

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
Tuesday, April 24, 2007**

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, Senior Admin. Coordinator (Recorder)

Prior to the convening of the business meeting, the Commissioners attended the Month of the Young Child Breakfast at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Leonardtown, which was sponsored by the Local Management Board.

The Board of County Commissioners' meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Russell announced additions to the agenda: Executive Session for Personnel and Invitation to Christmas in April.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to adopt the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of April 17, 2007, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Check Register for checks dated April 24, 2007, as submitted. Motion carried 4-0 (Commissioner Raley abstained).

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL INVITATION

Present: Mary Ann Chasen, Howard Thompson, Fred Morton

Celebrating its 17th year, Christmas in April for St. Mary's County is Saturday, April 28, 2007. Approximately 1,400 volunteers will be making a difference to the lives of 22 homeowners and their families with free home repairs. A major milestone, "500 home"

mark will be passed this year in repairing the homes of low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners.

DISTINGUISHED COUNTY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Present: Sue Sabo, Director, Human Resources
June Robrecht, Deputy Director, Human Resources

The Commissioners recognized Monika Kopel, Senior Office Specialist in the Office of the County Administrator, who was selected as the “2006 Distinguished County Employee of the Year.” This award honors and recognizes employees who go above and beyond the call of duty and exceed expectations, while working to support the mission of St. Mary’s County Government.

The following nominees were also recognized: Kathy Arnold, Janice Blackistone, Patty Meyers, Bob Johnston, Bob Kelly, Jim Farren, Patty Stiegman, June Smith, Jay Mattingly, John Wise, and Cindy Pilkerton.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for May 1, and May 8, 2007
2. **Department of Aging** (*Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Peggy Maio, Fiscal Supervisor*)

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the St. Mary’s County Office of Aging Notification of Grant Award on the Older Americans Act, Title III, and the related Budget Amendment, reflecting an increase of \$5,382 in revenues and expenses. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the St. Mary’s County Office of Aging Notification of Grant Award on the Nutrition Services Incentive Program, and the related Budget Amendment, reflecting an increase of \$11,253 in revenues and expenses. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the St. Mary’s County Department of Aging Application for Federal Assistance on the RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program). Motion carried 5-0.

3. **Board, Committee, and Commission Appointment**

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to appoint Andree Wells, Commission for Women Representative, to the Family Violence Coordinating Council. Motion carried 5-0.

BRIEF UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Present: Colin Keohan, Deputy County Attorney
Angela Blondino, Paralegal, Office of the County Attorney

Mr. Keohan reported that the County's proposals fared well, with most of the County's legislative proposals adopted. Commenting that there's still a lot of work to be done to implement the proposals that passed, Mr. Keohan thanked members of the Delegation, the Commissioners, staff, agencies and department heads for their contributions to the process.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Keohan and Ms. Blondino for their good work.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Commissioner Mattingly

Participated in the groundbreaking for new Hospice House in Callaway.

Attended the luncheon with Lt. Governor Brown, walking tour of Leonardtown and visits to businesses, and the check presentation to the Local Management Board for Care Management Entity.

Attended the signing ceremony for the Cooperative Agreement for encroachment mitigation at Patuxent River.

The MD State Fireman's Association (Bobby Balta, President) had their meeting at Bay District over the weekend.

Apologized to St. Clement's Island, could not make the lighthouse reconstruction activities because of other obligations.

Earth Day celebration successful.

Along with the Director of Public Safety, Dave Zylak, met with the Board of Fire & Rescue, Charles County, regarding fire and rescue responses in the mutual aid agreement.

Attended the retirement party for Dr. John Fenwick on Sunday.

Commissioner Dement

Attended the St. Mary's Hospital appreciation dinner.

Along with Commissioner Mattingly, attended the McKay's ribbon cutting in Leonardtown.

Regarding the encroachment letter signing; also present were Senator Ben Cardin and Congressman Steny Hoyer.

Also attended the Hospice House groundbreaking and thanked the individuals that turned-out for the walk.

Attended the Earth Day celebration.

Attend the Blessing of the Bikes.

Attended a benefit for Mrs. Dot Morgan.

Congratulations to Dr. Fenwick, 40+ years of service to the County.

