

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 6, 1995**

Present: Commissioner Barbara R. Thompson, President
Commissioner D. Christian Brugman
Commissioner Paul W. Chesser
Commissioner Frances P. Eagan
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Edward V. Cox, County Administrator
Judith A. Spalding, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the minutes of Tuesday, May 30, 1995. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Check Register as presented. Motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS

Present: Edward V. Cox, County Administrator

1) **Director of Finance**

Also Present: Charles Wade, Director of Finance

Income Tax Report

Mr. Wade advised the Commissioners that the income tax receipts from the State have not been what he had anticipated given the 20% increase in the piggy back tax and growth in the County. He indicated that after a series of meetings and discussion with Income Tax Division officials of the state, the county will receive \$543,000 this year as opposed to receiving that amount in August of 1996 when the State reconciles its figures. He further pointed out that the County will know its growth for tax year 1994 by the middle of June.

Status of Fiscal Year 1994 Financial Statements

Mr. Wade stated that a letter dated May 19 was received from the Office of Legislative Audits advising that a review of the county's auditor's report and financial statements for fiscal year 1994 disclosed areas of noncompliance with revised guidelines. He pointed out that this was not an issue about numbers in the report but an issue of format. Mr. Wade indicated that he believes the report was done property and in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

2) **Colton Estate Status Report**

Also Present: Gene Carter, Director, Office on Aging

Mr. Carter appeared before the Commissioners to present the status of the Colton Estate property, Shipping Point. He reviewed the history and background stating that Mrs. Bruce Colton left the property and a cash endowment to the State to be used for senior housing. The heirs had contested the will and the issue was resolved in favor of the state. After an analysis of

the property, the State concluded that the property could never be used as a large housing development for senior citizens. The Colton family again filed against the State alleging that since the State was not developing the property in accordance with the will that the property should go back to the heirs. In 1993 a decision was made by the Court to return the property to the family and the cash endowment to be retained by the State.

Mr. Carter distributed a handout setting forth the terms of the 1993 settlement of the Court and revised terms of the agreement that the endowment will be used by the State for a single affordable housing project for seniors in St. Mary's County, which must be approved by the State.

Included in the handout was a list of issues that must be resolved by the parties including the county's role in the housing project.

The Commissioners agreed to schedule a Thursday work session to discuss this issue.

3) **Alliance for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention**

Also Present: Joe Dick, Director, Alliance

Mr. Dick appeared before the Commissioners to present the Work Plan for the Alliance Summer of Safety Learn and Serve Art Camps for Youth, which is required by the Department of Employment and Economic Development. DEED will be processing the grant in the amount of \$25,000 which has been approved by Governor Glendening. No matching funds are involved. Mr. Dick explained that the purpose of the Work Plan proposal is for the re-establishment of a partnership under the umbrella of the Alliance and builds on the base of the Prevention Program's VISTA Community Empowerment Project.

After discussion Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Chessser, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Work Plan as presented and to approve and sign the letter to DEED forwarding the Plan. Motion carried.

4) **Three Oaks Center - Lease Amendment**

Also Present: Rona Harding
Dennis Nicholson

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to present an amendment to the Lease Agreement (dated October 1993) between the Commissioners and Three Oaks Homeless Shelter, Inc. Mr. Nicholson advised that the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust will be providing a \$78,000 grant for the Three Oaks Center and he stated that the Housing Authority should receive the funds to be passed on to Three Oaks. He further advised that the County leases to Three Oaks the land on which the building is constructed and in the current lease there is no assignment clause. The amendment provides for an assignment of the lease in case of default by Three Oaks to the Housing Authority.

After discussion Commissioner Chessser moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Lease Amendment as presented. Motion carried.

5) **Wicomico Shores**

Also Present: Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation and Parks

Property Acquisition

As a follow up to an Executive Session Mr. Rollins distributed a memorandum dated June 6, 1995 with a Deed conveying Lot Number 178 on Golf Course Drive at Wicomico Shores to St. Mary's County. He stated that the County has gone to settlement on the property, which was acquired, at a cost of \$21,500 using Golf Enterprise Funds, to protect the golf course and golf

maintenance barn from development encroachment. Mr. Rollins pointed out that it is expected that Program Open Space will reimburse the county for this acquisition.

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Deed as presented. Motion carried.

Waterfront Property Lease

Mr. Rollins distributed a memorandum dated June 6 with a proposed lease agreement between the County and Wicomico, Inc. enabling the county to lease parts of three lots at the end of Army Navy Drive at Wicomico Shores for \$1. He stated that Recreation and Parks has been using these lots since 1987 when the County received ownership of the golf course and waterfront recreation area believing they had been conveyed with the waterfront property.

