

**ST. MARYS COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
Tuesday, April 22, 2008**

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
John Savich, County Administrator
Betty Jean Pasko, Sr. Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)
Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Russell called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Check Register for checks dated April 22, 2008, as submitted. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to adopt the minutes of the Commissioners meeting of April 15, 2008, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

INVITATION TO 18TH ANNUAL NATIONAL REBUILDING DAY

Present: Mary Ann Chasen, Exec. Dir., Christmas in April
Howard Thompson, volunteer

Ms. Chasen invited the Commissioners to participate in the upcoming 18th Annual National Rebuilding Day, Saturday, April 26, 2008. With the help of approximately 1,800 volunteers, another 23 homes and will be repaired in St. Marys County.

MARCEY HOUSE GOLF TOURNAMENT KICK OFF

Present: Larry Harvey, Director, Marcey House
Daniel Slade, President, President, Marcey House Board of Directors

Carol Gallagher, Vice Chair, Marcey House Board of Directors

Sponsors: Todd Morgan, representing Eagan, McAllister (Title Sponsor)
Tom Dennison, SMECO; Bonnie Johansen, Dir., Gov. Affairs,
Constellation Energy Group. Other sponsors are Verizon and
Washington Gas.

Mr. Harvey extended an invitation to the Board to participate in the Marcey House 15th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament on May 23, 2008, at Wicomico Shores Municipal Golf Course.

PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL 9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH

Present: Dave Zylak, Director, Dept. of Public Safety
Tom Mattingly, Jr., Technical Services Coord., Dept. of Public Safety

The Board proclaimed the month of April, 2008, as National 9-1-1 Education Month in St. Marys County. A total of 99,446 calls were answered by the Public Safety Emergency Communications Center last year.

TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND: RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A SO. MD REGIONAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Present: Bob Schaller, Dir., Dept. of Economic and Community Dev.
Wayne Clark, Executive Director, Tri-County Council for So. MD
Andy Moser, Asst. Secretary., Div. of Workforce Dev., MD Dept. of Labor,
Licensing and Regulations
Ellen Flowers-Fields, Dir., Regional Economic Dev., Tri-County Council
for So. MD

As a follow-up to the April 15, 2008, presentation to the Board of County Commissioners, a Resolution was presented for the purpose of approving the re-establishment of the Southern Maryland Workforce Investment Board.

The Resolution states that the re-establishment of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) for Southern Maryland:

1. Is in the best interest of the citizens of St. Marys County.
2. Tri-County Council will serve as the Fiscal Agent and Grant Manager in an Administrative capacity.
3. The Executive Director for Tri-County Council shall serve as the Chief Locally Elected Official for WIB in the region.
4. St. Marys County is not obligated to provide funding. Funding sources are the Federal and State governments.

5. TCC will assign two full-time employees to work under the auspices of the Community Development Corporation to deliver workforce service through the Jobs Connection program.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and sign the Resolution to re-establish the Southern Maryland Workforce Investment Board. Motion carried 5-0.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for April 29 and May 6, 2008
2. **St. Marys County Public Schools** (*Daniel Carney, CFO*)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve the .05 FTE increase in the FY2008 elementary music allotment, which was approved by the Board of Education on April 9, 2008, and to sign the consent letter evidencing this action. Motion carried 5-0.

3. **Office of the Sheriff** (*Erin Shoemaker, Fiscal Manager*)

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the Budget Amendment that will decrease the grant project budget by \$27,424, increase the supplemental Reserves Revenue and Expenses by \$16,353 and increase the BOCC Emergency Appropriation Reserve by \$11,071, the Countys match, due to the extension of Project US0729 to June 30, 2008. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the Budget Amendment to realign grant funding and add the required county funding to allow for the addition of a grant FTE based on the Gang Intelligence Program Grant Modification approved by the Governors Office of Crime Control and Prevention; and to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to approve the addition of 1.0 Grant FTE Gang Intelligence Coordinator position, Grade 8, to the Sheriffs FY2008 Budget, effective this date, April 22, 2008. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Dept. of Public Safety** (*Dave Zylak, Director; Michelle Lilly, Manager, Emerg. Mgmt. Div.*)

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to authorize the Department of Public Safety to submit the grant application for

the Fiscal Year 2009 Homeland Security Grant Program. Motion carried 5-0.