Commissioner Raley

Apologized for not being able to attend the Earth Day celebration and the Blessing of the Bikes event, was the MC for Dr. Fenwick's celebration which took place during the same time.

Reminded County employees that Wellness Day is Friday.

Public Hearing regarding the Budget is scheduled for this evening at 6:30 pm at the Leonardtown High School.

Department of Land Use and Growth Management is holding two public informational meetings regarding the TDR program; one at Spring Ridge Middle School and one at Chopticon High School.

Commissioner Jarboe

Played music at the Blessing of the Bikes.

Golden Beach lost our #1 volunteer, Doris Hodges.

Commissioner Russell

Along with Sheriff Cameron and County Administrator John Savich, attended the third Study Circle last evening.

Bowles Farms will feature a Cal Ripken theme for their next corn maze.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel (as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1), not to include Boards and Committees. Motion carried 5-0.

Personnel

Present: Commissioner Francis Jack Russell, President
Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
John Savich, County Administrator
Sue Sabo, Human Resources Director
Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant to the BOCC, Recorder

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1

Time Held: 10:43 am – 12:18 pm

Action Taken: The Commissioners conducted employment interview and discussed personnel matters.

ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION (motion taken in open session)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to direct staff to proceed as discussed in Executive Session on matters related to personnel. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF: (1) MODIFYING THE PROPOSED BUILDING HEIGHT LIMITS ALLOWED IN SCHEDULE 32.1 AND (2) CORRECTING A SPELLING ERROR (DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT)

Present: Denis Canavan, Director, LU&GM

Mr. Canavan stated for the record that notice of this Public Hearing was advertised in the April 6, and April 11, 2007, editions of the Enterprise, and in the April 8, and April 15, 2007, editions of the St. Mary's Today newspapers.

Mr. Canavan stated that on January 23, 2007, the Board of County Commissioners completed the first reading of the proposed amendment and waived the 30-day comment period and the second reading. The Planning Commission conducted a Public Hearing on March 12, 2007. Following the Planning Commission public hearing, and after having considered testimony received during the public hearing and comments received during the 10-day open record period, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend approval of the proposed text amendments.

Mr. Canavan provided an overview of the proposed changes to Schedule 32.1 of the Zoning Ordinance:

- A. Deleted footnote #7 following the words "Maximum Height"
- B. Inserted a new footnote #7 next to the 40-foot height limit of the RPD, RSC, RCL, RL, RNC, and RMX zones.
- C. Amended the language of footnote #7 to read as follows: Principal structures may be erected to a maximum height of 50 feet when the side and rear yards are increased one foot for each foot of height in excess of the height restrictions for the zone. Existing buildings constructed as of (*effective date of this amendment*) are not considered a non-conforming building height.
- D. Inserted a new footnote #12 following the words "Maximum Height".
- E. Inserted new footnote #12 to read as follows: Height of all structures subject to site-by-site analysis for compliance with Chapter 43, AICUZ and AE height restrictions. Structures with a building height greater than 45 feet shall install an approved sprinkler system. Height of communication towers are exempt from height restrictions of Schedule 32.1 and regulated by the provisions contained in Chapter 51 of this Ordinance.
- F. Corrected spelling error in footnote #10.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Russell closed the Public Hearing at 1:47 PM and declared the record open for ten days. During the open record period, written comments may be submitted to the Department of Land Use and Growth Management or to the Board of County Commissioners.

RECESS

The Commissioners recessed at 1:50 pm and reconvened at 6:30 pm at Leonardtown High School for the Public Hearing on the FY2008 Recommended Budget.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE AND RECOMMENDED FY 2008 BUDGET FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY - HELD AT Leonardtown High School, Leonardtown, MD.

Present: John Savich, County Administrator
Elaine Kramer, Chief Financial Officer
L. Jeannett Cudmore, Deputy Finance Director

Commissioner President Russell provided introductions and welcoming remarks. Chief Financial Officer Elaine Kramer provided an overview of the Constant Yield Tax Rate and FY 2008 Recommended Budget. Notice of the evening's public hearings was published in the St. Mary's Today newspaper on April 8, 2007. Final adoption of the FY2008 Budget is scheduled for May 29, 2007. Any additional written comments relative to the FY08 Budget must be submitted by May 10, 2007. The public hearings were moderated by John Savich, County Administrator.