The Lease Agreement will allow the County continued use of the lots through December 31, 1995 for parking purposes, after which time Recreation and Parks will continue to use the property on a month-to-month basis.

The Commissioners deferred action on the Lease until next week's meeting.

Easement Agreements

Also Present: Larry Petty, Director, MetComm
Joe Mitchell, Attorney, "
Joe Densford, County Attorney

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to request the granting of certain easements on the grounds of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course to the Metropolitan Commission. The easements are as follows: Easement One: for the construction of an elevated water tank; Easement Two: for the construction of a deep well; Easement Three: to provide access for construction of water line; and Easement Four: for ingress and egress across the property.

Mr. Mitchell advised the MetComm has been working with appropriate agencies (including Public Works, Recreation and Parks, Planning and Zoning, and the Legal Department) in developing the easement agreements and each has expressed no objection.

After discussion Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Easement Agreement as presented. Motion carried.

**6) Efficiency Task Force
Resolution No. 95-29
Information Release**

As a follow up to previous discussions the County Administrator presented a draft Resolution establishing the Efficiency Task Force and an Information Release seeking applicants to serve on the Task Force.

During discussion the Commissioners agreed to distribute the Resolution to the various county department head for comments.

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the Resolution and Information Release. Motion carried.

7) **Director of Social Services
Efficiency Evaluation**

The County Administrator presented a memorandum dated May 30 (previously distributed to the Board) advising that the Social Services Board each year completes an efficiency rating for the Director of Social Services and submits it to the Board of County Commissioners for concurrence. Once concurrence is given, the Evaluation is forwarded to the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Chessser, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to approve the Efficiency Rating as submitted. Motion carried.

8) **Personnel
Residency Requirement Prohibition**

The County Administrator presented a memorandum dated June 1, 1995 from the Personnel Officer advising that effective October 1, 1995, in accordance with Article 24, Section 1-107 of the Maryland Annotated Code, St. Mary's County will be prohibited from requiring an employee to reside within the County or within a required distance of the County as a condition of employment. However, the County may require elected officials, County Administrator, and department heads to reside within the County. Also a points and credits system could be used in employment or promotion decisions.

The commissioners agreed to defer a decision until next week.

9) **Resolution No. Z95-06
Renaming "Pine Court"**

As a follow up to the May 23 public hearing the County Administrator presented a Resolution renaming Pine Court, County Road #30235, to **Old Pine Court**.

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Chessser, to approve and sign Resolution No. Z95-06 as presented. Motion carried.

10) **Information Release
Groundbreaking for Community College at St. Mary's**

The County Administrator presented an Information Release announcing the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Community College at St. Mary's will be held June 12, 1995 at 4 p.m. at the future site of the campus formerly the St. Mary's Academy on Route 245 in Leonardtown.

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Eagan, to approve distributing the Information Release as presented. Motion carried.

11) **Grants**

The County Administrator presented the following grant documents for the Commissioners' review and consideration:

Arts Council

Grant Agreement Contract awarding of a Community Arts Development Grant in the amount of \$1850 to the Alliance for Alcohol/Drug Abuse Prevention for providing entertainment at Freedom Fest.

Emergency Shelter Grant

Application in the amount of \$42,000 for the expansion of existing shelter resources through Walden Sierra; establishment of part-time temporary transition coordinator at Department of Social Services; and through DSS financial assistance to homeless individuals related to security deposits or prevention of eviction.

Letter addressed to Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development forwarding the application.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Eagan, to authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the grant documents as presented and to sign the letter to MDHCD as presented. Motion carried.

12) **Eagle Scout Award**

The County Administrator presented correspondence addressed to Walter S. Sczcepan expressing congratulation on his achievement of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to sign and forward the letter as presented. Motion carried.

13) **Response Letter
Solid Waste Disposal Services**

The County Administrator presented correspondence addressed to Colonel Colin F. Burch, Jr. in response to his of May 8, 1995 regarding the solid waste disposal services of Waste Management of Southern Maryland. The return letter explains the license required for utilization of the county's landfill and further advises that the county has no jurisdiction in the area of his dispute with Waste Management.

In addition County Administrator Cox presented a letter addressed to Waste Management of Southern Maryland forwarding a copy of Colonel Burch's letter and requesting assistance in addressing his concern.

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to sign and forward the letters as presented. Motion carried.