- 5. Dept. of Public Works and Transportation, Dept. of Public Safety and Office of the Sheriff** (*George Erichsen, P.E., Dir., DPW&T; Dave Zylak, Dir., Dept. of Public Safety; Capt. John Horne, Sheriffs Office; Liz Passarelli, County Attorneys Office*)

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Lease Agreement for the Bell property, the Right of First Refusal, and the associated Budget Amendment. Motion carried 4-1 (Commissioner Jarboe voted no).

6. Dept. of Public Works and Transportation (*George Erichsen, P.E., Director*)

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the Budget Amendment restoring federal funds to the North Patuxent Beach Road Emergency Shoreline Stabilization Project; and to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the Project Partnership Agreement with the Department of the Army for construction of the Patuxent Beach Road Emergency Shoreline Stabilization Project. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to task Commissioner President Russell with signing the Public Works Agreement addenda for County Admin. items listed as 6b. through 6f.; and to sign the Resolutions accepting roads into the Greenbrier Subdivision, posting stop signs, and to post 25 mile per hour speed limit signs. Motion carried 5-0.

Items 6b. through 6f. are as follows:

- b.** Public Works Agreement Addendum for Cecils Mill Subdivision, Section 1, located in the 1st Election District with an Expiration Date of April 1, 2009.

- c.** Public Works Agreement Addenda for Avonlea Subdivision, for Section 2, Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3, all located in the 5th Election District with an Expiration Date of March 1, 2009.

- d.** Public Works Agreement Addendum for Ben Oaks Subdivision, Phases 1, 2, 3, and 4, located in the 5th Election District with an Expiration Date of May 1, 2009.

- e.** Public Works Agreement Addendum for Willowgate at Patuxent Park West Subdivision, Section 1, located in the 8th Election District with an Expiration Date of April 1, 2009.

- f.** Public Works Agreement for Continued Maintenance and Repair for Greenbrier Subdivision, Section 5, located in the 8th Election District with an Expiration Date of April 1, 2009.

7. Dept. of Recreation, Parks, and Community Service (*Phil Rollins, Director*)

(Debra Pence, Museum Division Mgr.)

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Chesapeake Bay Gateway

Network Grant Application, in the total amount of \$42,688, and to sign the two associated letters of support for the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park Enhancement Project. Motion carried 5-0.

(Cynthia Brown, Community Services Division Manager)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Budget Amendment that decreases the FY08 Truancy Prevention (pass-through) Grant budget (US0824) by \$54,253, to align the project budget with the actual grant award. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Dept. of Economic and Community Development *(Bob Schaller, Director; Cynthia DellaGatta, Economic Dev. Coordinator)*

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Amendment to the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Agreement for the Hunting Creek Infrastructure, Project Number MD-07-CD-2. Motion carried 5-0.

SMECO: SOUTHERN MARYLAND RELIABILITY PROJECT

Present: Joe Slater, President and CEO
Ken Capps, VP of Engineering & Operations
Tom Dennison, Public & Media Relations Director)

The SMECO Southern Maryland Reliability Project will upgrade transmission line infrastructure, originating at Aquasco and ending at Hewitt Road (switching station) in St. Marys County. The project will integrate SMECOs 230,000 volt system with the existing 69,000 volt transmission system in Calvert County and southern St. Marys County, looping with existing PEPCO 230 kV lines (looped configuration provides greater reliability to Calvert and St. Marys counties).

The project anticipates a four year construction phase (2011 through 2015), anticipating two years for crossing the Patuxent River. The project budget is approximately \$110 million (with a future escalation total forecast of \$123.1 million). Project cost in St. Marys County is forecasted as \$16.6 million.

The presenters also provided an overview of the projects communications campaign that includes a series of presentations, business roundtables, and community open houses.

