

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, April 26, 2011**

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Sue Sabo, Acting County Administrator
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)
Absent: Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Russell called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to adopt the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, April 12, 2011, as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

ANNUAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Present: Sue Sabo, Director, Dept. of Human Resources

Ms. Sabo thanked all County employees for their service and commitment to the citizens of the County acknowledging that each and every individual plays an important role in the overall system of services provided to our community and the introduced all of the nominees for this year's Employee of the Year award. Employee of the Year recipients for the following categories were announced for the:

Administrative - Fran Hammet

Non-Administrative - Robert Morgan

Manager - Kelsey Bush

People's Choice Award - Randy Miedzinski

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL INVITATION AND RESOLUTION WAIVING LANDFILL FEES

Present: Mary Ann Chasen, Executive Director, Xmas in April
Howard Thompson, President Xmas in April
Mr. John Wiener, Vice President, Xmas in April
Rick Tarr, Solid Waste Mgr., DPW&T

Ms. Chasen stated that the annual Christmas in April Program will celebrate their 21st year of home repairs on April 30, 2011. She noted that this has been a challenging year because the fairgrounds were double booked this year, which limits the space normally used for Christmas in April supplies and evening social event. She hopes that in the future the Commissioners might help to alleviate the issue of double booking noting that Christmas in April is a National Program that is always the last Saturday in April.

INVITATION TO MARCEY HOUSE ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Present: Larry Harvey, Director, Marcey House
Carol Gallagher, Chairman, Marcey House
Daniel Slade, Vice Chairman
Herbert Hardy, Board member
Bob Richardson, former Board member
James Thigpen, Business Unit GM, SAIC
Bernard Hazelwood, GM, MetroCast Communications
Patt Crotty, Vice President/Division Manager, SAIC
Heather Earhart, External Communications Manager (SAIC)
Bernadette Lewis, Community and Cultural Relations Director, SMECO

Mr. Harvey invited Commissioners to attend the Marcey House Annual Benefit Golf Tournament. This tournament continues to partner with private sector businesses in support of publicly funded addiction treatment programs. Last year's tournament raised \$18,000.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for May 3 and May 10, 2011.

2. **Sheriff's Office** (*Brian Eley, Civilian Administrator; Erin Shoemaker, Fiscal Manager*)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the Equitable Sharing Certification Report from the Department of Treasury, on behalf of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office. Motion carried 4-0.

3. **Department of Human Services** (*Cynthia Brown, Interim Director; Kelsey Bush, Youth Coordinator*)

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute a budget amendment that will increase the Department of Human Services FY2011 budget by \$6,371, using the

BOCC Emergency Reserve, for leased space/rental costs through June 30, 2011, for child protective services to remain intact. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the Quick Claim Deed conveying part of the 60 ft. right-of-way on South Shangri-La Drive from the Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County, Maryland to the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign Public Works Agreement Addenda guaranteeing construction of the roads in the: (1) Avonlea Subdivision, Section 2, Phase 1, located in the 5th Election District, with an expiration date of March 1, 2012, and Phase 2 and 3, with expiration dates of February 1, 2012; and (2) Woodland Park Subdivision, located in the 8th Election District, with an expiration date of April 1, 2012. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President to sign the Claim Letter in the amount of \$120,600 to the American Southern Insurance Company for the Public Works Agreement issued for the Woods of Rue Purchase Subdivision, located in the 8th Election District, and based on the Department's certified correspondence dated March 8, 2011. Motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON THE ENTRANCE FEE PROPOSAL FOR ELMS BEACH PARK AND MYRTLE POINT PARK

Present: Phil Rollins, Director

Mr. Rollins recapped discussions from a previous BOCC meeting concerning proposed entrance fees for access to Elms Beach and Myrtle Point Park to pay for personnel to monitor the parks on holidays and weekends to alleviate issues like overcrowding, alcohol consumption and unruly behavior. Originally staff proposed \$5 per vehicle per day or \$20 per vehicle for resident access to both parks and \$10 per vehicle per day for non-County residents. Staff was asked to revisit the issue by calculating how much non-residents would have to pay if an entrance fee was not imposed on residents. After further review Recreation and Parks' staff provided 3 alternatives: (1) to implement original recommendation (\$5 per car/\$20 per season for residents and \$10 per car for non residents), (2) charge non-residents \$20 entrance fee for Elms Beach and Myrtle Point and (3) not to adopt entrance fees for either at this time.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris to approve charging non-residents a \$10 car fee and \$15 per van fee or Elms Beach Park and begin implementation on Memorial Day weekend 2011. Motion failed 2-2.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, that for both Elms Beach and Myrtle Point we charge the non residents \$10 per car per visit and \$15 per van and we concur with Mr. Rollins that residents will be \$5 per car or \$20 per yearly pass for the period beginning on Memorial Day 2011 and that we limit this to a one year deal and then staff research and report back at end of year for options, solutions. Motion carried 3-1. Commissioner Jarboe voted nay.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION ON WICOMICO SHORES GOLF COURSE PRIVATIZATION OPTIONS

