

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, December 15, 2009**

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
Donna Gebicke (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Russell called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Check Register for checks dated December 15, 2009, as submitted by staff. Motion carried 4-1 (Commissioner Jarboe voted nay). Commissioner Raley asked for and received clarification that the motion also covers the first disbursement of energy tax refunds. Commissioner Jarboe questioned why three separate dues payments for employees to the American Planning Association noted on pages 29, 30, and 33 are for different amounts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to adopt the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, December 8, 2009, as presented. Motion carried 4-0, with one abstention. Commissioner Jarboe abstained as he was absent for the December 8, 2009, meeting.

HIGHWAY SAFETY: PROCLAMATION FOR 3D (DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING) PREVENTION MONTH

Present: Bennett Connelly, Director, Dept. of Human Services; Jacqueline Beckman, CTSP Coordinator; and representatives from the SMC Licensed Beverage Association, Alcohol Beverage Board, Mechanicsville Optimist, Maryland State Police, Sheriff's Office, Natural Resource Police, DOD Police, and NAS Public Safety Office.

POSTHUMOUS RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN ROMER, SR. FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COUNTY'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PORGRAM

Present: John Romer, Jr.; Mrs. Romer; Bennett Connelly, Dir., Dept. of Human Services; and Jacqueline Beckman, CTSP Coordinator

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agenda January 5, 2009
2. **St. Mary's Co. Public Schools** (*Mr. Gregory V. Nourse, Director of Fiscal Services*)

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the requested revenue and categorical transfer for the St. Mary's County Public School's General Fund and Revolving Food Services Fund to reflect the receipt of the Care First refund check, which was approved by the Board of Education on November 24, 2009, and to sign the letter evidencing this action. Motion carried 5-0.

3. **MD Dept. of Agriculture** (*Mark Smith, Agronomist, MDA*)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the FY2010 Cooperative Agreement between the MD Dept. of Agriculture and St. Mary's County for the control and eradication of noxious weeds and to sign the related budget amendment to eliminate the \$1,000 state funding and offsetting expenses for FY2010. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Dept. of Public Works & Transportation** (*George A. Erichsen, Director*)

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the proposed Inter-Governmental Agreement with the Maryland Transit Administration for Certain Property to be used as Parking Spaces at the St. Mary's County Regional Airport to support MTA's Commuter Bus Service. Motion carried 5-0.

(Jacqueline Fournier, DPW&T Transportation Manager; MaryAnn Coontz, STS Supervisor)

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant Amendment from the Maryland Transit Administration on behalf of the Dept. of Public Works and Transportation in the amount of \$454,712, reduced from \$455,200, and to sign the Budget Amendment in the amount of \$487 decreasing the project budget revenues and expenses, in accordance with the actual award. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Raley noted that as of now, the new, state-mandated stormwater management regulations do not have a grandfathering provision which is causing concern in the community. He asked if the Department of Public Works and Transportation has considered setting a date, e.g., some time in January or February, whereby if an application for development is submitted by this date, the Department could complete its review, get comments back to the applicant based on the existing regulations, and the applicant addresses the comments, there would be a good likelihood that the applicant could receive the Department's approval prior to the state-mandated enactment date of the new regulations. There is concern in the community that if an applicant hires an engineer or surveyor to submit a project based on the existing regulations, there is uncertainty as to whether or not they will have to go back and redesign, and therefore re-pay, an engineer or surveyor based on the new regulations.

5. Public Safety (*David Zylak, Dir. of Public Safety; Jaclyn Shaw, Emergency Management Manager*)

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to authorize the Department of Public Safety staff to submit the grant application documents electronically for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant, Project US1179, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the funding of a Recruitment and Retention Program and Coordinator for Emergency Services for a four year period in the amount of \$335,332 which involves (1) new position already classified by the Director of Human Resources, pursuant to review and process, and which will be included in the FY 2011 Department budget request. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to authorize the Public Safety Director to submit and sign the grant agreement for the FFY09 homeland security Grant from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$242,161; and to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the budget amendments that decrease the grant projects by \$80,367 and realign the project budgets; and also to approve the spending plan. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Human Services (*Bennett Connelly, Director, Dept. of Human Services*)

(Jacqueline Beckman, CTSP Coordinator, St. Mary's Co. Highway Safety Program, Dept. of Human Services)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the Budget Amendment closing out the Highway Safety Southern Maryland Media and Enforcement Campaign grant (\$113,000), Project US1024, because the grant was not received by the Maryland Highway Safety Office. Motion carried 5-0.