Public Hearing: Constant Yield Tax Rate

The public hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate was opened for public comment. As there was no one present wishing to speak on this matter, the hearing was closed, but will remain open for ten days for the submission of written public comments.

Public Hearing: FY 2008 Recommended Budget

The public hearing on the FY 2008 Recommended Budget was opened for public comment. The following is a summary of each public comment presented:

Jan Emerson, 45509 Poplar Lane, Lexington Park, MD (President, Education Association of St. Mary's County)

Pleased to support the budget request of the St. Mary's County Schools' (SMCPS) Superintendent and to oppose any cuts to the request. (Distributed a flyer indicating

decline in funding since 1994.) No tax increase is necessary and plenty will remain in the undesignated fund balance.

Liz Leskinen, 44219 Airport Rd., California, MD (Maryland State Teachers Association)

These are my views and those of 2,000 employees. Decline in funding for the school system over the last ten years is putting staff and students at risk. We have experienced significant growth. More students = more needs: cafeteria and building service staff, counselors, administrators, technicians, etc. Quality of schools models our very community.

Leonard Cole and Scott Rowan ceded their time to Ed Forsman

Ed Forsman, 37159 E. Winston Dr., Mechanicsville, MD (Executive Director, SmartCo)

Thank you for your support in 2006. (Re-capped progress over last year and new initiatives in place.) Looking forward to working with the Commissioners and the community to continue and expand our programs.

Joe Shade, 44219 Airport Rd., California, MD (representing Non-Certified Employees of St. Mary's County Public Schools)

Please support the SMCPS Superintendent's budget request.

Faith Abernathy, 44219 Airport Rd., California, MD (Collective Education Association of St. Mary's County Public Schools)

Specifically want to address wages and salaries for school employees. How can we support our families on a 3.8% increase when expenses have risen so much higher. The Superintendent's budget request meets the minimum needs of students and staff.

Michael Lane, 44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, MD (Executive Director, Sotterley Plantation Foundation)

(Provided examples of how Sotterley works with the school system to help students understand the past so that they can preserve it.) The cost of this unique educational experience is approximately \$60/per student. Thank you for your support in the past and please reconsider our \$75,000 budget request.

John Madel, 38766 Cobrums Wharf Rd., Avenue, MD

Speaking to Workforce Housing as it relates to the capital budget. The Chamber's Task Force on Workforce Housing has completed its work and will be coming before the Commissioners with a report very soon. Thank you for including funds in the FY08 capital budget for workforce housing by a factor of two. However, the capital budget in the multi-year plan doesn't continue this support. Need to plan for funding beyond 2009. With growth comes more teachers, police, retail workers, etc. The price of workforce housing has grown to the point that it is not affordable for median income workers. One approach is to preserve traditional housing. Reconsider planning for the out years by increasing capital budget in this area.

Alice Willingham, 4250 Pkwy Sub Rd., LaPlata, MD (St. Mary's teacher for 18 years)

Lots of changes this year, which are all good. But there are two new initiatives in particular that need funding this year: after school buses and the on-line grade book. We have one common goal - - success for our students. I urge you to fully-fund the SMCPS's budget request. These are only two of many wonderful proposed new programs.

Alan Dillingham, (Library Board of Trustees)

On behalf of the Library Board, I am here to seek approval of our revised budget request for \$109,000. We have excellent staff, who are continuously working hard to improve services. We need to be competitive to continue attracting the best staff for our libraries. **Our revised request achieves this goal.** \$109,000 critical for continuing library services at level citizens have come to expect. Appreciate the 2009-2013 capital projects planned and really appreciate opportunity to speak.

Dr. Kathy O'Brien, 26845 Point Lookout Rd., (Chair, Family Violence Coordinating Council)

We have seven main tasks we are working on and will need your assistance. We appreciate the position in the State's Attorney's Office. We are continuing to make progress with no funds. To make goals six and seven possible, we need your help to secure emergency shelter and provide legal assistance for citizens, and to do a comprehensive public awareness campaign – asking for \$40,000.