Present: Phil Rollins, Director, Dept. Recreation and Parks
Robert Richardson, Chair, WS Golf Course Adv. Board

The County has self-managed the golf course and restaurant for more than twenty years and until recently the facility has been financially self supporting. Over the last two years the operation has suffered a significant financial loss which is attributed to the recession. Golf play is down 15% which equates to a loss of revenue of about \$210,000 per year. The Golf Advisory Board is recommending that the facility not be privatized at this time. The Golf Advisory Board has created a marketing committee to focus on marketing and promoting the restaurant, banquet room and golf course. With increased marketing, modest fee increases and reduction in expenditures, it is anticipated that this year the facility will not operate in the red.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to direct staff to continue with self-operation of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course facility and that you are allowed to go through this season, and if at the end of the season (November 1, 2011) you are in the red, then we are going to have to consider privatization. Motion carried 3-1. Commissioner Jarboe voted nay.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN AMENDMENT: TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY, CASE CWSP 10-200-003

Commissioner Russell opened the hearing at 10:45 am.

Present: David Chapman, Capital Facilities Planner

Mr. Chapman noted for the record that an announcement for Public Hearing was posted in the Enterprise on April 8 and 11, and property owners in the vicinity were notified by certified mail of the recommended change to the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan for the Tractor Supply Company.

Mr. Chapman read a staff report noting that all preliminary steps are complete and the Planning Commission is recommending that the CWSP be amended as requested.

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

Dino Pierotti, 23774 Mervell Dean Rd, Hollywood, MD

Has property adjacent to subject property for which amendment is being requested. Asked if he will be forced to connect to water and sewer. Answer was no.

Commissioner Russell closed the hearing at 10:55 am and announced that the Board of County Commissioners will receive public comments on this matter for an additional ten days.

PROPOSED ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT TO CHANGE USE TYPE 44, CAMPGROUND, FROM A CONDITIONAL USE TO A PERMITTED USE IN THE RURAL PRESERVATION DISTRICT AND COMMERCIAL MARINE DISTRICT FOR ESTABLISHMENTS OF 20 OR FEWER CAMPSITES (FIRST READING)

Present: Derick Berlage, Director, Dept. Land Use and Growth Management

Land Use and Growth Management staff presented their recommendations to streamline the review and approval process for property owners desiring to establish a campground or expand an existing campground. Staff suggested distinguishing between large and small campgrounds in the Ordinance and then regulating them differently depending on size. A small campground, 20 or fewer sites would be classified as a permitted use in the RPD and CM District and the larger campground containing more than 20 campsites would continue to be regulated as conditional use in the RPD and CM District. Staff is requesting the BOCC to accept the proposed amendment as a first reading, waive the 30 day comment period and second reading and direct the Planning Commission to proceed with a public hearing.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to accept the amendments as proposed for a first reading, waive the 30-day comment period and second reading required by Resolution 2005-03 and direct that the Planning Commission proceed with a public hearing and prepare a recommendation for the Board relating to the proposed amendments. Motion carried 4-0.

PROPOSED ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TO CORRECT AN ERROR PERTAINING TO THE CRITICAL AREA OVERLAY FOR BUZZ'S MARINA IN RIDGE (FIRST READING)

Present: Derick Berlage, Director, Dept. of Land Use and Growth Management

Mr. Berlage provided the background on the rezoning of the County and explained that in the case of Buzz's Marina, a mistake was made in drafting the zoning maps that were approved by the County

Commissioners and published as representing official zoning designations. An amendment is now required to correct the error and change the zoning from RCA to LDA

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to accept the zoning map amendment as proposed to correct an error pertaining to the Critical Area Overlay for Buzz's Marina for a first reading and direct that the Planning Commission proceed with a public hearing and prepare a recommendation for the Board relating to the proposed amendment. Motion carried 4-0.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events attended over the past two week.

