

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, December 28, 1977

Present: Commissioner James M. McKay, President
Commissioner Ford L. Dean
Commissioner J. Patrick Jarboe
Commissioner John K. Parlett
Commissioner Larry Millison
Joseph P. O'Dell, Budget Officer
Barbara M. Dotson, Recording Secretary

The Meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m.

READING OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of December 21, 1977 were read and corrections made. The minutes were not officially approved, and it was agreed that they would be held until next week's meeting because of concern expressed by Commissioner Dean that only some of the pertinent comments made at the AICUZ meeting were contained in the minutes, and that others had been omitted. Mr. McKay was of the opinion that nothing should be added to the minutes. Commissioner Jarboe felt that certain statements were made that should have been included in the minutes. He stated he would like to have an opportunity to submit those deleted comments at next week's meeting.

ENCUMBRANCE VOUCHERS

Present: Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance

Mr. Sterling presented encumbrance vouchers for the Commissioners review and approval. Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to approve the bills as submitted, with the exception of Voucher #15646 in the amount of \$60.00, which is for mileage expenses for Larry M. Brown, Parent Specialist, who is a CETA employee connected with the Tri-County Youth Services Bureau. Mr. Brown is a resident of Huntingtown, Maryland. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Parlett and all Commissioners voted in favor. Mr. Sterling was requested to investigate said charges and report back to the Commissioners.

PINE HILL RUN FACILITIES PLAN

Present: Joseph P. O'Dell, Budget Officer

Mr. O'Dell presented a Certification for the Pine Hill Run Facilities Plan for the Commissioners approval and Mr. McKay's signature. Mr. Parlett made a motion to approve the letter of certification, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe. All Commissioners voted in favor and Commissioner McKay signed same.

CLEARINGHOUSE PROJECT 78-12-517

Present: Mr. Joseph P. O'Dell, Budget Officer

Mr. O'Dell presented subject application by the U.S. Postal

Service for Commissioners approval and Mr. McKay's signature. Mr. O'Dell stated that the sketch supplied by the U.S. Postal Service is in error. Mr. Parlett stated that the existing post office trailer is presently north of Turner Road, not south as indicated. It was agreed that number two on the application be checked stating that the project is not inconsistent with this agency's plans, but that a corrected sketch and exact location is desired. All Commissioners voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Millison who abstained.

WINGS OF THE MORNING GRANT

Present: Mr. Joseph P. O'Dell, Budget Officer

Mr. O'Dell presented for the Commissioners approval an agreement by and between the Department of Economic and Community Development and the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County covering a \$50,000 grant to support the St. Mary's Outdoor Drama Association 1977 production of "Wings of the Morning". Mr. O'Dell advised that upon the County's execution of the grant agreement, a check in the amount of \$50,000 will be forwarded to the County with a signed copy of the agreement. Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to approve and sign the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Dean. All Commissioners voted in favor.

INVESTMENT RESOLUTION #77-70

Present: Mr. Joseph P. O'Dell, Budget Officer

Mr. O'Dell presented for the Commissioners discussion and approval an Investment Resolution. There was discussion as to other persons being appointed to act on investments in the absence of the Director of Finance. Mr. O'Dell stated that the County previously agreed that the Budget Officer could act in the absence of the Director of Finance. Mr. Parlett stated he had no objection to the resolution as written and changes could be made by the Board at a later time if deemed necessary. Commissioner Parlett made a motion to accept the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dean. Mr. Millison abstained from voting and stated he would like to have an opportunity to review the resolution and Commissioner McKay also abstained. All other Commissioners voted in favor and signed same.

INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Present: Mr. Keith Fairfax
Mr. Greg Adams
Mr. Joe Cooper

Mr. Fairfax stated they would like to submit for the Board's consideration an incentive program that would help to make firemen better trained and of service to the County. He stated their plan is patterned after that of Charles County and indicated in order for the fireman to receive benefits, they would have to

have 25 years of certified service. At the age of 60, a fireman with 25 years of service could receive \$100 a month, plus \$2.00 per month extra for years over 25. There is a maximum benefit of \$150.00 per month. An exception would be disability while in line of duty and upon certification, the benefit would be \$100 per month. In case of death, while on active duty, a benefit of \$2,500 would be allowed. This benefit would be provided in order to cover funeral expenses and a spouse could receive 50% of benefits. Mr. Fairfax stated that St. Mary's County has never had a death in connection with firefighting. He also said that a person killed in line of duty would be eligible for some State benefits also. Mr. Fairfax told the Board that if a fireman reaches the age of 70 and does not have 25 years of service, but has been active the last five years, they can receive \$4.00 per month for each active year. He stated this would make the program enticing to some of the retired persons who could come back into the program in administrative capacities. Mr. Fairfax went on to say that by using .01% for a fire tax rate, 50% of the costs of the program would be funded. The remainder would have to come from general tax funds. These guidelines are contained in the Charles County bill. He stated that St. Mary's County would have to do something different because we do not have a county-wide fire tax. He stated that the County would have to institute a recordkeeping system in order to keep track of persons certified in the program. A graph was presented which showed that if the program is implemented in 1978, there would be about 10 firefighters in the County eligible for benefits. The cost would be about \$12,000 per year. In the year 2003, there would be 60 persons eligible and by the year 2028, there would be 83 men eligible. Mr. Fairfax stated it was his hope that the County would not have to have an insurance policy for individuals killed on the job, since the chances are nearly obsolete.

Mr. Joe Cooper stated that he has been a firefighter for 13 years. He felt that a program of this type would be an incentive and would be designed so the fireman could receive some benefits later on. Commissioner Jarboe said the Commissioners will have to think about the program and inquired if Mr. Fairfax knew of other counties having a program of this type. Mr. Fairfax stated that Charles County is the only county in the State having a fire and rescue tax county-wide. Commissioner Parlett stated this program would certainly be a small contribution by the County to the volunteer firemen. Commissioner Dean stated he felt that the Rescue Association should be contacted for their input. The information contained in Mr. Fairfax's report was ascertained from the individual fire companies beginning with the year 1975. Commissioner Jarboe suggested that a more up-to-date report be submitted with current statistics. Mr. Cooper presented the Commissioners with a copy of House Bill 980 and Senate Bill 729 passed by the State Legislature which gave Charles County the authority to set up a retirement program. Mr. McKay stated with the necessary legislation for the program and necessary budgeting, a program could be instituted if approved by the Commissioners. Commissioner Dean stated he felt that the County would need someone to coordinate this with the fire departments and rescue squads. The Budget Officer was directed to coordinate this matter for the Commissioners. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at nexts week's meeting.

Commissioner Millison left the meeting at this time.

HUMANE SOCIETY

Present: Mrs. Marilyn Balchum
Mrs. Jean Lundy

Mrs. Balchum presented the Commissioners with information outlining programs provided by the Humane Society. She stated they would like to request funds to purchase a shelter where they would be able to care for animals and handle calls of inquiry from the citizenry. The shelter would provide a temporary place for animals until they could be picked up by the animal warden. Mrs. Balchum stated it is her intention to distribute educational materials to school children and show various films on animal care in the schools. She felt that a shelter would help save the County money in that it would provide a central point for the dog warden to pick up animals. It was pointed out that the kennel on St. Andrew's Church Road would have been a possibility, but is now in the process of being sold. Mrs. Balchum stated that the Humane Society will start receiving funds from the United Way Campaigns to help with the purchase of various supplies. Commissioner McKay stated he would be in favor of some assistance that may possibly help offset the necessity for an additional animal warden. Mrs. Lundy stated her report reflects several recommendations to be included in the updated dog regulations. It was agreed that this request will be discussed at next week's meeting.

Commissioner Millison returned to the meeting.