Linda Lymas, 44615 Rolling Oak Rd., (Supervisor of Instruction for English as a Second Language and former principal of Great Mills High School)

Joining me is Marian Steinbach (Great Mills High Assistant Principal). As Dr. Maritriano says – equity of rigor and resources is needed. Those who did not pass will continue to struggle without intervention of the six LEAD high school teachers. These students require tailored intervention to meet their needs and to close the achievement gap regarding assessments. Please fund the high school LEAD teachers.

Kathleen Reif, (Director of County Libraries)

Thank you for your support over the last several years. Use of library is increasing -- \$50,000 from state was plowed back into materials each year, new Sunday service, additional PC users. Thank you for \$75,000 technology grant and capital budget facility study. Our FY 08 request was for an additional \$121,000 – you gave us \$89,000 - - cut \$35,000. We are willing to compromise – put back \$20,000 and we will add library fines to obtain more revenue. Give us these needed funds to give library staff same merit and cola as County staff.

Wanda Twigg, 28016 Hill and Dale Drive, Mechanicsville, MD (EASMC/MSTA)

Fully fund superintendent's budget. This is a catch up request. We are still 20% behind counterparts in Charles and Calvert County. It is said that problems can't be solved by throwing money at them - - but these problems CAN be solved by money. Keep your

campaign pledges. You have the money and the children need it. The state has increased its contributions. Children, staff and programs need your help.

Pam Wilkerson, (CEO, Boys and Girls Club of Southern Maryland, Lusby, MD)

Please reconsider our proposed budget request. We provide hope and opportunity to youth through after school programs. You have a window of opportunity now to impact over 800 families. Park Hall and Green Holly programs will cease to exist without County funds to use as leverage to get increased funding from other sources.

Kiara Curtis

2007 Boys and Girls Club Member of the Year for Maryland. 14 years old. Importance of keeping clubs open for all. Give every youth hope and opportunity.

Sarah Geary

I'm speaking on behalf of Boys and Girls Club. The benefits are great. It is a safe, supportive environment.

Iona Geary

I will ask all parents to stand who are here tonight to request continuation of funding for Boys and Girls Club. It's a safe, fun, educational environment. Clubs are our partners in parenting. Please reconsider funding. Clubs make a real and lasting difference in lives of St. Mary's kids and impact the future of the community as well.

Jody Andrews, 27321 N. Sandgates Rd., Mechanicsville, MD (teacher at Margaret Brent and Safety Committee Chair.)

Please fund the Superintendent's budget request. My primary request is that you fully fund initiatives that will support student and staff safety. Most of us came to teach - -but we have to also realize importance of safety, and in particular, the need to fund Supervisor for Safety position.

Dave Chapman, 37390 Heath Ct., Mechanicsville, MD (Planner, Dept. of Land Use and Growth Management (LUGM))

Reconsider position on retiree health benefits. Accepted position seven years ago – salary mediocre, but benefits enticed me enough to work for the County. Jobs in LUGM require competent, educated staff to deal with complex issues. Many may have to retire in three years, which will result in a large drain on the pool of experienced employees.

Keith Harless, 23225 Mirfield Ln., Lexington Park, MD

As parent and member of Superintendent's Safety and Security Advisory Committee, I want to address public school safety issues. There is a need for controlled school entries and for a safety coordinator.

Sandra Spence, 45846 Highway to Heaven Lane, Great Mills, MD

I am a parent and an employee. Taking away after school programs - - Boys and Girls Club, Jr. ROTC - - because of budget constraints is a bad choice. I read about high rates of underage drinking, drugs and teen pregnancy. If these after school programs are taken

away, you'll see increases in delinquency and kids will be put at risk. It takes a village, and you are part of that village. These programs will help ensure future productive members of society.

Mary Ann Stamm, 45442 Steer Horn Neck Rd., Hollywood, MD (teacher, administrator, volunteer, parent)

Request that you fully fund the school's budget request. We're always stretching things and doing what we have to do to get the job done. We need it all this time. I read in the paper, St. Mary's County has the second highest population growth rate in the state. I see more and more wealth in this County and we just need to be creative to get more money. I recently visited North Point High School in Charles County - - state of the art. Don't want to have to move to Charles County to experience this. Students you are spending money on today, will be our caretakers tomorrow.