14) **Response Letter
"Children at Play" Signs
Farming Encroachment**

The County Administrator presented correspondence addressed to Thomas N. Jones responding to his letter of May 10 regarding the referenced signs and farming encroachment concerns. The return letter advises that the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* does not encourage the use of "Children at Play" signs. With regard to the encroachment issue, the letter further advises that the farming operation adjacent to Scotch Neck Road does not appear to have encroached within the County's right-of-way.

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to sign and forward the letter as presented. Motion carried.

15) **Budget Amendments**

The County Administrator presented the following budget amendments recommended for approval by the Director of Finance with justifications as indicated:

No. 95-50

Planning and Zoning

Justification: For realignment of salary accounts to provide for personnel changes (\$1,160)

No. 95-51

Public Works

Justification: To transfer funds at airport project from acquisition to runway extension design (\$17,519)

No. 95-52

Public Works

Justification: To transfer funds from highway maintenance to vehicle maintenance to cover salary/benefit costs where work actually performed (\$10,000)

No. 95-53

State's Attorney

Justification: To provide temporary secretarial service in absence of injured worker (\$1,080)

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Budget Amendments as presented. Motion carried.

SICK LEAVE CLUB

The Board of County Commissioners presented Sick Leave Club Awards to the following county employees:

<u>100 Days</u>		<u>200 Days</u>
Mary L. Farmer	Francis C. Copsey	Phillip J. Shire
Jeffrey G. Jackman	Gene L. Fenwick	Phillip R. Cooper, Jr.
Shirley L. Wood	Theresa M. Mayor	Jeffrey L. McLane
Joseph D. Clarke, Jr.	Mary A. Winters	Arthur C. Shepherd
	Luke W. Oliver	Daniel F. Ichniowski

TEEN CENTER

Present: Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation and Parks
Mary Whetstine, Teen Center Advisory Board
Alonzo Gaskin, "
Claude Clarke, Recreation and Parks

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the financial situation of the Teen Center located at Chancellors Run Regional Park. Mr. Rollins advised that after several meetings, the Teen Advisory Board has developed the following recommendations:

- Establishment of the Advisory Board as a Commissioner-appointed board
- Appointment of some new board members
- Request for county funding in the amount of \$25,000 for staff needs to operate Teen Center
- Request for Sheriff's Department to fund the cost of off-duty police officers working teen dances at a cost of \$8,640.
- Remainder of operating costs to be funded through user fees and fundraising
- Establishment of fundraising subcommittee of the Teen Advisory Board to solicit business support and donations.

Ms. Whetstine presented a letter dated June 6 to the Board from the Teen Center Advisory Board referring to the Center's budget shortfalls and indicating that the Center was never expected to be self-supporting.

Areas of discussion included getting other groups to use the Center, looking for grant funding, and Sheriff's department looking at other avenues to provide security,.

The Commissioners agreed to take the requests under advisement.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR PROJECT

Present: Joe Daley, Vice-President, Economic Development Commission
Aleck Loker, Director, DECD

Mr. Daley appeared before the Commissioners to present a briefing on the possibility of siting a high technology incubator project in St. Mary's County. He advised that a subcommittee of the EDC was established to investigate this possibility pointing out that the State has an active program of encouraging and supporting incubator projects. He described incubator projects from other areas, physical sites (trailers, old school buildings, use of other buildings), and the use of a secretariat for providing services. He pointed out to the Commissioners that the incubator concept is more technical than commercial.

During his presentation Mr. Daley referred to a strategic business plan study done in 1993 by Booz-Allen and a 1994 report by the State on the incubator concept that he recommended the Commissioners review the documents. Included in the reports are aspects related to technology transfers. He pointed out that the State program funds 50% of capital costs to put together the frame work of the incubator center and the community would have to come up with the remainder. However, he indicated that the state is cutting back on technology transfer funds. Mr. Daley further reported that it was important to have the cooperation of the Navy to tie into the technology transfer and commercialization of the Navy's technology in some form of incubator. Mr. Daley stated that the County's intention should be to expand and extend its base beyond federal and state government and carry it out to the commercial sector.

Mr. Daley referred to decisions that would need to be made relative to an incubator project; e.g., who would own the technology transfer center? whoever owns it would have to pay for it; and what does the incubator hope to accomplish.