RECESS

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY RECOMMENDED FY 2012 BUDGET

Present: Sue Sabo, Acting County Administrator

Elaine Kramer, Chief Financial Officer

L. Jeannett Cudmore, Deputy Financial Officer

Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant

Commissioner President Russell provided welcoming remarks and commented on the budget process to date. Ms. Kramer stated that the notice of the evening's public hearing was published in the Enterprise on April 15, 2011. The final adoption of the FY 2012 Budget is scheduled for May 31, 2011. Any additional written comments relative to the FY 2012 Budget and Constant Yield Tax Rate must be submitted by May 6, 2011.

Constant Yield Property Tax Rate – Proposed Real Property Tax Decrease

Ms. Kramer presented the Board of County Commissioners' proposal to decrease real property taxes. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2011, the estimated real property assessable base will decrease by .4% from \$11,017,640,975 to \$10,969,870,160. If St. Mary's County maintains the current tax rate of \$.857 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will decrease by .4% resulting in a \$409,396 reduction in real property tax revenues. In order to fully offset the effect of decreasing assessments, the real property tax rate could be increased to \$.8607, the constant yield tax rate. The County is not considering increasing its real property tax rate above the constant yield tax rate. The County proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.857 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is .4% lower than the constant yield tax rate and will reduce property tax revenues by \$409,396.

Recommended FY2012 Budget

Ms. Kramer provided an overview of the Recommended FY2012 Budget. The recommended General Fund Budget is \$192,628,493, which is \$2,964,523 more than the approved FY2011 budget. This is comprised of revenue totaling \$191,945,882 a 3.6% increase of FY2011, as well as the application of \$682,611 in fund balance. Income tax and energy tax rates are proposed to stay the same as the previous year.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CONSTANT YIELD PROPERTY TAX RATE – PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX DECREASE

The public hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate was opened for public comment at 7:10 pm.

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

Wanda Twigg, Mechanicsville (EASMC)

Increase tax rate. County needs money. Bring in the additional \$409,000.

Dawn Pipkin, Hollywood MD 20636

Surprised with the proposal to lower the tax rate. Have seen reports that the County is 19th lowest in state for education. Cannot maintain services with lower tax rate. Urge you to consider constant yield.

Deb Rev, Lexington Park 20653

Thanked Commissioners for work on budget. All for maintaining tax rate. Surprised people want taxes raised. Keep tax rate the way it is today.

The Acting County Administrator closed the hearing for Constant Yield Tax Rate at 7:15 pm and announced that the Board of County Commissioners will receive public comments on this matter for an additional ten days.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The public hearing on the FY 2012 Recommended Budget was opened for public comment at 7:17 pm.

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

Trisha Post, 45900 Harbor Lane, Lexington Park,. MD 20653

Mother of 2 in St. Mary's School and feels schools do a good job. Wants more funding to go to education. Educators invest in our students. Schools have come a long way under Dr. Martirano. Don't let education go backwards.

Lisa LaPaglia, 44908 Widgeon Place, Callaway, MD 20620

Parent and Volunteer in school system. Strong supporter of St. Mary's Schools. Support Para-educators 100% - they are driving force. 18-23 children in kindergarten children in class need extra help. How can you keep educators without para-educators? Para-educators are essential.

Mary Lusk, 39221 St. Thomas Dr. Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Support education. Have 2 children now in STEM program. In early years para-educators input was essential. Financial and academics attract high quality teachers and staff. Please fund budget submitted by Dr. Martirano.

Michael Skube, 22707 Ventura Way, California, MD 20619

Moved to St. Mary's County 2 years ago. Considered County school system when looking for new home. Concerned if you increase number of students in classes. More funding needed. Will not raise children in County where it is last in funding per pupil. Please fund schools - need education and challenges for our children.

Joe Shade, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Bus drivers provide safe transportation. Service workers work hard to keep the schools clean. Our schools are 12th in state for per pupil spending. Need to fund the budget requested to keep schools going.

Stephanie Law, Leonardtown, MD 20650

9th Grade English teacher. I have read emails from parents concerned with more students in class room. Cannot jeopardize children because of cuts to Board of Education Budget. Fully fund schools.

Laura Joyce, 23918 Merville Dean Rd., Hollywood, MD 20619

Executive Director of Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy. Center being cut 10%. Non-profits need the 10% back.

