

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Present: Commissioner President Thomas F. McKay

Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement

Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe

Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.

Commissioner Daniel H. Raley

George G. Forrest, County Administrator

Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to authorize Commissioner McKay to sign the Check Register. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve the minutes of the Commissioner's Community meeting of Friday, September 26, 2003. Motion carried.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the minutes of the Commissioner's meeting of Tuesday, September 30, 2003. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS

The Commissioners presented proclamations declaring October as Healthcare Careers Month and October 6-10, 2003, as Mental Illness Awareness Week.

6th ANNUAL FARM LIFE FESTIVAL

Mary Ann Chasen invited the Commissioners and the public to attend the 6th Annual Farm Life Festival hosted by John and Kitty Parlett on October 11 and 12 from 9 am to 4 pm. The festival provides an opportunity to look back at the history of agriculture and celebrate and support those in agriculture today in St. Mary's County. Proceeds benefit Christmas in April.

FOOD DRIVE

Cynthia Brown, Director of Community Services, announced that the annual Community Service Food Drive will take place on October 10 and 11. The public was encouraged to participate by bringing non-perishable food items to the store-front collection site, offered by Millison Development, at 21801 North Shangri-La Drive, Suite F, Lexington Park. All donations will be divided equally among local food pantries to assist families in need in St. Mary's County.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TIME

1. Draft Agendas for October 14 and 21, 2003 were reviewed.

2. Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President McKay to sign Waterway Improvement Fund Application and Project Agreement for Cat Creek. Motion carried.

3. It was agreed to defer approval of Public Works Agreement Addendum for Avenmar Subdivision so that the location can be corrected from 8th District to 3rd.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement to approve and authorize Commissioner President McKay to sign Public Works Agreement Addenda for: Willow Woods Subdivision, Section 1; Cedar Cove Subdivision (Kedges Strait), Section 9; Hickory Hills North Subdivision, Section 2; and Locust Glen Subdivision, Section 1. Motion carried.

Commissioner Raley noted for the record that he expects the road work to be completed in Willow Woods under the addendum approved today and will not vote to approve any additional Public Works Agreement Addenda for Willow Woods in the future.

4. **Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to appoint Bruce Young as the Soil Conservation District Representative to the Development Review Forum, for a term to expire 12/31/2006. Motion carried.**

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to appoint the following to the Emergency Services Committee: Dean Gass – Co. 19 Alternate;

Greg Schultz – Co. 19 Member; Faith Roache – Co. 29 Alternate; Mark Miller – Co. 39 Alternate; Gregory Adams – Co. 6 Alternate; Stanley Williams – Co. 79 Alternate; Hattie Norris – ALS Alternate; George Duke – Co. 1 Alternate; Bob Braddock – Co. 3 Alternate; Ronald L. Hafner – Co. 4 Alternate; Todd B. Hayden – Co. 59 Alternate; and Gene Talley – Co. 7 Alternate. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to appoint

Darrell Calvano as the Environmental Health Representative to the Plumbing Board. Motion carried..

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to appoint Katherine Hankey as the Public Schools Representative to the St. Mary's Interagency Children's Council for a term that expires 6/30/04. Motion carried.

A question was raised as to whether or not a county employee can serve on a Board, Commission or Committee. County Attorney John Norris replied that the Ethics Commission does not see a conflict as long as the employee files a Financial Disclosure form.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS – REVOLVING LOAN APPLICATIONS

Following a discussion of the loan application process and the loan requests from Ridge VFD, Bay District VFC, Lexington Park VRS, and Hollywood VRS, the following motions were made.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department's application for a revolving loan in the amount of \$168,000, using the fire rescue boat, trailer and tow vehicle as collateral. Motion carried.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve the \$370,000 loan application of the Bay District Volunteer Fire Company for the purchase of a pumper tanker, pending a satisfactory response to the questions of the Finance Director relative to SB508 funds. Motion carried.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the \$75,000 loan application of the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad for the purchase of a 2003 Ford E450 Lifeline, contingent upon first paying off the outstanding balance of the June 26,2000 loan. Motion carried.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve the \$97,500 loan application of the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad for the purchase of an ambulance. Motion carried.

HURRICANE RECOVERY UPDATE

Phil Cooper, Acting Director, Emergency Management Agency, provided an update on the public assistance element of Hurricane Isabel recovery efforts. Highlights included:

- Preliminary disaster assessments of individual needs and public damage were completed the week after the hurricane by FEMA and county staff.
- FEMA is coordinating with all county departments, METCOM, hospitals, schools and other allied agencies regarding the process for reimbursement assistance.
- Working with the Finance Director on salary and benefits reimbursement process
- Finalizing Project Work Sheet that will be sent to FEMA and evaluated. The county will be notified of award, funds will then go to MEMA, and invoices will then be submitted to MEMA for reimbursement. All county departments, including Health Department, schools, fire department and rescue squads will be included on one application to facilitate and maximize our reimbursement.
- Continue to work with the Disaster Recovery Coordinator, other county departments, FEMA and MEMA to ensure we are meeting the needs of all citizens and county government.

Robin Finnacom, Disaster Recovery Coordinator, reported on the individual assistance element of hurricane recovery.