(Andrew Goldschmidt, Director, Membership Marketing, NACo)
NACo's Managed Pharmacy Benefit Services Program

The Department of Human Services is administering the St. Mary's County Prescription Discount Card program in association with the National Association of Counties (NACo). Mr. Goldschmidt provided information on the benefits of NACo membership and described the discount program. NACo has contracted with CVS Caremark to provide a prescription discount card for member counties to offer to their uninsured and underinsured residents. According to NACo, the discount card can help residents save an average of 22% off the full retail cost of prescription medication. There is no cost to the County or consumers to participate.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the CaremarkPCS Health, L.P. National Association of Counties Managed Pharmacy Benefit Services Agreement for Member County on behalf of the Department of Human Services for the St. Mary's County Prescription Discount Card program in partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo) at no cost to County Government, and to authorize staff to release the check for NACo membership. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Finance Dept. *(Elaine Kramer, CFO; Jeannett Cudmore, Deputy Director)*

Ms. Kramer reviewed the background information provided to the Commissioners on the position control methodology for the Sheriff's Office ranks that has been used for the last ten years and the current proposal to annually set the number of FTEs by classification (as per the table below). The maximum number of positions available for each classification would be as stated, except for the entry level Deputy and correctional officer. This would mean that even when the BOCC does not add "ranks," if the DFC or CFC position is vacated, then a rank would free up and could be assigned. The proposed change would be permanent, not just applicable to FY 2010.

Deputies	35
Deputy First Class	24
Corporal	39
Sergeant	17
Lieutenant	9
Captain	4
Major/Assistant Sheriff – this position is either 1 Lieutenant FTE plus the rank/title or 1 Captain FTE plus the rank/title	1
Sub-Total Law	129
Captain/Warden	1
Sub-Total Corrections	1
TOTAL SWORN	130
Correctional Officers (includes the 6 New for FY10)	35
Correctional First Class	18
Corporal	11
Sergeant	10
Lieutenant	5
Captain	3
TOTAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS	82

The combined total of
Deputies plus DFC's = 59

when the Major rank position is unassigned,
the 1 FTE equivalent may be temporarily
assigned to either the Captain or the Lieutenant
classification. When the Major rank is filled,
the number of positions at Lieutenant and
Captain shall be no greater than what is shown
for each of these at left.

The combined total of
CO's plus CFC's = 53

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to direct that, effective immediately, for the purpose of Finance Department verification of sworn or correction officer positions available to be filled, it shall not exceed the number of full-time equivalent positions stated in the Approved Budget book for each of the stated levels, except Deputies and Corrections Officers. Deputy and Corrections Officer positions may only exceed the stated level if there is an equal reduction in the DFC and CFC positions, respectively. Further, due to the implementation of this process at this time, the Board concurs that the number for each position for FY 2010 shall be as identified in the memo that supported this package. Motion carried 5-0.

8. County Administrator (*John Savich*)

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to appoint the following persons to Boards, Committees, and Commissions with the terms to expire as indicated:

	<u>Term Expiration</u>
<u>Adult Public Guardianship Review Board</u>	
Dr. William B. Icenhower	12/31/2012
<u>Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry Commission</u>	
John Richard Knott (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
Michael Sirk	12/31/2012
<u>Airport Advisory Committee</u>	
Michael Brunnschweiler (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
John "Skip" Shepherd (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
Robert Mullennix	12/31/2012
<u>Commission for Women</u>	
Candace Butler	12/31/2012
<u>Community Health Advisory Committee</u>	
Eleanor Ritchie (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
Roy Fedders (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
Dolores Martin (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
<u>Commission on Aging</u>	
Samuel Brown (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
Vicki Brown (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
Peggy Reardon (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
Bettie Broadhurst	12/31/2012
<u>Commission on the Environment</u>	
William Shreve (Reappointment)	12/31/2013
Marta Kelsey (Reappointment)	12/31/2013
Caroline Law Miller (Reappointment)	12/31/2013
Sandra Neville (Reappointment)	12/31/2013
George M. Thompson	12/31/2012 (Partial)
<u>Commission for People with Disabilities</u>	
Christina Bishop - ADA Coordinator (Reappointment)	12/31/2013
Cathy Zumbrun - Social Services Rep (Reappointment)	12/31/2013
<u>Development Review Forum</u>	
Bill McKissick (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
Patrick Mudd	12/31/2012
<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	
Kimberly Beachy	12/31/2013

Metropolitan Commission

Thomas "Chuck" Lancaster (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
Joseph St. Clair (Reappointment)	12/31/2012

Nursing Center Governance Board

Dr. Joseph Bowes	12/31/2012
Ms. Judith Schauf	12/31/2012
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr. (BOCC rep)	

Planning Commission

Martin Siebert (Reappointment)	12/31/2014
--------------------------------	------------

Recreation and Parks Board

Julie Lemmon	12/31/2013
--------------	------------

Tri-County Community Action Committee

Lynn Fitrell	12/31/2012
--------------	------------

Tri-County Youth Services Bureau

Kathleen Werner (Appointment Extension)	6/30/2010
---	-----------

Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board

Donald Nolan	12/31/2013
Robert Richardson	12/31/2013

Zoning Board of Appeals

George Edmonds (Reappointment)	12/31/2012
--------------------------------	------------

Motion carried 4-0 (Commissioner Jarboe abstained as he was not present for the Executive Session discussion of appointments).

COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND (CSM): PRESENT SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC) FY 2009 ANNUAL REPORT AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR SUPPORT OF THE CENTER

Present: Brian DuBoff, Regional Director, CSM
 Bob Schaller, Director, Dept. of Economic and Community Development (DECD)
 Hans Welch, Manager, Business Development, DECD

Mr. DuBoff presented the Small Business Development Center's Annual Report for St. Mary's County and requested approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the College of Southern Maryland, on behalf of its SBDC, and the BOCC to continue to provide small business counseling services in FY 2010.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the College of Southern Maryland, on behalf of its Maryland Small Business Development Center, and the Board of County Commissioners in the amount of \$16,500 for FY2010 to continue to provide small business counseling services in St. Mary's County. Motion carried 5-0.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY METROPOLITAN COMMISSION (MetCom): REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR ISSUANCE OF DEBT BY THE METROPOLITAN COMMISSION FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Present: Jacqueline Meiser, Director/Legal Counsel, MetCom
Rebecca Schick, CFO
Chet Frederick, Chief Engineer

Ms. Meiser requested authorization for issuance of debt by MetCom for capital projects. MetCom is preparing to close on two loans: one with the Maryland Department of the Environment's Water Quality and Financing Administration and the other with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Local Government Infrastructure Financing Loan Program. The proceeds from these loans will be used to fund the cost of several projects identified in MetCom's Capital Improvement Budget, which was reviewed by the BOCC in April 2009.

Ms. Schick reviewed the information provided to the Commissioners which included a memo indicating that the System Improvement Charges and Capital Contribution Charges established by MetCom are projected to provide revenues sufficient to pay the principal and interest on all debt issued by the Commission. Also reviewed and discussed were: Financing Study Capital Improvements Budget (FY10-14), debt service obligations by year, water and sewer rates and volumes, loan terms, projects being financed, and sources of payments for the debt service.