Waymond Detwiler, 43716 Stephenson Dr., Leonardtown, MD (Tennis Association Board of Directors)

Working with Recreation and Parks to improve tennis opportunities in the County.

Thanks to

Phil Rollins, Kathy Bailey, Kenny Sothoron and other Recreation and Parks staff for their assistance. Support tennis in St. Mary's County

Barbara Thompson, 29744 Sotterley Rd., Hollywood MD (Justice and Advocacy Council of St. Mary's)

On behalf of Justice and Advocacy Council of St. Mary's (represents Archdiocese of Washington at the County level). In 2000 asked county to adopt a strategic plan for safe and affordable housing. You have included \$250,000 in support of affordable housing this year. What is missing is the recommended staff position to address the whole ranges of housing needs in St. Mary's County. We continue to believe this position is critical to address housing needs short and long term. Request favorable consideration of this staff position.

Chris Young, 29720 Bruce Rd., Mechanicsville, MD (7th grader at Margaret Brent)

Special Education staff helps me with what I need to be successful. Request your support of proposed Special Education budget so that all will have the help they need to succeed.

Judy Young, 29720 Bruce Rd., Mechanicsville, MD (Citizen Advisory Committee for Special Education, representing Margaret Brent)

Special Education must be tailored to specific needs of each student. It takes individualized and creative approaches. Support Superintendent's budget which includes the recommendations of our committee.

Lori Werrell, 42019 Starlight Dr., Leonardtown, MD (County Council of PTA's) in place of president who could not attend.

It's not about what you have done - - we aren't there yet. Calvert is still leaps ahead and we're not there yet. Wealth is here in the County. We must keep dialog open and figure it out together.

Marilyn Crosby, 46285 Cecil Rd., Lexington Park, MD

\$2.5m cut – too early for him (Superintendent of Schools) to make cuts. I hope the money can be found. You have done a wonderful job in getting us our major needs, including maintaining class size, which is most important, and money for teacher's raises. Alternatives for students, such as: STEM, Charter School, 84 teachers - - great job -- but there are other things like Special Education, freshman sports, after school programs, and high school assessments improvements that are still needed. There is room for negotiation and hope.

Rhokey Millham, 40599 Port Place, Leonardtown, MD

Former principal and currently Superintendent's designee for expulsion conferences. We can't eliminate all problems facing children today, but we can provide adequate staff and a focus on school safety issues before tragedy occurs. Provide funds for support staff who make a big difference in our schools.

Dawn Langley, 23510 Bushwood Rd., (Dynard Elementary School teacher)

Every year we have to look for outside sources of funding to support programs for our most at risk students. Please fund before and after school programs so that we can provide all of our students who need this service to participate in extended day.

Capt. Matt Scassero, 21092 Rosebay St., Leonardtown, MD (parent and taxpayer)

Representing Navy and our relationship to the County. Together we're making a difference. Science and Technology - STEM – linked to future success of our mission. Navy has committed resources to this, too. It is in our best interest to grow workforce at home. Received approval to recruit 400 engineers. Vested interest in success of school. Putting our resources in. Support SMCPs budget request.

Gail Whitney, P.O. Box 72, Dameron, MD 20628 (Matilda the Clown)

Working with children for over 30 years. The Boys and Girls Club at Lexington Park Elementary helps save money. 3-6pm most dangerous time for children to be on their own. Keep on serving kids and keeping them safe.

Madiba Dennie, 41660 Ferber Ct., Leonardtown, MD

President of Student Council and president-elect of Maryland Association of Student Councils. Reasons to support after school programs: enhance students learning experience, improve attendance, reduce drop out rate, students take more advanced courses, develop social skills, extra time with teachers, lessen delinquency rate. Hear voice of students and fully fund after school programs.

Glynnis Schmidt, 23146 23146 Esperanza Dr., Lexington Park, MD (member of Kiwanis Club)

Support Boys and Girls Club – working with Lexington Park Elementary and Spring Ridge Middle School Kiwanis "K Kids." Support and expand this program.