Rob Martin, Colony Square Neighborhood, Lexington Park MD 20653

Representing homeowners in Colony Square. Request street lights in development. Neighborhood surrounded by industry. No streetlights invite crime and dumping. Have letter signed by Department of Public Works and Transportation supporting us.

Linda Thomas

Lives Colony Square. Working hard to tackle problems in the neighborhood. Wants street lights fully funded – will stop crime and illegal dumping. Lighting will improve quality of life in Colony Square and improve children's school performance.

Doris Day, P. O. Box 203, Callaway, MD 20620

Leah's House desperately needs help – supports homeless women and children. Come here every year and ask for money and receive none.

Denise Markey (Leah's House), Callaway 20620

Bad family experience and Leah's House opened door to me one month ago. Prayers were answered. Leah's House provides for needs – food, medicine and transportation. If it wasn't for them, don't know where I'd be. Please help them to do Gods work.

Nancy Easterling, 23484 River Rd., Lexington Park, MD 20653

Representing Historic Sotterly Plantation. Without County support and without your help, do not know how the beautiful 95 acres of history would be available to help teach our children of the past. Hope you see fit to keep Sotterly in the budget. Thank you for past help and hope for help in the future.

Marianne Mosher, 22701 White Oak Rd. Leonardtown, MD 20650

Teacher. Concerned with children's education. Military is concerned with school system when relocating. When education is not important, requires community actions. We had option to move to this county, looked at student ratio and determined St. Mary's school system better than other counties. Thrilled with education. Schools in St. Mary are lowest per pupil funding. Teachers and Board have done their job. Asked Commissioners to step up.

Rachael Sparks, 38310 Deans Way, Mechanicsville MD 20659

Teacher. Went to school in St. Mary's County. Paid taxes for over 24 years. Proud parent of 2 children. Rigorous programs, qualified teachers and staff in school system. Need to increase funding. Is there funding available? Teachers help pay for supplies. Teachers make an influence on all children's lives. Release funding to schools.

Frank Guertler

Director at College of Southern Maryland. Concerned with Tech Center welding class, heard someone say might be canceling class. What happens if teacher retires – do classes end. Lack of talent versus lack of jobs. Need to start children for trades in high school. As you evaluate and look at education, look at trades, without infrastructure we fail.

Kim Belvin

Parent, Volunteer, Advocate for students in St. Mary's County schools. When the doors opened tonight people most affected cannot be here, they are at sports practice, doing home work and getting ready for bed. Adults are here to find way to secure their future and set

them up to succeed. Kids want to stay in St. Mary's County; they are watching to see if you invest in them. Fund higher education - task is not a big one.

Donald Wergard

2nd grade Student at Evergreen. Want funding so teachers can keep their jobs. We have great teachers who need to keep their jobs.

Madison Morgan

3rd grade Teacher. Introduced mothers who held pictures of their children while Ms. Morgan explained their success stories. Success stories might not be possible if you cut 2 instructional teachers to 1. Need IRT teachers in large classes. What will happen to children who need extra support if class size increases and IRT teachers cut? Budget cuts will rob student's quality of education in our community.

Dr. Donald Taylor, Waldorf, MD

Spends 2 hrs a week working at Marcey House. Read letter from Commissioners. Substance Abuse program, psycho education program will not see continuous improvement without funding. There is an aggressive prudent medicine available that requires a specialist to administer and a specialist is not available on a daily basis to do so. Clients need diagnostic treatment. Fifteen percent of those being treated would otherwise be in jail if it weren't for Marcey House. Pay now or pay later with interest.

Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent, Saint Mary's County Public Schools, Moakley Street, Leonardtown MD 20650

Taxpayer. 2 children in school. Represents 2,300 employees, 35,000 parents. Students receive world class education. Thanked every individual who sent email and letters. January budget had 14.2M deficit. We continue working with precision. The school board has not received their budget from the state. Working tirelessly and continuously to address budget issues. \$1.9M is up for discussion. Need funds to eliminate further staff reductions. Needs dialog between two boards to discuss ways to find a balance. Asked Commissioners for their support. We've done our part now you do your part.

Pat Carney, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Asked Commissioners to consider Social Services. Department's Budget has been cut drastically. Department serves those in most need; those who are not concerned with FY12 or 13, those who are trying to make it through the present day. Consider these individuals. No group should monopolize the budget.