Funding MetCom's capital plan will require rate increases in future years, both for the capital contribution charge and the monthly charges. These increases are needed to be able to cover the debt service and avoid the County having to bring its full faith and credit to bear for the re-payments. The projects listed for the DHCD loan exceed the total amount available, which gives MetCom the flexibility in applying the loan proceeds should there be unanticipated project costs.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to authorize the issuance by the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission of the following: its St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission Water Quality Bond, series 2010, in an amount not to exceed \$587,300, and its St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission Water Quality Bond in an amount not to exceed \$191,900, and its St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission Infrastructure Bonds, 2010 series A, in an amount not to exceed \$12,875,000, and that such issuances be on the full faith and credit of the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County. And, that we authorize the Commissioner President to sign resolutions 2009-40 and 2009-41

evidencing this authority and pledge. Additionally, I move that we authorize the Commissioner President, County Administrator and County Attorney to execute related documents, within the authority granted previously, including the General Certificate, with respect to these bonds. I also move that we direct the Metropolitan Commission that this authority to borrow is limited, and that the use of proceeds on each of these is for the projects listed in their resolutions 2009-03 and 2009-04, respectively, or issuance costs associated with the transactions. Additional and/or alternative use of the proceeds shall be subject to pre-approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Motion carried 4-1 (Commissioner Jarboe voted nay).

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted upcoming events and those attended over the past week, as well as personal interest items.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel, specifically related to boards and committees. Motion carried 3-1 (Commissioner Jarboe voted no and Commissioner Mattingly was not present for the motion).

DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT: WORK SESSION ON ST. MARY'S COUNTY DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Commissioners participated in a Comprehensive Plan Work Session that included discussion of the Priority Preservation Area, proposed Residential Low Density Transition (RL-T) Zone, Myrtle Point/Mill Cove, additional notice to property owners, and general miscellaneous comments received on the draft plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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
 Sarah Cannavo, Boards and Committees Administrator
 Donna Gebicke, Recorder

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1
 Time Held: 2:50 pm – 3:04 pm
 Subject Discussed: Boards and Committees

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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
Donna Gebicke, Recorder

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1
Time Held: 5:01 pm – 5:50 pm
Subject Discussed: Boards and Committees

PUBLIC FORUM

Commissioner President Russell opened the forum and called for a motion to provide for appointments to Boards and Committees:

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to appoint the following persons to Boards, Committees, and Commissions:

	<u>Terms to Expire</u>
<u>Commission for Women</u>	
Connie Clausen	12/31/2012
<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	
Agnes Butler	12/31/2013
Melvin McClintock	12/31/2013
<u>Nursing Center Governance Board</u>	
Richard Wilson	12/31/2012
Commissioner Tom Mattingly as the Commissioner Representative	
<u>Tri-County Youth Services Bureau</u>	
Cheryl Bradley	12/31/2011
<u>Wicomico River Commission</u>	
William Farrell	12/31/2013
<u>Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board</u>	
Patrick Dugan (Recreation and Parks Board Rep)	12/31/2013

Motion carried 5-0.

The forum was opened for public comment at 6:32 pm. The following persons provided comments which are summarized below:

Kathleen Reif (Library Director, resident and taxpayer), 40469 Breton View Dr., Leonardtown
(complete statement provided for the record)

Support new library. The Library Board and my commitment to this new library is unwavering because of the County residents we are responsible to serve. They are extraordinarily heavy users of their libraries. They need and deserve a much larger and more modern mid-county library facility. New library is one of the most important investments made by a community and discussion should be based on facts (fact sheet was made available). Urge state elected officials to support borrowing from the bond market to fund the construction costs of a new library. The new library has not yet been designed, so any statements about what it will include are totally misinformed.

Mary Lee Russell (Leonardtown Library Manager), 40920 Paw Paw Hollow, Leonardtown

Support new library. The current facility has many constraints, including noise levels and lack of shelf space.

Carol Moody, 23392 Esperanza Circle, Lexington Park

Support new library. Want to address one part of the issue. The Town of Leonardtown had its offices in Tudor Hall. It is very difficult to make modern technology work in old buildings like Tudor Hall and the current library building. The Town may be in a more expensive place now, but it is better suited for its purpose. We should give up on trying to make holes in thick walls. You need a building that is suited to what you want to accomplish.