Wayne T. Lockley, 43989 White Cedar Ln., California, MD 20619

Volunteer in school system, Blue Ribbon Task Force Gifted and Talented Committee. Without money – tools may not be available for after school programs. We are working to close achievement gap – it's a small number, but affects us all.

Kate Sullivan, 44572 Bellview Ct., Tall Timbers, MD 20690 (President of Governing Board of new Chesapeake Charter School), and also a media specialist in SMCPSs. Reasons to support charter school. So far, renovated facility with \$1m private and federal funds. Thanks for support for full and adequate funding.

Laurel James, Lexington Park; Executive Director, Tri-County Youth Services Bureau

Requested restoring of funding; 50% was cut last year and later restored. Program reduces juvenile delinquency and supports students and families. \$180,000 from Governor's Office of Children goes to Charles and Calvert Counties.

Jamie Raley, P. O. Box 52, Avenue, MD (Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland (CSM); joined by Dr. Brad Gottfried, President, CSM)

Voiced support for fully funding FY08 CSM budget, Leonardtown Campus (\$8.2m). There are 2530 full-time students; one-third will remain in St. Mary's (workforce). Expressed thanks for continuing support.

Heike Lasoski, 42257 Bird Haven Dr., Leonardtown MD

Voiced support for fully funding Board of Education budget. Has three children attending Leonardtown Elementary School; two with special needs. The County has a wonderful school system and wonderful teachers.

Robert Bowles, 20260 Colton Point Rd., Colton's Point MD (Planner, LU&GM)

Voiced opposition for extending years of service required for receiving full health retirement benefits from 16 years to 25. Joined the County government post 9/11. Lower salary tolerable in light of good retirement benefits package. Will need to work another 15 years to be fully vested; will be over 77 years old.

Roy Fedders, P.O. Box 35, Dameron, MD

Voiced support for fully funding Board of Education budget. Not representing any agency or department, but here as a concerned citizen. School budget needs to fully support safe school initiative; need to improve school safety and security.

Mary Dryden, 22322 Cedar St., Leonardtown, MD

Voiced concern (and requested clarification) regarding the additional \$60 waste management fee and highlighted costs and fees already being charged and other increases in charges (regarding service at St. Clement's Shores). Questioned if the proposed waste management facility (*St. Andrew's Church Rd.*) will eliminate the existing fuel costs. Requested that senior citizens get a break on waste management costs.

Dr. Michael Martirano, 23160 Moakley Street, Leonardtown, MD (Superintendent, St. Mary's County Public Schools) joined by several members of the Board of Education and St. Mary's School System

Voiced support for fully funding Board of Education's budget request. Reviewed positives with school system (including being the 2nd in the state for highly-skilled teachers) and challenges; achievement gaps, safety and security, drop out rate, charter school, three schools identified as needing to improve academic performance, benefits, and aging technology. The budget presented is the budget that's needed -- no fluff added; submitted budget is 'needs based'. \$2.5m cut will be difficult to address challenges; "We know what to do to make a great school system."

Bob Pellicoro, Russet Road, Rockville, MD (consultant)

Voiced support for funding Board of Education's budget request. Presented data regarding the "financial health" of St. Mary's County (past three years, general funds have exceeded \$11m) and education. Affordability is not an issue. Encouraged immediate reversal of education funding cuts.

Gus Eggert, California, MD; on behalf of Patuxent River Naval Museum

Requested reconsideration of museum's request for funding. With education being the 'theme' (of the public hearing), the museum is an educational facility.

Phyllis Taylor, P.O. Box 1041, Lexington Park, MD 20653; on behalf of Leah's House

Requested reconsideration for Leah's House funding request. Daughter was murdered in 2004. Can happen to anyone, and she thought it would never happen to her. Leah's House is a place (*safe house*) for abused women to go for help. Please support requested funding for this needed program.

Kevin Dunne, 46845 Morning Dew Lane., Lexington Park, MD; on behalf of St. Mary's County Kiwanis Club

Voiced support for funding St. Mary's County Kiwanis program for boys and girls. Provided first-aid coloring books titled "What Happens after 911 Arrives" as an example of the work the elementary children do.