Marguerite Morris, P. O. Box 203, Callaway MD 20620

Representing Leah's House. Homeless shelter for women and children. Five times I have come and asked for funds and have never received any. St. Mary's County sends funds in Calvert and Charles County. Need to keep St. Mary's County residents employed. Need \$15,000 a month to house, feed, pay utilities, and transportation. Here are faces and people who need help. Been to 5 budget hearings asking for funds – why not. Not asking for more money just asking for some. Existing Leah's House important to community.

Dang Patrash, Leah's House

Arrived here from Ukraine. Victim of abuse. 2 years Leah's House has helped. Buys clothes and provides shelter. Pastor Morris will help anyone she is good person.

Perriki Banks, Leah's House

Resident of Leah's House, please support us.

Danielle Nutt, Leah's House

Resident of Leah's House for a year. Had domestic situation. Counseling gave me feelings I never felt before. Nobody cared. Supporting Leah's House is the best thing you can do. Need to give something.

Cee N., Leah's House

Victim of domestic violence. No income, getting help from DSS. Leah's House should be funded to help people like me.

Leslie S., Leah's House

Think you should fund Leah's House. Shared story of daughter who was having development issues. Leah's House opened their doors to us and we felt safe. Took daughter to different doctors and daughter is progressing fine. Feel we now have a future. Fund Leah's House.

Mike Schwartz, Mikes Bikes, 21310 C Great Mills Rd, Great Mills, MD 20653

People from Leah's House have good point - shameful we have this problem in this county. You have education input. Sheriff Deputies are needed in Lexington Park area. When you cut service to poor people they die. I know your job is hard. Need to increase revenues in Saint Mary's County to meet the people's needs.

Anna Laughlin, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Education Association of St. Mary's County member. Teacher for 23 years in Saint Mary's County. Before election you spoke of quality of education. People believed you. You come in and forget. In 23 years of teaching I have spent thousands of dollars for books and supplies for children. The Superintendent said what he needed to maintain.

Wanda Twigg, Leonardtown, MD 20650

President Education Association of St. Mary's County. Highly qualified teachers in Saint Mary's County. Higher education is in jeopardy. Need to do more for schools. Other counties provide 50% on education – why not Saint Mary's County. Preserve the schools in St. Mary's County. Step up and do right thing for teachers.

Kathy Norton, Chopticon, MD 20650

Representing military families. Research area and look at quality of schools. Many move to St. Mary's because of excellent education. Will people continue to come if you cut education? Reduction in force equals increase unemployment if you cut teachers. Delaying increase in taxes is not the answer. Quality schools need core quality educators.

Whitney Coopins, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

4th grader. We have competent teachers. Class sizes don't need to be larger. Education important. Fund school budget.

Dora Zimmerman, Mechanicsville MD 20659

Para-educator and parent of student in Chopticon. Concerned with talk of cutting sports and eliminating certain programs. Daughter has 2 years to graduate and plays sports. Worried about change in class sizes - might increase. Teachers would not have time to spend with students if classes increase. Works as para-educator and provided Commissioners with her everyday schedule. Works 20 hrs a week and her mornings from 9:10 until 12:30 are totally consumed without a break. Need para-educators in the schools.

Sharon Brown, 25814 Jones Wharf Rd., Hollywood, MD 20636

Past teacher and principal. Studies highlight the importance of adult child interaction. Need certified teachers. Para-educators are an important part of school system. Please send more funding to keep para-educators.

Janice Walthour, 45811 Delegates Ct., Great Mills, MD 20634

As a member of NAACP, I can attest to the inequities that many minorities are experiencing in this county. Not meeting the needs of the minority population in our communities or our schools. We have 2 St. Mary's Counties – households earning salaries of \$80,000 and above and households earning \$50,000 and below. A large percentage of African Americans and Hispanics fall below the \$50,000 mark and are faced with obstacles and challenges promoted by the local bureaucracy. Lower income families have been relegated to Lexington Park. Most schools in the area are doing well but the high school in Lexington Park district has a graduation rate range between 76% to 83%. In 2009 and 2010 only 69% of African-American males graduated from Great Mills High School. We pay more to incarcerate than educate. Schools going out begging. Minority teachers represent 9% of teaching staff; student population is more than 21% minorities. I implore you, please be good stewards to all of the people. For the record a handout of complete remarks was presented to Commissioners.

Elfreda Mathias, 45811 Delegates Ct., Great Mills, MD 20634

Should have stuck to the old plan of 3% instead 10%. Military mission is driver of the County. They look at what type of schools we have and type of community to raise a family. Let's move forward not backward. Support all. Create affordable housing. Balanced budget is necessary. You have fund balance of \$12M; you chose how to use that money.