INTRODUCTION OF LEADERSHIP SOUTHERN MARYLAND PROGRAM

Present: Patrick Murphy, Advisory Board member and General Counsel
Tom Jarboe, President of the Board
Ray Wernecke, Advisory Board member

Leadership Southern Maryland is currently recruiting 30 candidates (mid to senior level leaders) to participate in a nine month tuition-based program to develop leaders from the Southern Maryland area by:

- Nurturing trusteeship among community leaders for the benefit of the So. MD region
- Increasing understanding and awareness of regional opportunities and threats
- Developing and strengthening networks of decision makers to encourage cooperation and make informed choices
- Providing classroom and hands-on experiences that highlight local and regional issues that challenge So. MD

COMMISSIONERS TIME

The Commissioners highlighted upcoming events and events attended over the past week and personal interest items.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe to adjourn.
Motion carried 5-0.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Commissioners reconvened at 6:30 pm at the Leonardtown High School for the following public hearings.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ON

- (1) THE CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE AND PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASE;**
- (2) RECOMMENDED FY 2009 BUDGET FOR ST. MARYS COUNTY;**
- (3) MECHANICSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS PROPOSED FIRE TAX RATE INCREASE;**
- (4) HOLLYWOOD RESCUE SQUADS PROPOSED RESCUE TAX RATE INCREASE; AND**
- (5) LEXINGTON PARK RESCUE SQUADS PROPOSED RESCUE TAX RATE INCREASE**

**HELD AT LEONARDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL,
LEONARDTOWN, MD**

Present: John Savich, County Administrator
Elaine Kramer, Chief Financial Officer
L. Jeannett Cudmore, Deputy Finance Director
Betty Jean Pasko and Donna Gebicke, Records

Commissioner President Russell provided welcoming remarks and commented on the budget process to date. Ms. Kramer provided an overview of the FY 2009 Recommended Budget and the Constant Yield Tax Rate and Proposed Real Property Tax Rate increase. Mr. Savich noted that he would be the moderator for the five public hearings held following Ms. Kramers presentation. Public comments are not recorded verbatim.

**PUBLIC HEARING: HOLLYWOOD VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD
REQUEST TO INCREASE THE RESCUE TAX RATE WITHIN THE 6TH
ELECTION DISTRICT FROM \$.11 TO \$.20 PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE**

The hearing was opened and closed with no one present to speak on this request.

**PUBLIC HEARING: LEXINGTON PARK VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD
REQUEST TO INCREASE THE RESCUE TAX RATE WITHIN THE 8TH
ELECTION DISTRICT FROM \$.11 TO \$.20 PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE,
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008**

The hearing was opened for public comments:

Tod Jackson, 22487 Torino Dr., California, homeowner and member of the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad and Bay District Volunteer Fire Department.

Its all about the numbers. Volunteers take time out of their personal lives to help citizens in need at no cost. Residents of Arizona pay \$1100 just to be transported via ambulance when they dial 911 - - this does not include any medical treatment. The funds we are requesting are needed for building, training, equipment - - all to support the community in time of need at no cost.

Elfreda Mathis, 45811 Delegates Court, Great Mills

I am speaking on behalf of the Lexington Park Rescue Squad. The volunteer fire and rescue members are jewels in our community. They volunteer their own time and service to support the community. Now, these great men and women have a great need and they need your support and that of the Lexington Park community. We now have 100,000 people in St. Marys County - - with expanded growth comes an increase in community needs. The Lexington Park Rescue Squad wants to be ready to serve and support the community. Ambulances currently do not fit into the bays. The increase they are requesting will only cost \$.20 per day. This is a free service that is provided in time of crisis and need. (Asked for a show of hands.) The citizens are willing to pay an increase in this tax.

Jay Kretzing, 20842 Sunlight Court, Lexington Park

Speaking as a Lexington Park Rescue Squad member and homeowner. I would like to put some reality on the face of what were requesting. There is a smell of sewage, which is coming from the mold and mildew in the basement. I dont sleep in the mens bunkroom because its over the basement. We now have to squeeze around the ambulances when in the bay and new ambulances will be 8 longer. We have 160,000 miles on our

ambulances when due for replacement, which is considerably more than County standards for replacement.

Mark Miller, 22223 Goldenrod Dr., Great Mills, Lexington Park VRS, Chair of Budget Committee, Past President (and other offices)

Thanks to BOCC and citizens. Please understand that it is not an easy thing to ask for a tax increase. But, we do a tough job every day that needs to be done. And, it needs to be funded correctly. We submitted a budget that would allow us to move forward in 09 and in the future. We have provided full justifications in all of our documents. Building needs replacing, as it cant be renovated or expanded due to size of lot and condition. Ambulances dont fit in the building now and they are getting longer over the next few years. We acquired land next to Lexington Park Library and next to Bay District Fire Department for new station. By 2012 and 13, equipment wont fit in the building. We expended our savings over the years so we didnt have to come and request an increase. Grants cant be used to build a new facility. We need a fleet replacement County standards are well below our mileage numbers. It requires more every year. We know the Board has concerns about the percentage of increase over the years and we are willing to discuss with the Board in order to work something out.