Rich Johnson, 19026 Russell Rd., Valley Lee

Do not support new library. The state is \$3 billion in deficit. The bank is broke - - there is no more money. Think about your fiscal responsibility. Is it the right time to put the county more in debt? Delegate Bohanan and Senator Dyson do not support it. It would be nice, but this is not a good time to cost the taxpayers more money.

Kelsey Hancock, 21136 Catnip Way, Leonardtown, Girl Scout Troop 4549 *(complete statement provided for the record)*

Support new library at Hayden farm property. Reasons: current facility lacks space for meeting rooms and Summer Reading performances, children's section is too small, older books have to be discarded, current library never designed to be a library. Libraries are used from birth to death. Will be money well-spent, an investment in our community's future, and will benefit many.

Ashley Edwards, 21088 Rosebay St., Leonardtown, Cadette Girl Scout Troop 4549 (complete statement provided for the record)

Support new library. Reasons: space limited (for books, meeting areas, reading areas, and technology). I know it will be a time consuming and expensive project, but it will be well worth it.

Paul Kelley, 41885 Medley's Neck Rd., Leonardtown

Support new library. Consultant hired to conduct a study 2006. This was an open study with opportunities for citizens to participate and included focus groups and written comments from users (fact sheet provided). Throughout the three-year process, there were numerous opportunities for input and dialogue. The Commissioners made a decision after careful assessment of financial and capital needs of this County. The current economic situation and its impact were considered when making the decision to build a new library. It will cost more money to delay construction.

Jim Pool, 17763 Whitestone Dr., Tall Timbers, Bay Montessori School

Bay Montessori School has been trying to get a bus for the school for several years. We are the only private school that doesn't have its own bus. I spoke to Commissioner President Russell about this and he agreed that we should have our own bus. We still don't have one. Drop offs and transfers are hazardous and confusing to students. Please provide a bus for our students.

Christopher Bates, 41482 Pensive St., Leonardtown

My daughter, Roslyn, rode the bus to Bay Montessori. The transfer situation and lack of communication was a big problem. She was left unattended, drivers changed, she didn't know which bus to get on. I'm leery of putting my younger kids on the bus. Also, I live in Leonard's Grant and support new library at new location.

Vickie Pool, 17763 Whitestone Dr., Tall Timbers, represent Bay Montessori School

Montessori School needs its own bus. There have been several unsafe incidents. It would be best for our students to have their own bus.

Wanda Twigg, Hillendale Drive, Mechanicsville, President of the Education Association of St. Mary's County

Continue to make public education a top priority. Keeping the tax rate constant would be devastating to the school system and we ask that you not support that idea. We ask that you continue with maintenance of effort and even give more to public education if at all possible to keep our success going. Please do not cut the SMCPSS budget. Please choose to pay for education now rather than social programs and prisons later.

Alan Dillingham, 22929 Hollyhock Cove, California, President, Library Board of Trustees

Support new library. A process was used to deliberate the need for a new library. It was an open process, a firm of experts was retained and a firm recommendation was made. Several major recommendations were made, including expansion of Leonardtown and Charlotte Hall and a new

Library in Hollywood. The Leonardtown Library is in the worst physical condition and has a consistent high pattern of use. The Library Board decided on a compromise strategy and recommended building a new library in Leonardtown to better serve both Leonardtown and Hollywood. Hayden property: proximity to current library, enough land to build one story, save operating costs, in the Leonardtown Development District and will comply with smart growth. Received funding from state for design. We are deep into a carefully considered plan. The Leonardtown Council is now saying they are interested in locating the library in the town. There have been lots of opportunities for feedback and consultation. In spite of five years of opportunity to bring this up, we are just hearing now about the reasons it would be good for the town, but haven't heard reasons why downtown is good for the library.