OVERTIME REQUEST BY CID PERSONNEL

Present: George Sparling, State's Attorney
Sheriff Joseph Lee Somerville
D/Sgt. James Plunkert, Maryland State Police

Mr. Sparling presented overtime expense figures incurred by Sheriff's deputies in connection with the Criminal Investigation Unit.

Deputy Carter	36 hours
Deputy DeLozier	20 hours
Deputy Cooper	13½ hours

Total overtime is 69½ hours and is for the period of 9/14/77 through 12/28/77, which, if approved, would amount to \$556.00. Mr. Sparling recommended that the Commissioners design a policy for the deputies in the CID for overtime reimbursement similar to the one in operation for the State Police. Mr. Sparling

stated that compensatory time does not work out because the deputies cannot afford to take the time off. D/Sgt. Plunkert told the Commissioners that \$1,200 is available to each State Policeman for overtime work per year. The amount is less when the rank is higher. When the \$1,200 is expended, the State Police then receive compensatory time off. D/Sgt. Plunkert stated that overtime is carefully monitored by a supervisor and is used only when absolutely necessary. Commissioner McKay commented that some flexibility is needed, and that the Commissioners will have to address this request for the remainder of the Fiscal Year also. Pending approval, funds could then be budgeted in the next Fiscal Year. D/Sgt. Plunkert told the Commissioners he would provide them with a monthly talley of overtime earned. Commissioner Parlett made a motion to approve the overtime as submitted for the period of 9/14 to 12/28 and that the matter be placed on next week's agenda for discussion and possible adoption of a policy for overtime. Commissioner Jarboe seconded the motion and all Commissioners voted in favor.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION - ARTICLE 4.9

Commissioner Dean presented a proposed Resolution for Interpretation of Article 4.9, Minimum Lot Size, of the St. Mary's County Zoning Ordinance. Said resolution was discussed and it was agreed that it be forwarded to various agencies for review and comments.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION - ARTICLE 21

Present: Al Bingman, NAS Representative

Commissioner Dean presented a Proposed Resolution for Interpretation of the Meaning of the Phrase "No New Development" as it applies to Article 21 of the St. Mary's County Zoning Ordinance. Said resolution was discussed and it was agreed that it be forwarded to the Navy, Land Use and Development, County Attorney, Landowners and Planning Commission for their input, and that the words "built upon" be deleted. Commissioner Parlett stated we could not possibly get an adequate response by next week's meeting and recommended that this be discussed at the January 18 meeting. Some discussion continued pertaining to the AICUZ and other subdivisions as to possible alternatives and effects the resolutions would have.

AICUZ LAND USE

Present: Al Bingman, NAS Representative

A Draft Memorandum was presented by Commissioner Jarboe concerning interpretation of Article 21 of the County Zoning Ordinance dealing with development within the AICUZ Zone. After Commissioners review, Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to approve the memorandum, seconded by Commissioner Dean. It was agreed that the memo be re-typed and submitted for signatures next week.

ENCUMBRANCE VOUCHER

Present: B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance


Mr. Sterling returned to the meeting to present information regarding Voucher #15646. He stated the billing is in conjunction with a July 1977 CETA Grant for \$27,000 to finance three positions. This particular position being a parent specialist in connection with the immunization program. He advised 500 miles are allowed per month and services balance out equally between the three counties. Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to approve said voucher, seconded by Commissioner Millison. All Commissioners voted in favor.

LAND ACQUISITION FOR FIFTH DISTRICT SCHOOL

Commissioner McKay stated that the Board of Education at last week's Executive Session with the County Commissioners discussed the acquisition of land for use as a new Fifth District Elementary School. Commissioner Parlett made a motion to proceed with the purchase of said property, located on Route 6 east of Charlotte Hall, and owned by the Episcopal Church. The property is to be purchased for \$75,000. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Jarboe and all Commissioners voted in favor. The purchase will be subject to all percolation tests, survey and clear title. Notice of intent to purchase will be advertised in County newspapers.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Approved,


James M. McKay, President