PUBLIC HEARING: MECHANICSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST TO INCREASE THE FIRE TAX RATE WITHIN THE 5TH ELECTION DISTRICT FROM 4.4 CENTS TO 5.1 CENTS PER \$100 ASSESSED VALUE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008.

The hearing was opened for public comments:

John Montgomery, President, 40390 Delabrook Road, Mechanicsville, representing Mechanicsville VFD

We are asking for small amount of tax increase - - about \$1.28 per month. Equipment now has to stay outside. Our 30-year old building is in dire need of upgrades (addition to station 2), more room for apparatus, office space, training and physical fitness, and gender specific bunkrooms. We want to be able to keep volunteers at our station to serve the citizens. We are open for discussion on how we can do better on tax increase numbers. Thanks to County staff for their help. The exercise rooms are needed we are monitored all of the time health and fitness are important to our jobs. The level of training that is required results in the need for a training facility. There are stringent requirements for fire fighters. We provide a free service. The items we need are very much needed.

PUBLIC HEARING: CONSTANT YIELD PROPERTY TAX RATE -- PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

Ms. Kramer presented the Board of County Commissioners proposal to increase real property taxes. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2008, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 9.6%, from \$8,348,235,733, to \$9,149,979,847. If St. Marys County maintains the current tax rate of \$.857 per \$100 of assessment, real

property tax revenues will increase by 9.6%, resulting in \$6,870,947 of new real property tax revenues. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$.782, the constant yield tax rate. The County is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The County proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.857 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 9.6% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$6,870,947 in additional property tax revenues.

The hearing was opened for public comments:

Mike Hewitt, 26074 Sotterley Heights Rd., Hollywood

Facts and numbers have been thrown around a lot tonight. Small businesses are failing. Business is slow, people are not spending money, the economy is constricting, food and fuel prices are high, foreclosures are up 43% in St. Marys County, 20% decrease in home values over the last three years. Cost of fuel you cant do anything about what the state does, but you can do something about the Constant Yield Tax Rate. You can help by holding down the citizens tax burden. Over the last four years, \$41.2 million more than anticipated has been accumulated. Staff consistently under-estimates

revenues. Audited budgets are not available. On page seven, you talk about revenues, which is informative, but you also have that miscellaneous revenue was \$27,692,000. Did you have a good bake sale?

The bubble has burst, people are hurting. You have many Reserves: CIP, budget stabilization reserve, public hearing reserves. How can you ask us to squeeze out and give more when you cant account for what you have. Freeze your own COLAs and those of staff making over \$100,000. You provide \$1.56 in non-agency funding. You give a lot of money. Reset bond reserve from 6% to 5%. Review double digit increase. Do we really need Piney Point Lighthouse improvements, Three Notch Trail, portable stage, tennis courts, land, Wellness Center? The pool in Great Mills is under-utilized.

Ray Norris, 24440 James A. Norris Lane, Hollywood

I want to echo Mr. Hewitts comments. The runaway tax situation is chasing people from St. Marys County. I want to thank Commissioner Jarboe. He is the only one out of five who voted against the budget. He believes that taxpayers and homeowners should keep some of their own money. The school system is always a sacred cow (in relation to the budget). I know you have to educate the children. But the property tax its a farce to go to Leonardtown for a permit you are told you have to pay a fee for protection. Protection from what? The County? You dont get it. Big government is all about power. Its a snowball effect. 5% cap is not all rosy. If you have a piece of land - \$60,000 up to \$140,000 assessed value - - you cant sell it for that. Cant afford to live here much longer. Slots was a dirty word until we changed Governors.

Charles Shilling, 16488 Piney Point Road, Piney Point

Would like you to feel our pain and be one with your constituency. Cut budget. There is a mortgage crisis. People are losing their homes. A large percentage of residents travel outside of the County to work and cant afford to buy a whole tank of gas at once. Crabbing industry is dead, restaurants are failing, people wont be taking their boats out to fish due to fuel and license fees. Businesses that depend on sport and recreation are hurting. Solve this crisis by something other than raising taxes. Dire circumstances across the board.