- The Disaster Assistance Center will remain open until the need dissipates. A decision will be made after this Sunday as to whether or not the Center will remain open on Sundays.
- Walk-ins, contacts from Public Meetings and via phone calls and site visits have resulted in personal interactions with 358 families to date.
- Visits to 53 damaged businesses have been undertaken. A business consultant is working with each business to follow-up on their needs.
- There is a minimum of 8 families seeking housing. We are working with FEMA to find permanent, temporary housing that families can use while rebuilding homes. We are in the process of trying to identify housing, which is a major challenge given the scarcity of rental housing.
- Received 37 requests for volunteer help in cleaning up residences. Thanks to the United Methodist Church and Mennonite community for volunteering to assist.
- Many homeowners are overwhelmed by the amount and size of trees that need to be removed from yards. We are exploring resources to bring in labor force with heavy equipment to help.
- Working with Southern Maryland Works as a potential provider of manpower management.
- 74 properties reported significant erosion damage, 127 properties have reported pier and/or seawall damage, 162 have reported property or house damage and 49 reported severe house damage.
- Now have the ability to notify property owners via mail of programs in place, such as not needing a permit to rebuild piers at this time.
- Property owners have been asked to take photographs of debris that has washed ashore so they can be sent to DNR for investigation.

Ella Mae Russell, Director of Social Services, reported that her department has also been working in the Disaster Center and is making sure all families who receive food stamps have received replacement food stamps due to food loss and damage suffered. The Department is operating a modified application process for food stamps, which will enable people to receive food stamps for one month only based on very different criteria from the regular program. St. Mary's County is one of five counties to receive this waiver from the federal level.

REORGANIZATION

The Commissioners discussed the County Administrator's reorganization proposal that was presented to the Board on September 16, 2003, as well as a proposed organizational structure provided by Commissioner Mattingly.

The main goals of reorganization were stated as increased efficiency and responsiveness to citizens, as well as a structure that has the flexibility to move the will of the people forward when government turns over.

Items of discussion included: the proposed placement of DECD, Cable Franchise, GIS and Storm Management and Tourism, direct support for Fire, Rescue and ALS; County Attorney reporting to BOCC; addition of "chief of staff"-type position to assist County Administrator. The County Administrator was asked to return to the Board with a more detailed proposal that takes into account the recommendations and concerns raised today.

MARYLAND TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MTA) – PROPOSED PARK & RIDE SITE

The Commissioners agreed to send a letter to MTA expressing the following concerns and recommendations:

- The New Market location (Rts. 5&6) on county-owned property is the Board's top priority for establishing a new facility based on legitimate concerns from citizens.
- Consider a negotiated land/lease transfer in exchange for the use of the New Market

site, which will greatly assist in our capital planning of new schools to serve our growing community

- Defer acquisition of land along Golden Beach Road for a possible future Park & Ride site until the need for a second site is determined.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Commissioner Jarboe

- Thanks to the 7th District Optimist Club for the Blessing of the Fleet event and for all they do throughout the year for the community.
- Congratulations to Dan and Ann Raley, daughter Kate, and new son-in-law Chris.
- The Editor of *St. Mary's Today* was married last weekend. Congratulations to Ken Rosingnal and Donna.

Commissioner Raley

- Apologize to friends in the 7th District for not being able to attend the Blessing of the Fleet and Osprey Gala due to wedding activities. Congratulations to both groups.
- Thanks to all who shared special wedding moments with Kate and Chris.

Commissioner Dement

- Attended Three Oaks dedication. Congratulations to them on their new addition.
- Blessing of the Fleet was a great event. Thanks to 7th District Optimists.
- Congratulations to ALS on their 20th anniversary.
- Congratulations to the newly-weds, Kate and Chris.

Commissioner Mattingly

- Thanks to Sotterley Foundation – appreciated the dinner invitation.
- Congratulations to Kate and Chris, the Chamber for a successful golf tournament, St. Clements 100 for another great Osprey Gala, and 7th District Volunteer Fire Department for \$145,000 FEMA grant.

Commissioner McKay

- SMC government offices will be closed on Monday, October 13, 2003, for Columbus Day
- The Commissioners will hold a Public Forum on October 14, 2003, at 6:30 p.m.

- Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant will conduct multiple tests of the new emergency response sirens beginning Monday, October 13 through Thursday, October 23.
- St. Clement's Island Potomac River Museum has reopened to the public
- Congratulations to 7th District Optimist and St. Clement's 100 for the great events over the weekend and for all the good work you do on a daily basis.
- Congratulations to ALS. 20th anniversary celebration was held at Harry Lundeberg School.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters of Personnel, specifically for employment contracts, and Litigation matter regarding the College of Southern Maryland, as provided for in Articles 24, Section 4-210(a)1 and Section 4-210(a)8, respectively. Motion carried.

Personnel

Present: Commissioner President Thomas F. McKay

Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement

Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe

Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly

Commissioner Daniel H. Raley

George G. Forrest, County Administrator

John Norris, County Attorney

Donna Gebicke, Recorder

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

Time Held: 2:20-3:52 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed staff employment contracts.

Litigation

Present: Commissioner President Thomas F. McKay

Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement

Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe

Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly

Commissioner Daniel H. Raley

George G. Forrest, County Administrator

John Norris, County Attorney

Jeff Reagan, Attorney

Joe Coburn, Attorney

Donna Gebicke, Recorder

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)8

Time Held: 3:54 – 4:44 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed pending litigation matter and gave direction to staff.

MARYLAND YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL LOCAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Present: Floraine Applefeld, Director, Maryland's Most Beautiful Program Cynthia Brown, Director, OCS

The Commissioners thanked the following volunteers for their selfless and compassionate acts of community service that help make St. Mary's County a beautiful place to visit and live.

The following nominees were introduced : Susan Rae Lobas, Audrey Ridgell, Keith Fairfax, Jr., Thurman Harmon, Richard Russell, Marguerite Morris, Al Potts, Wendy Povitsky, and the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department. Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department was announced as this year's "Grand Winner."

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Minutes Approved by the

Board of County Commissioners on _____

Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant

to the Board of County Commissioners