Marquerite Morris, P.O. Box 206, Callaway, MD 20620; on behalf of Leah's House

Requested reconsideration of funding request for Leah's House. Presented a petition with 860 names and provided information regarding Leah's House, the only shelter for women and children in the County. There have been 225 referrals, and over 6000 volunteer hours. There are nine children there tonight. Need to address homeless women and children. There have been several agencies, organizations, and individuals that have given (supported financially). Requested \$40k, don't have to give it all. In a contract to purchase Happyland property.

Becky Stevens, 23181 Luckton Court, Hollywood, MD 29636; on behalf of So. MD Child Care Resource and Referral Center (SMCCRC)

Requested fully funding SMCCRC budget request. Asking for \$19k; a bargain for services provided. Some funding provided by United Way.

Terri Griest, 22015 Clipper Drive, Great Mills, MD 20634

Voiced support for fully funding the BOE's requested budget. Has two children; first grader is gifted, budget needs to address the needs of all levels of students. Son in the 4th grade has Asburger Syndrome; also gifted and has special needs, is a "twice exceptional" student.

Sherri St.Clair, 38520 Ah Ha Lane, Avenue, MD; on behalf of Commission on Aging

Expressed concerns regarding senior citizen issues; i.e., transportation and housing. The senior citizen population is growing in St. Mary's County. Expanding the travel routes and progress with the Charlotte Hall Sr. Center is encouraging.

Janice Talbot Walthour, 20493 Partin's Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653; on behalf of NAACP Education Committee

Requested a moment of silence for Albertine Lancaster, wife of John Lancaster.

Regarding education budget, advocate for adversity in the workforce and recruitment of minorities for teacher positions. The number of diverse students is increasing, while diversity of teachers is decreasing.

Michael Capasso, 22314 Hanover Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20650; on behalf of Leonardtown Athletic Boosters

Voiced support for fully funding Board of Education's budget request.

Linda Thomas, 46852 Flower Drive, Lexington Park, MD (citizen)

Voiced support for fully funding Board of Education's budget request. Need to support initiatives to eliminate achievement gap, students are being left behind. Advocate for 'non-traditional schools', STEM program, and Chesapeake Charter School.

Dan Morris, Mechanicsville, MD (citizen)

Has a senior in high school. Concerned about children driving in St. Mary's County (recent deaths, 16 year old girl driving while intoxicated). Driving schools teach how to not get tickets; e. g., tell students where to look out for cops. Need to educate children on the driving laws and common sense instead.

Coleman Hillman, Mechanicsville, MD (citizen)

Supporter of cleanliness of the County; buildings, parks, and grounds keepers take a lot of pride.

Dawn Pipkin, Hollywood, MD (Public Services)

Regarding education budget, expressed commitment to "continuous improvement" of St. Mary's County public schools. Referenced a middle school task force report.

Dennis Logan, Bel Alton, MD; on behalf of Jude House (Executive Director)

Request to reconsider funding for St. Mary's County residents of Jude House. Jude House is located in Charles County. Since 1972, had over 6000 St. Mary's County residents. Recommended a contract for actual costs (St. Mary's Co. residents), could be per diem basis.

Monika Lee, Leonardtown, MD (citizen)

Voiced support for fully funding Board of Education's budget request. Has four children in the public school system. Is representing 136 adults and 221 students, Re: 2/2007 letter to the BOCC. Advocates allocating funding to specific education programs. Calvert County schools are a good example.

Janice Blackistone, Chaptico, MD 20621; on behalf of St. Mary's County Employees Association

Appreciate the 3% COLA for County employees. County employees realize this has been a difficult budget process. Requested changing the years of service required for full retirement health benefits from 16 to 25 years. Consider the number of employees that take second jobs to make a living.

David Triantos, Medley's Neck (Leonardtown, MD); Community Television, Inc.

Advocates public access television without funds and franchises; should have a public access channel. Gets cable time on MetroCast to broadcast video. Community Television, Inc. is a multi-purpose corporation, used by non-profits and for community activities.

ADJOURNMENT

The Public Hearings were closed and the Commissioners' meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Betty Jean Pasko, Senior Administrative Coordinator