Taxes and fees are like an incurable disease that never goes away once you have it. If you could put a sunset clause on property tax increase that would be good. Its always a one way street. Stop talking about status quo when resources are dropping all around us. Dont accept grants that we cant afford matches or other County contributions, such as the recent one that involved photographing homes. \$150-200,000 and than add to that \$195,000 for furniture for the new building. You are not showing that you are feeling our pain by building a \$3.6m building. I know that decision was made some years ago.

Were not buying new cars - - we cant even afford the gas. Prove to residents that you feel our pain by employing the four cs compassionate, creative, conservative with resources, and cut spending. Funding levels can be brought back up when times are better.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE RECOMMENDED FY 2009 BUDGET FOR ST. MARYS COUNTY

Jan Emerson, 45509 Poplar Lane, Lexington, Park, President EASMC (Education Association of St. Marys County), speaking on behalf of members and as resident of Lexington Park (full comments submitted in writing)

Im here every year for the children. This year, Im pleased to support the Superintendents budget request. We are better off than most areas. Positive things are happening every day in our schools. Thanks for supporting the Superintendents budget request. There is a cost to attracting the best educators. It appears we are at the beginning of the rainy season. Fully fund the Superintendents request and youll still have money for the upcoming rainy season.

Joe Shade, 19724 Oak Ct., Lexington Park, President, CEASMC

Thank you for supporting the Superintendents budget request.

Brad Gottfried, President, College of Southern Maryland

Thanks for your support and for John Savich and Elaine Kramers assistance. Recently, the Lt. Governor presented us with a ceremonial check in the amount of \$12m for the new Wellness Center. This will be the last building on the campus. Yes, the Wellness Center is for the college, but it will be open to all in the community. You couldnt get a better deal - - the County paid 25% of the costs. The Center will be coming on-line in 2011. Fees and tuition paid as people pay to take courses will help support. We are planning for expanded uses - - possibly school district use. Indirect costs are as low as possible. The tri-county college approach is very cost-effective - - with each county contributing a third to costs. There are real challenges and concerns about the economy. After we submitted our budget, we found out that \$421,000 had been cut by state - - which means \$80,000 less to St. Marys County. We also just found out we will have a 10% increase in health benefits. The Wellness Center is a quality of life issue we need to have the ability to attract engineers to Pax River. Thanks for support.

Vladimir Lande, Baltimore, representing COSMIC Symphony Orchestra

Im a professional musician and conductor who has been in every country. You have a jewel here in Southern Maryland. This community orchestra - - which is the only one in Southern Maryland -- is not just the best in the state, but is one of the best in the world. Of our 58 members, 40 are local from St. Marys County, 16 are young kids.

Music impacts lives of those in the group and those hearing the music - - it helps in good and bad times. It impacts the level of living in a very positive way. People come from Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and New York to hear the orchestra. The important thing is that we help people realize their potential. Thank you BOCC. We hope you can appreciate what we are doing and the level of impact it has on the members and the audience.

Glynnis Schmidt, 23146 Esperanza Drive, Lexington Park, representing Kiwanis Club, Circle K Club, St. Marys College

Speaking on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club and the positive impact the programs have on kids, particularly in the area of leadership development, democracy, and service projects. 50 students represented St. Marys County in a recent regional event. Thanks for funding in the past. We are providing opportunities for at-risk youth to learn leadership and service skills. Continue your support and support their expansion. Reconsider the original budget request from the Boys and Girls Club.

Alan Dillingham, President, Library Board of Trustees, 22929 H. Hop Lane, California

I am here tonight with other members of the librarys Board to ask that the BOCC support the Librarys requested \$62,000 addition to its recommended budget. Both the board and the staff of the library appreciate the many different ways that the Commissioners, county departments, and their employees support the Library. Also, we know that these are difficult economic times for most households and businesses and certainly for state and local governments. Nonetheless, the Library Board feels compelled to make this request for a \$62,000 increment to the 2009 fiscal year budget that the BOCC approved on March 25.

Why? When board members discussed this proposed budget with you individually, you have explained that the county was generally proposing budget increases to cover only employee compensation and projected overhead cost increases. It is our understanding that county department budgets for next year have been so adjusted. However, next years proposed Library budget fails to cover \$62,000 in projected increases in health insurance and utilities costs.