Monika Lee, Knight Rd., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Family Practice Physician. Debated on moving to Calvert or St. Mary's County. Heard schools under Dr. Martirano had improved tremendously. Have 4 kids in 4 different schools. Who moved the decimal point? How did we get from \$14M to \$1.4M? Money reserved for a rainy day. Please fund school \$14M.

Bridget Arnold, 43280 Waver Ct., Hollywood, MD 20636

Attending school in St. Mary's County so have connection with past teachers and future. Chose to raise my children here. Seen businesses come in. With population growth comes jobs and great schools. Have seen schools deteriorate. Over population in schools. Para-educators are important. 15 other positions at risk. You ran on certain platforms, put your funding where your mouth is.

Jennifer Sanders, 20160 Hickory Bottom Ln, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Substitute teacher and parent. Resource teachers spend countless hours working. One teacher cannot handle one class. Keep qualified school teachers. New teachers are also an asset to our children. Don't want to see class sizes increased.

Ben Click, 40824 Lake & Breton View Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Chesapeake Public Charter School. We offer another public school choice. People move to the County for schools. Fully fund the educational system. If you don't levy taxes now you will levy them on our children. If you don't find ways to support it, you can't praise it.

Carrie Harney, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Chesapeake Public Charter School. Worked for 4 years to provide another school choice. Have 250 students K thru 8th grade. Demographics same as other public schools. If teachers are eliminated that would be one fourth of our staff (non tenure and para-educators). We get per pupil allotment but pay rent, maintain utility costs. Urge you to fund to the fullest extent possible.

Christina, Pre K Team Green Holly, Millstone Landing Rd., Lexington Park, MD 20653

Works at Green Holly. Regional infant and toddler services cannot be maintained without full funding. Doesn't make sense to not fully fund budget.

Deb Rev, 18364 Chestnut St., Lexington Park, MD 20653

\$1.9M to be distributed. We send you to office – show the County you care – give back dollars to citizens. Need to relieve County debt. Board of Education could do more to streamline. High school offers 16 different PE classes. Streamline some classes. See value in continuing sheet metal and Tech Center courses. Thank you for your commitment to the tax payers.

Billy Breslin, 23749 St. Clair Rd., California, MD 20619

High School teacher. Mentioned editorials in newspapers. Concerned with possibility of cutting all extra curriculum next year. Dr. Martirano is careful in shifting and moving staff around and is focused on doing best for school. Doubt that he takes his job lightly. Fund the school system.

Paul Kelley, 41885 Medleys Neck Rd., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Thanks for all your hard work. Total philosophy of the board is to be frugal and careful with tax payer's dollars. Your job is not to just give as much money as you can to education. Make sure all entities are funded.

Wayne Scriber, 27511 Budds Creek Rd., Mechanicsville, MD (NAACP)

NAACP. Supports teachers, students and community. Please help us save the children. 25% drop out rate at Great Mills High School. We cannot afford to lose school resources. Keeping the after school programs keep kids off the streets. Provide St. Mary's County Public Schools the funding needed.

David Shapiro, 41402 Philip Ln., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Construction is the largest employer other than the government in the County. The St. Mary's County Building Trade Foundation operates with no money. It is a new organization working with businesses. We have 7 people willing to help educate. Also offered assistance for welding classes.

Bernie Packman, 23628 Belmar Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Shared story of daughter graduating from St. Mary's County Schools then graduating from radiology technician school. Supports funding education.

Tracie Chadler, 20953 Pintail Ct., Callaway, MD 20620

Parent of 2 STEM students. Confused about many things. Why the last decade school funding keeps decreasing? Why St. Mary's County ranks 24th in the state? Independent audit says \$23M needs spending. It takes money for great schools. It takes smaller classes. It takes special classes. Need para-educators. Fear for future of all children. Current funding could be end of superior school system. Fund enough to keep staff. As elected officials your priority is our community.

Terri Griest, 22015 Clipper Dr., Great Mills, MD 20634

Parent of 2 STEM students. 5th year coming here. Support increased funding. Believe it is my job to make my priority be your priority. Needs are needs and they don't go away. Don't understand why not funding \$14.2 of needs. Budget will hurt children in this county. Both my children have special needs. You can budget for golf cart engine. Education costs; great education costs more. Education must be your priority.

Dawn Pipkin, Hollywood, MD 20636

Parent and taxpayer. Getting mixed messages. Must have quality education. You are political leaders. Actions speak louder than words. Children are our future. Fully fund education. Consider what you said when campaigning. Give children the best shot for future.