Elfreda Mathis, 45811 Delegates Court, Great Mills

Support new library on Hayden property. I am a retired educator and former Principal of Lexington Park Elementary at the time the new library was built in Lexington Park. The new library was a godsend for Lexington Park. I want the same thing for Leonardtown. I read where we have to expand the detention center. I'm not concerned about inmates being crowded. Can't we invest in something valuable to all citizens? What does the community value? A library will be here forever and used by all. You paid down the debt years ago. If we increase constant yield, we will be \$6m more in the hole, plus the state will have more cuts. What we value is more important than how we get the money. You already have the money.

Anna M. Laughlin, Point Lookout Road

Teacher at Leonardtown Middle School. Due to budget situation, you will have to tell departments "maybe next year," etc. Children need quality education now. They don't have another year. They either have a quality education now or go without it for the rest of their lives. What are the priorities of this community? Continue to support maintenance of effort and perhaps do a little better this year.

Dan Morris, 41975 Gibson Drive, Mechanicsville

Do not support new library. I recently met with Kathleen Reif. I'm not against a library, but I'm against the way its being done and the money we are paying - \$13m. If there is spare money in a slush fund somewhere, I would support it. But, we are in the worst financial condition right now because there is no money. We would have to borrow money which our taxes will pay for. We do have priorities. Your (Elfreda Mathis) point about not caring about piling up inmates on top of each other. I agree, but the Supreme Court and local courts have made decisions regarding jail space. We don't have a choice. They will order prisoners released if there is not adequate space for them. There are things we have to have. A new library is high on the priority list, but schools, teachers and kids, and public safety is higher on the list. We can't afford to borrow more. It's a mater of timing and money. People are losing jobs. A new library would be nice, but we can't afford it.

Jennifer Cheeseman Trost, Pensive St., Leonardtown

Support new library. I am a health care provider in Leonardtown. These are hard economic times – people are losing jobs. We need a library with free internet and time on the computer to apply for

jobs, prescription assistance, and Medicare/Medicaid benefits. I need my patients to have access. I recognize it's lots of money, but I have all these patients losing their jobs and insurances.

Joe Wible, Sr., 41560 Austin Ct., Leonardtown

Do not support new library. I'm a fan of the current library and don't see any problems with it. There are seats in the lounge and we can always get materials. There are two things to consider: economics and timing. Tough times call for tough decisions. You need to look at all options -- expanding existing library or putting it in Leonardtown. Spend our money wisely; err on the side of conservatism in all your economic decisions.

Mike Lugenbill, 22325 White Oak Rd., Leonardtown

Support new library. Need vision for the future. Look past the \$13m bond. What do we need in this community for our future? A new library is not a luxury, it's a necessity. The current facility is outmoded. A new library will allow it to function as it should in the County seat.

Ken Carkuff, 24880 Jones Rd., Mechanicsville

Do not support new library. I'm a huge supporter of public libraries and realize the utility and greatness that libraries bring to a community. I use the library a lot. I see no problems in any of the libraries. The current facility is not the best, but it's adequate. This is not the time to spend money. The study was done several years ago when the economy was strong. This is not just a dip in the economy. I ask you to step back, and re-look at other options (environmental, traffic -- resolve these first). Education has to be #1.

Doug Marek, 22750 Newtowne Neck Rd., Leonardtown

Do not support new library. Six homes in our area sold in last year: five sold for \$50,000 less per home than assessment and one sold for more than assessed value. Will new library cause our taxes to be raised? Will we keep constant yield? Increase it? The American Library Association makes recommendations on things libraries should have. These are good if you can afford it. Can you afford it? We may need it, but with everything else -- and more state cuts expected, we may not be able to afford it.

Janice Hummel

Support new library. Have lived here 30 years and worked at the Lexington Park Library, which did wonders for the community. I want my tax dollars to go toward a new library. There will be hidden economic benefits, such as construction jobs. You can't put a price tag on a new library. The current one is falling apart and needs constant repair. It will be more economic to have a new building.

ADJOURN

The public forum was closed and the Board of County Commissioner's meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Donna M. Gebicke, Administrative Assistant (Recorder)