The librarys anticipated income for next year has already been reduced by \$50,000 because the Governor froze the state allocation for all libraries statewide. The third reason for the Boards request is that this year is the third in a row that the Library has been asked to fund permanent cost increases, such as cost of living salary adjustments, with temporary funding. This strategy has become too risky and without service reductions the library cannot yet again fund these permanent cost increases internally. Growth in library services has come without substantial additions to the library staff.

The library has managed this growth by finding efficiencies, through staff reallocations and effective technology use. However, at its April 15th meeting, the Board reviewed carefully the proposed 2009 budget and its full implications for library operations. It reluctantly concluded that service reductions will be necessary without an increase in next years proposed budget. These reductions would include closing on Sundays, causing staff layoffs and reduced hours for part-time employees, reduced purchases of new books and digital media for circulation, and reduced internet access for our patrons.

The library boards requested \$62,000 adjustment is the minimum necessary to maintain service at its current levels. I hope you will give our request serious consideration. I appreciate this opportunity to speak publicly about the importance of the county governments continued support of our fine Library.

Frank Marquart, Hollywood, representing FOP Lodge (Bill Raddatz was out of town and unable to make it tonight)

Appreciate support of the Commissioners. The Retirement proposal is tremendous and will allow us to keep deputies and not continue to lose them to other more competitive areas. Thanks also for supporting Sheriffs Office budget.

Dawn Pipkin, 24701 Blackistone Rd., Hollywood, MD

I fully understand the challenges that County government will be facing. I also trust that you will put the best interests of all citizens in mind as you reach your final decisions. As a parent of a child in SMCPs, I commend the Commissioners and the Board of Education on the collaborative discussions that have occurred over the last year. The opening of the Evergreen Elementary School, the Academy of Finance at Chopticon High, expansion of the STEM Academy, the Fairlead Academy, as well as a new round of negotiations with public school employees will all continue our school system on its path from good to great.

I encourage this Board to support the Board of Education budget that was presented by Dr. Martirano. I hope that the partnership that was started in budget work sessions will continue and that the Commissioners will support the cause of quality education for all students. The students are county on our system, and as a citizen, I am counting on you.

Faith Abernathy, 29839 Lincoln Rd., Mechanicsville

Want to remind you that students deserve an excellent education.

Marguereite Morris, P.O. Box 262, Callaway, representing Leahs House

Im here to speak the truth. This County deserves a shelter for women and children. Leahs House is the first shelter for women and children in St. Marys County. You asked us last year to show stability. In 2007, Three Oaks provided false information about available resources in this County. In 2008 false information was given out again by Three Oaks and you allowed this false information to air on the television. Leahs House has received over \$200,000. In 2008, Dyson and Bohanan obtained a state commitment of \$145,000 to help build a facility. Petition was signed by over 1500 supporters. On April 16, 2008, Angels Watch and Three Oaks were full. DSS referral came to us - - we continue to house the homeless. Do the right thing. Threats were made to Leahs House. Last year we did not receive any County funding. A hate call was received and you did not get involved. We are close to not being able to provide for our homeless. Give us something - \$500. We challenge you for what we have committed to do to help. Do the right thing.

John Parlett, Charlotte Hall, Co-Chair of community-based Workforce Housing Task Force.

The Task Force was initiated in 2005 to investigate the shortage of workforce housing in St. Marys County. We presented our final report in 2007, but have continued to meet. Our mission is to track the progress of workforce housing issues and advocate for the cause. Thanks for all you have done in this regard. The lack of workforce housing affects each of us. We want to be able to recruit and retain a workforce. We have requested that a full time position be included in the budget for a staff person dedicated to workforce housing, by being a liaison with business and county and state agencies and assisting in formulating a workforce housing strategy. Should the opportunity present itself to fund this position in FY09, we assure you it will be money well spent.

Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent, St. Marys County Public Schools

(accompanied by Board of Education Chair Bill Mattingly and members Mary Washington, Sal Raspa and Cathy Allen, and student board member and member-elect.)

I want to take you back to November/December of last year. We made adjustments to the budget in anticipation of what was coming. We commend you for your collaboration. Every child is receiving a high quality of education -- by design -- not by accident. As we think about this time last fall, the budget is now very lean, but is still providing a 4% COLA, health care retirement, low class size, Stem and Charter School funding, para-educators, middle school task force, achievement gap programs, fuel costs, and increased focus on security. There has been a lot of collaboration and communications. Continue to support our efforts and the budget submitted.

