan

2. RECOGNITIONS

PROCLAMATIONS WERE PRESENTED FOR NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH AND FAIR HOUSING MONTH

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL 14, 2015. There will be no meeting on April 7, 2015.

B. DEPT. OF AGING AND HUMAN SERVICES -Senior Rides Program Grant Application FY2016

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the FY2016 Maryland Senior Rides Program grant application documents, project #MD1605, from the Maryland Department of Transportation on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services in the amount of \$39,477 for transportation services for low-income to moderate income seniors.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioner Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan

C. DEPT. OF RECREATION AND PARKS - DHMH Memorandum of Understanding for New Horizons Summer Camp

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the Memorandum of Understanding and related Assurances and Certifications between the County and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Developmental Disabilities Administration, on behalf of the Department of Recreation and Parks for assistance in funding the New Horizons Summer Camp, in the total amount of \$29,781.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan

4. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

I move to enter into Executive Sessions today for the purpose of discussing Real Property, Litigation, and Personnel matters (specifically to interview candidates for the position of Director, Dept. of Economic Development).

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Jarboe, Morgan

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Litigation

Present: Commissioner James R. Guy, President
 Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
 Commissioner Tom Jarboe
 Commissioner Todd B. Morgan

Absent: Commissioner John E. O'Connor
 Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
 Mr. George Sparling, County Attorney
 Mr. Randy Burns, Procurement Manager
 Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant

Authority: Article 24, Section 9-512(a)8

Time Held: 9:23 am – 9:50 am

Subject: Litigation

Real Property

Present: Commissioner James R. Guy, President
 Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt

Commissioner Tom Jarboe
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Absent: Commissioner John E. O'Connor
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
Mr. George Sparling, County Attorney
Ms. Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant
Authority: Article 24, Section 9-512(a)11
Time Held: 9:50 am – 9:59 am
Subject: Real Property Acquisition

6. PUBLIC HEARING

A. DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT: Local Amendment of the Maryland Building Performance Standards (MBPS) to exempt fire Sprinkler requirement under two specific circumstances

Commissioner Guy opened the public hearing at 10:00 am.

Present: Phil Shire

Mr. Shire said Notice of Public Hearing was posted in *The Enterprise Newspaper* on March 13 and 20, 2015. The proposed amendment is only for one and two family dwellings that are not connected to an electrical utility or a lot served by a substandard existing service line from a water main to the property that is less than a nominal 1-inch size. He stated he is not sure we have any such lines in the County, but that he will be meeting with MetCom to discuss. This is the only amendment allowed by the Public Safety article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. There will be no further modifications for fire sprinklers; however, other building code modifications will be presented to the Commissioners in April or May and a complete list will be provided at that time.

Commissioner Hewitt asked what size water tank is required and how much this will add to the cost of a new starter home. Mr. Shire will also provide this information when the building code modifications are presented.

Commissioner Jarboe commented that he and other Commissioners received several emails with pros and cons on sprinkler systems. The scope of the amendment we are looking at today is very narrow and is not about whether sprinklers are required. The state code has been put forth, and as of July 1, 2015, sprinklers are required in new residential homes with these very few exceptions we are discussing today.

Commissioner Guy opened the public hearing for public comment.

Public Comments (*Comments as noted below are intended as highlights of testimony given and are not verbatim*).

Keith Fairfax, 46516 Walnut Ct., Lexington Park, MD 20653

Bruce Theden, Bay District Fire Department

All sprinkler contractors must be certified for design and installation. A 300-gallon tank is needed and

installation cost in a private residence on central water is estimated to be \$1,600.

Hope you consider all aspects of Standard 2015 Code. He noted this is a consensus standard across the United States, not a fire department standard. It is a proven fact that sprinklers save lives.

Commissioners were provided with a handout entitled, "Dwelling Fires and Firefighting," and a DVD illustrating a duplex house fire with one side having sprinkler system and one not.

Tom Mattingly, 41580 Yoke Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Encouraged Commissioners to watch the DVD Mr. Fairfax provided. He provided scenarios of incidents in the County where sprinklers prevented major fires. In the last two months there were two kitchen fires in the County that were extinguished by sprinklers by the time the fire department arrived, and two years ago in the Leonardtown Farm area a kitchen fire was extinguished by the sprinkler system and the \$500,000 home sustained no significant damage. He speculated that if the mansion in Annapolis had a sprinkler system installed, there might not have been a loss of life. Sprinkler systems are designed not only to protect families, but also fire fighters. He noted much misinformation concerning sprinklers and provided the Commissioners with a handout noting myths and facts entitled, "The truth about home fire sprinklers." He mentioned a tax credit of \$2,500 and asked Mr. Shire when this credit expires. He suggested the Commissioners might want to extend the credit which allows a \$2,500 tax break for homes in rural areas to install sprinkler systems.

Joe Guyther, 28395 Old Lockes Hill Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Stated he sent an email to the Commissioners for a link to *YouTube* to view a 3-minute fire demonstration. He said there are lives to be saved and urged Commissioners to look at human costs.

Mike Mummaugh, 41160 Paw Paw Hollow, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Expressed concern with inspection of systems. He said when he was a builder in Wildewood, MDE was the inspector, but they are not now. He stated that as a small builder, it is crucial that inspections are completed on time. He asked if the Fire Marshall is certified to do the inspections.

Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Shire if it is the expectation that the Fire Marshall will be the inspector and asked if response time could become an issue.

Commissioner Guy closed the public hearing for public comment and noted the record would remain open an additional 10 days for public comment and then closed the public hearing at 10:35 am.

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7. COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events attended over the last week.

Commissioner Jarboe commented on his recent trade mission trip to Israel and the positive impact it could have on the County and the State. He noted Maryland-based companies are eligible for a grant from the Israel Bi-national R & D Foundation to collaborate on new high tech product development with Israel companies. Grants up to \$1 million are available to engage innovative companies from the start-up nation to kick start Maryland-based technology development to a new level. Funding is also available to Maryland startup companies through the new Maryland/Israel Development Center's partnership with OurCrowd. He encouraged St. Mary's County businesses interested in learning more about trade opportunities in Israel to contact him directly.

8. RECESS

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel

Present: Commissioner James R. Guy, President
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Tom Jarboe
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner John E. O'Connor (*for part of session*)
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
Mr. George Sparling, County Attorney
Ms. Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant

Authority: Article 24, Section 9-512(a)11

Time Held: 12:36 pm – 3:42 pm

Subject: Personnel (conducted interviews for Dept. of Economic Development Director position)

10. ADJOURN

Commissioner Guy adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:46 pm.

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

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator

1. The purpose of this document is to provide information regarding the activities of the [redacted] in the [redacted] area. This information is being provided to you for your information only and should not be disseminated to other personnel.

2. SUMMARY

The [redacted] has been identified as a [redacted] of the [redacted] and is currently active in the [redacted] area. It is believed that the [redacted] is involved in [redacted] activities.

3. [redacted]