Beth Smith and Kristi Getson

Support special education needs in St. Mary's County. Please support school budget.

Jim Pendas

Wife is teacher – goes in early and stays late. Son attends Leonardtown High School and she needs to be able to spend time with him. What happens if class sizes increase? Special needs children need para-educators. If you pull para-educators, children won't get attention they need. Costs more to incarcerate than to educate. Why new jail when we should educate and keep them out of jail. \$2M for airport – less than 2% of St. Mary's people use it. Advocating for school system.

Tod Jackson

Parent. Budget time and dollars are short. Do not increase student to teacher ratio. What is more important? Board of Education should not have blank check. Detention center people are not going anywhere, our children are.

Sherri, 16906 Tidewater Ln., Hughesville, MD 20637

Pay tribute to Dr. Martirano and leaders. Commissioners have stretched school system to the limit. Teachers beg for funding. You are sitting on money you can release. This evening cost more dollars that we are asking for and you talk about waste.

Jennifer Wright, California, MD 20619

How you proceed affects our children. Para-educators help special needs. Cuts reduce instructional time. Most vulnerable people that will be hit the hardest are ones with trouble reading. Consider the decade impact that will have on our children. Fund schools.

Weylin Anderson, Leonardtown, MD 20650

BBES Educator. Supports parent infant program.

Christine King, Mechanicsville, MD 20650

Mother of 2 special needs children. Parents want more for the children. Children are our future. Daughter was bullied in school and thanks to having enough teachers in classroom to notice what was going on it was stopped. Please don't take children's grand education away. Children need teachers. Support the schools budget.

John Weiner, P. O. Box 654 Leonardtown, MD 20650

Educator. Graduated Chopticon. Granddaughter is 4th generation to attend St. Mary's schools. Talking of maintaining not increasing. We've fallen behind other nations. Why not keep schools open all year. Keep schools open longer days. Limit the number of Pre K students in class. Why not have laptop on each student's desk. Nothing is more important than to fund schools. Children need it.

Liz Percell-Luskinen, Town Creek

Education Association of Saint Mary's County. Resident of Leonardtown. Of all privileges none more important that to vote. We hired you to lead the community. Some of you say this is personal. The preamble says we the people not you the Commissioners. Teachers showed up and provided testimony. Citizens petitioned. Why not honor the citizens. Support the school budget.

Jena Eschenbrenner, California, MD 20619

Parent of 2 Hollywood Elementary School students. Overwhelming and scary if education is not funded. I see how important para-educators are in my daughters' school. Upgrading student to teacher ratio will have a negative impact on all students. Per pupil spending is already at the bottom of the state of MD, can we afford to go any lower than that? Asked Commissioners to check out classrooms sometime. Spend time in schools. Learn as much as you can before deciding how decision will impact our community.

Kim Sparshott, California, MD 20619

Parent. Ten years in County. Moved from Calvert County after we checked out schools. You don't understand power of excellent school system. Want you Commissioners to fund education. Properly funded education will cut the need for jails and homelessness.

Michele Burnette, California MD 20619

Nurse, foster parent and mother of 8 children. I have cared for 40 different foster children. You as Commissioners have a gift which is to help citizens most of whom are children. Please invest in their future, invest in the school system.

Lauren Burnette, California MD 20619

Student who suffers from dyslexia. Other children suffer from this and without the help of IRT teachers they would not get the help they need.

Kelly Burkhardt, Hollywood, MD 20636

Parent and member of PTA and very involved in children's school. Implore you to fund the school budget. Our system has cut corners long enough. The time to invest in our school. is now, this is no time to turn our back on our children. Why would anyone cut education? Time of requiring more for less has to end. Fully fund the school system.

Richard Abell, 43010 Injune Ln., Hollywood, MD 20636

Two children in school. Keep asking teachers to do more for less. Don't want class size enlarged. Educators work hard. No excuse to cut funding. You are either for or against education. Rainy day money – our children suffer – no political umbrella to protect them if you cut funds.

Tammy Payne, 23262 Oak Crest Lane, California, MD 20619

Educated child in the county. Concerned with teacher's reputation in the county. Furlough days, no textbooks, our county benefits from having a great school system. Do what is right to secure the future of our county.

James Shupe, 41407 Whimsical Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Thanked educators. We give the experts what they ask for. Pax River has lots of jobs that require educated people and want our children to be able to take those jobs in the future. Talk about budgets, our children will bear the burden of what we create. Tax assessment reduced Jan 1 – take a look at that. Non profits need to be held more accountable. Three Oakes clearly not a \$100,000 a year job.

Heather Kearns, 26255 Gardiner Ct, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Taxpayer and parent. Education is important. Good teachers and para-educators. We have dedicated teachers who helped with my sons issues in school. This is a quality county with quality school and teachers. Asked that leadership of this county look awfully hard at the school budget and provide Dr. Martirano with what he needs.

Karen Breslauer, 42287 Hanover Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Taxpayer and parent. This is critical time for schools and county. Want you to fully fund schools. Families move here for school system. Stand up and fight for quality education. Without a fully-funded budget class sizes will grow. Need para-educators. Act now. Provide fully funded budget for our children.

Grant Harris, Mechanicsville, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Chopticon High School student supporting Fine/Performing Arts in schools. Concerned with class sizes and amount of classes being cut. Vital to keep the fine arts programs. Teachers spend tireless hours that they are not compensated for. Do not cut teachers who are most vital to schools. Teachers do not want small classes cut.

Taylor, McQueen, 29957 Douglas Circle, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Junior at Chopticon. Concerned for Orchestra, band and dances classes. Concerned with threat of teachers being fired. Band has to have fund raisers to raise money to repair their equipment. Please fund budget.

Jennifer Wathen, 36625 Wainwright Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Have 3 children in school system. Volunteers in school and sees what para-educators do. Has son that was ill for 37 days and if it weren't for para-educators who spent extra time with him when he returned to school to help him catch up, not sure where he would be. Support school budget.

Barbara Herbig, 45603 Ford Dr., Lexington Park, MD 20653

Volunteer and advocate for youth. Has child in STEM program. Teachers are the best resource we have. Invest in teachers and provide what they need. Qualified persons in technology are limited. Take action for education, we can't afford to have kids fall behind.

Marlene Krauth, 26311 T Wood Dr., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Have student in Chopticon. Now is time students are signing up for classes for next year. Concerned with talk that some classes might not be available. Concerned with welding program at Tech Center. Asked Commissioners to please fund what the Board of Education is asking for.

Roger Thompson, 39069 Tanglewood Ct., Mechanicsville, MD 202659

Parent. Has special needs child and has had to fight for everything he has gotten. See a lot of mirror agencies out here that could pull their funds together. Transportation and STS could share their budgets. Free up some resources and give the Superintendent what he needs.

Ann Bolduc, 45874 Skip Jack Dr., Lexington Park, MD 20653

Parent and volunteer. Have always encouraged people to move to this county. Concerned as a tax payer how funding is spent. FDR Blvd. The Detention Center- you would not have to invest in it if you invested more in education. Get a perspective on this. We see daily that teachers have special needs for classrooms, tenure teachers are maxed, need a new generation of teachers, need to retain all we have. Teachers and para-educators are needed. Listen to everyone, not just hear them, but listen.

Angela James, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Moved to St. Mary's County for school system. Wanted the lifestyle and education here. IRT classes have been helpful for daughter. With larger classes teachers might not recognize child who needs help. Need para-educators. Please reconsider cutting funding for teachers.

Shannon Tippet

With economy families have had to pick up second jobs. If there are not enough volunteers for schools and para-educators are cut who will help. Looked at the education system before moving here. We need money in the budget for children.

Tonya Albright, Great Mills 206

Mother. Concerned with where St. Mary's County is in state ratings 24th of 29. Wants to know that when her daughter is in school she will have teachers that care. Need early education. Need para-educators.

Paul Ive, Mechanicsville

Told personal story of family's journey to St. Mary's County in 2005. Moved entirely based on school system and has never been disappointed. Seems like Calvert County is starting to surpass and don't want that to happen. Have great pride in our system. Continue to fully fund school budget.

Melanie George

Two children in STEM program. You as County Commissioners consider cutting educators and you cut the future of our students. Invest in students, invest in the County. Willing to pay higher taxes. Support the students of Saint Mary's County. Support and invest in teachers and staff. Please take a common sense approach.

Jodie Yateman

Do you care about education of 5 yr olds? Teachers spend their own funds for items. Need para-educators. Do whatever to keep kindergarten alive. Support funding for schools.

The Acting County Administrator closed the hearing for the FY2012 Budget at 11:38 pm and announced that the Board of County Commissioners will receive public comments on this matter until May 6, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at approximately 11:39 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)