Barbara Thompson, 43865 Thompson Farm Lane, Hollywood, representing St. Marys County Justice and Advocacy Council (Archdiocese of Washington)

Thanks for your support of workforce housing initiatives in the capital budget, such as the Patuxent Park Neighborhood Preservation Program. The availability of affordable workforce housing is important from an economic standpoint and also from social perspective. An important next step, which was identified by both the Justice and Advocacy Council and the Chambers Workforce Housing Task Force, is the addition of a staff position to coordinate workforce housing initiatives. If the

opportunity for supplemental funding presents itself in the next month, please consider funding the affordable workforce housing coordinator position. People are more important than things. Justice and Advocacy Council believes the first priority should go to agencies that provide basics of shelter and food.

Tod Jackson, 22487 Torino Dr., California

Want to talk about transportation, particularly the school bus drivers who undergo tremendous stress each day. They are not considered important at budget time. Ask you to take the time to look at school bus drivers when considering the budget. Our kids get to school each day because of these bus drivers. Please take the drivers into consideration.

Marcel Brooks, 29615 All Faith Church Rd., Mechanicsville

Representing Minority Business Alliance. We failed to meet the deadline for budget submission. We ask for your support of the Minority Business Alliance.

Marilyn Crosby, 46285 Cecil Rd., Lexington Park

I am a retired teacher and candidate for the Board of Education. I have been speaking for the children since 1992. Thanks for \$8m provided this year. If the citizens want to learn more about the budget, go to the Countys financial page on the website. Its excellent. Your support of the budget will keep us afloat. It helps fund the negotiated agreement for next year, which is so important to maintain quality teachers and allows us to meet class size goals, funds three positions for Evergreen and other programs. We need to look forward to FY10 and the need to fund the next negotiated agreement. We will also need to equip Evergreen. Thanks for all you have done.

John Tucker, representing So. Md. Boys and Girls Club based in Lusby

Thanks for putting us in the budget. Most of the funds you provide go directly to services. Of the 80-member staff, only 3.5 work in admin/support, the rest work on programs.

Terry Griest, 22015 Clipper Dr., Great Mills

Thanks for your collaboration and support. It is very encouraging. Must continue to address needs of the deserving this year and after. Need to grow and maintain a workforce. Partnerships have been formed. 2,000 are taking advantage of special education services. Special education programs must have a financial support. Many families move away, which results in a decreased workforce (adults and children). Specialized programs must be created. Increase funding for special education in years to come. There is a saying, if you build it, they will come, but, if you build it, they will also stay.

Nancy Easterling, 23484 River Road, Lexington Park, Marketing Manager, Sotterley (Director Michael Lane could not be here tonight)

Thank you for your support. You are financing a way to learn that is outside of the box and have helped fulfill our mission: the education of the community, and especially the kids.

Kelli Hill, lived at St. Marys College for last two years. President of Circle K Club (Kiwanis program) and adviser to Spring Ridge students, on behalf of Boys and Girls Club.

Boys and Girls Club provides kids with community involvement opportunities through service and leadership. Respect and character is developed. Not all kids get this at home. They need a mentor to grow into responsible citizens. Please fund this important program.

June Nichols, 45970 East Quincy Terrace, Lexington Park

I am requesting funding for special education, especially for those with autism and autism related disorders. One in 150 is diagnosed with autism, which has a genetic pre-disposition. We are the second largest high-tech community in the state of Maryland. 100 students indicate autism as their primary disability. On national average, 60% of engineers, scientists, pilots, mathematicians and those with musical ability are diagnosed with autism. I am a mechanical engineer (and a high school physics teacher). My sons are autistic and currently in programs at Greenview Knolls where they receive one-on-one academic support and a safe haven to deal with their (condition). Similar programs need to be established at other schools, and at the middle and high school levels. There is a connection between autism and music, math, memory.

Wanda Twigg, Vice President of the Education Association of St. Marys County and a history teacher at Leonardtown High, submitted comments in writing, which are available in the Commissioners Office.

After hearing comments from all those present who wished to speak, the hearing was closed and meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Betty Jean Pasko, Sr. Admin. Coordinator
Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant