

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, May 13, 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 of the Board of County Commissioners to order at 9:00 am in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the minutes of May 6, 2014, as presented. Motion carried 5-0

PROCLAMATIONS WERE PRESENTED FOR OLDER AMERICANS MONTH AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential Open Space property acquisitions. Motion carried 4-1.
Commissioner Jarboe voted nay.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Property Acquisition

Present: Commissioner Francis Jack Russell, President
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris

Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
Brian Loewe, Director, Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Kathy Bailey, Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)11
Time Held: 9:30 am – 9:50 am
Subject: Property Acquisition

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to authorize staff to negotiate for the purchase of the Church Lane property. Motion carried 3-2.

Commissioners Jarboe and Morris voted nay.

APPROVE FINAL FISCAL YEAR 2015 ST. MARY'S COUNTY BUDGET AND SET TAX RATES

Present: Elaine Kramer, CFO
Jeannett Cudmore, Deputy Director, Finance

Ms. Kramer summarized the FY2015 budget. The only change in the tax rate structure this year is an increase in the Fire Tax in the 7th District. There is a 2.0% increase in expenditures within the County Departments; elected officials' increase, excluding fund balance, is 4%; and State agencies is 4.6%. Compensation for County employees includes a rate decrease in health insurance and pension and a one-step merit increase for regular and regular part time employees and equivalent for contract employees. Top of grade employees will receive a one-time \$1,000 stipend. There will be no COLA increase for employees. Four new Emergency Communications Specialist positions were created, and 16 position re-classifications were approved. The new hourly rate for minimum wage has not been determined; therefore, the rate is unchanged at this time.

The Sheriff's Office budget increase will include 8.5 new positions as well as promotional ranks. The Sheriff's Office will also receive 23 new replacement vehicles. Fund balance will be used to renovate the Adult Detention Center and buy office furniture. A reserve account has been set-aside for the States Attorney's Office to address costs associated with the DeWolfe ruling.

The Health Department will receive funding for two positions and associated costs in accordance with state benefits. The Health Department will also receive a set aside of \$100,000 from fund balance to address the County's substance abuse issues, which will be provided once the Health Officer provides a plan that is approved by the BOCC.

The Board of Education's funding from the County totals \$93,910,979, an increase of \$4 million over last year.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and execute the Revenue Ordinance for FY2015, which sets the tax rates. Motion carried 3-2.
Commissioners Jarboe and Morris voted nay. Commissioners Jarboe and Morris did not support because there is no adjustment to the energy tax or cap on taxes for senior citizens.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and execute the Appropriation Ordinance for FY2015, which identifies appropriations, revised to add a capital project to Section 2 of the ordinance, Recreation and Parks, in the amount of \$4 million federal and state funding, to be called Park Land Acquisition – State Aid. Motion carried 3-2.
Commissioners Jarboe and Morris voted nay. Commissioner Jarboe noted that money was still set aside for FDR Boulevard, which he is against. Commissioner Morris suggested the County is spending dollars at a greater rate than necessary and stated he opposed the hiring of any new positions - should fund essentials only.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve the FY2015 budget, as set forth in the schedules and documents included in the submission, adjusted only to include the \$4 million Park Land Acquisition – State Aid project identified in the previous motion, and which includes the Schedule of Pay differentials, Premium Pay, and Insurance Premiums and confirmation of the Fund Balance Plan, and execute the “budget estimate” page evidencing our approval of the itemized budget. Motion carried 3-2.
Commissioners Jarboe and Morris voted nay.

COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for May 20 and 27, 2014.
2. **Department of Public Works and Transportation** (*George Erichsen, Director*)

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Quit Claim Deed for a portion of Wild Iris Street in the Primrose Park at Wildewood Subdivision as shown on Exhibit A dated 4/8/14. Motion carried 5-0.

3. **Department of Emergency Services and Technology** (*Bob Kelly, Director*)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the Management Control Agreement between the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County and Director of the St. Mary’s County Department of Emergency Services & Technology, Sheriff of St. Mary’s County and Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Department of Land Use and Growth Management** (*Phil Shire, Director;*

Yvonne Chaillet, Zoning Administrator)

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and accept the FY2015 Critical Area Grant agreement, Project MD1527, from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Critical Area Commission) on behalf of the Department of Land Use and Growth Management in the amount of \$8,000 for reimbursement of a portion of the salaries of county staff who perform review of Critical Area permits and development applications. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events of the past week.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Russell adjourned the Board of County Commissioners meeting at 10:58 am.

14TH ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY CEREMONY AT THE SO. MD.HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER, 44219 AIRPORT RD., CALIFORNIA

Following the regular business meeting, the Commissioners attended Law Enforcement Day to pay tribute to law officers who have perished in the line of duty as well as honor the Officer of the Year selected from each county law enforcement agency, based on their outstanding service to the community.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)