In conclusion Mr. Daley suggested that Commissioners meet with appropriate individuals to discuss the concept of an incubator in this area and have work sessions to develop specifics. The Commissioners requested additional information on the issue of incubators before moving forward.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

Present: Jon Grimm, Director
Harry Knight, Code Coordinator

1) Maryland Accessibility Code

Mr. Grimm advised the Commissioners that with the passage of the Maryland Accessibility Code, adopted by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Planning and Zoning will have a new enforcement mandate. The new regulations, which replaces the Maryland Building Code for the Handicapped, became effective February 1, 1995, and applies to most buildings and structures within the state for which a permit application is received by a local jurisdiction for new construction, additions, alterations, and changes of use. The purpose of the Code is to establish minimum accessibility and usability of buildings and facilities by individuals with disabilities.

Therefore, Mr. Grimm distributed an Information Release explaining the Accessibility Code and its application.

The Commissioners concurred in the distribution of the Information Release to the public.

2) **Maryland Building Performance Standards**

Mr. Grimm advised the Commissioners that in February of 1995 his department forwarded correspondence to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Codes Administration, indicating that Ordinance No. 94-08, Adoption of the Building Code (readoption of CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code, 1989 Edition, and BOCA National Building Code, 1990 Edition) complied with the Maryland Building Performance Standards. The letter further indicated that the Commissioners had determined that the changes proposed by the 1993 BOCA and 1992 CABO were not necessary to serve and protect the citizens of the County. By letter dated April 14, 1995 MDHCD advised that the Standards were enacted to ensure that all jurisdictions would adopt the same edition of the BOCA Code and that the computer system, provided to access the system, could not operate properly unless all jurisdictions used the same edition of the Code. MDHCD in its April 14 correspondence requested that St. Mary's, therefore, adopt BOCA National Building Code, 1993 Edition, with any necessary modifications.

Mr. Grimm advised that he believed the County has two options to demonstrate compliance; one, to conduct public hearings and adopt the 1993 Code; or second, to conduct a more detailed review of the specific changes which were made in the national codes from the 1990 version of BOCA to its 1993 version, and makes decisions item by item, and submitting any changes as the local amendments. Mr. Grimm indicated there was a August 1 deadline which would not be met if the second option was chosen.

During discussion Mr. Grimm noted that the Building Code Task Force had recommended adoption of the 1993 Code and that the Commissioners may opt to do that in order to have the same standards as other jurisdictions.

After discussion the Commissioners agreed that the Task Force review the options and make recommendations to the Commissioners later in June.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Present: Dan Ichniowski, Director

1) **Ordinance No. 95-20
Rosebank Court Special Taxing District**

As a follow up to the May 23 public hearing Mr. Ichniowski presented the referenced Ordinance establishing a Special Taxing District for improvements to Rosebank Court from Rosebank Road to the End, at distance of approximately 2,184 linear feet.

With regard to the question raised at the hearing as to whether the Metropolitan Commission received a benefit and should be included in the Taxing District, Mr. Ichniowski advised that the Ordinance was prepared including MetComm. Mr. Ichniowski referred to a letter from the property owners which indicated that MetComm should participate in the Taxing District.

After discussion Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and sign Ordinance No. 95-20 establishing the Rosebank Court Special Taxing District. Motion carried.

2) **Hollywood Shores Erosion Control District**

As a follow up to the May 9 public hearing on the establishment of a Shore Erosion Control Special Taxing District for Hollywood Shores, Mr. Ichniowski advised that 139 signatures have been gathered and 23 more are needed for the Reaffirmation Petition. Once this is accomplished, Mr. Ichniowski will return to the Commissioners with the appropriate Ordinance establishing the district and the loan agreement with the County acting as District Manager.

3) **Charles County Community College at St. Mary's Forest Conservation Easement**

Mr. Ichniowski presented the referenced Forest Conservation Easement which requires the setting aside of 13.11 acres for Forest Conservation at the Charles County Community College Site at St. Mary's.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Forest Conservation Easement as presented. Motion carried.

4) **Tipping Fee Discussion**

Also Present: Charles Wade, Director of Finance

Mr. Ichniowski presented a handout setting forth information relative to tipping fees and transfer station costs. He reviewed the background on tipping fees including the authority and the current schedule established in 1991. He pointed out that since the last review of tipping fees, requirements and services have increased resulting in increased costs, and that he believed the issue of tipping fees should be revisited looking at current costs per ton, transfer station costs, and recycling/waste reduction. Mr. Ichniowski, however, made the Commissioners aware of a new landfill in King George, Virginia (45 miles from St. Andrews Landfill and 32 miles from New Market) was opening in October 1995 with fees ranging from mid \$20's to low \$30's. If the County raised its fees, it is possible that the King George facility could be more economical to haulers.

With regard to the proposed expansion of St. Andrews landfill, Mr. Ichniowski advised that the county's permit has been contested by an adjacent property owner and the State's appeal process has not yet been completed. This has delayed construction of the project until Spring of 1996.

Mr. Wade stated that since the project has been delayed, that the funds from the current General Obligation Bond designated for the landfill can be used for the Great Mills High School (and other school projects scheduled for the next bond issue), and the County could postpone going to the bond market until Spring of 1996 for the landfill.

During discussion of the options regarding fees, the Commissioners agreed that Public Works work with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to develop recommendations with the goal of going to public hearing in July or August.

Also discussed was the possibility of extending the hours of operation at the St. Andrews Transfer Station.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Commissioner Eagan advised that the Commissioners received a Certificate of Appreciation welcoming them as members of the Lexington Park Elementary School Community Resource Team.

HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITY

Present: Bob Randall, Chair, So. Md. Higher Education Center Board of Governors
Gene Karol, Executive Director
Gary Hodge, Director, Tri-County Council

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to present an update on the status of the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center. The representatives gave the background stating that the primary purpose was to compliment the work of the Navy by providing graduate degrees for engineering and computer science. Governor Schaefer appointed the current Board of Governors in 1993 and the Maryland General Assembly formalized by law the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center and the Board of Governors in 1994.

With a combination of state grant funding and assistance from the Navy and county government, a site was secured, a facility planned and designed, and groundbreaking held September 30, 1994. An accelerated construction schedule has given the opportunity for opening for classes on a limited basis in September 1995. Because of the unexpected early opening, there is concern about full occupancy and fully equipping the center causing questions about operating funds for the first six months to a year.

The Commissioners requested the Board of Governors to prepare a draft memorandum of understanding between the Board of Governors and the Board of County Commissioners since it is a county-owned facility. Also the Commissioners requested a more detailed and specific description of the operating shortfall with the commitment to assist as much as possible to ensure an effective opening and program start. The Board of Governors assured the Commissioners it would return as soon as possible with the requested documents.

COMMENDATION BRYAN LEGGETT MORSE

The Commissioners presented a Commendation to Bryan Leggett Morse for his athletic accomplishment by being selected from Leonardtown High School to the Maryland State All Star Team, as the first from St. Mary's to participate in the Sunbelt Classic Tournament in Shawnee, Oklahoma and for being selected to participate in the Crown High School All Star Baseball Game of Maryland to be held at Camden Yards.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Potomac River Association Parcel of Record Legal Action

Also Present: Joe Densford, County Attorney

Commissioner Thompson inquired as to the status of the referenced legal action. Mr. Densford advised that staff has been working with PRA on negotiating a settlement and are currently going over the details. As soon as the issues are settled on, he will inform the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSSIONS

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, that the session on Boards and Committees be held in Open Session. Motion failed two to three with Commissioners Thompson, Chesser, and Eagan voting against.

Commissioner Chesser moved, seconded by Commissioner Eagan to meet in Executive Sessions to discuss matters of Personnel, as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1. Motion carried three to two with Commissioners Brugman and Jarboe voting against.

Personnel - Employment Contract

Present: Commissioner Barbara R. Thompson, President
Commissioner D. Christian Brugman
Commissioner Paul W. Chesser
Commissioner Frances P. Eagan
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Edward V. Cox, County Administrator
Judith A. Spalding, Recording Secretary

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1
Time Held: 2:02 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed an employment contract and gave direction to the County Administrator

Personnel - Consideration of Appointments to Boards, Committees, Commissions

Present: Commissioner Barbara R. Thompson, President
Commissioner D. Christian Brugman
Commissioner Paul W. Chesser
Commissioner Frances P. Eagan
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Edward V. Cox, County Administrator
Judith A. Spalding, Recording Secretary

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1
Time Held: 2:10 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners reviewed status sheet, made nominations, and directed staff to contact the nominees and prepare appropriate letters of appointment.

Personnel - Acting County Administrator

Present: Commissioner Barbara R. Thompson, President
Commissioner D. Christian Brugman
Commissioner Paul W. Chesser
Commissioner Frances P. Eagan
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Judith A. Spalding, Recording Secretary

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1
Time Held: 4:05 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners concurred in the selection of an Acting County Administrator until the new County Administrator is appointed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Commissioners conducted the regularly monthly public forum accepting questions and comments from the audience:

Mary Whetstine - Requested the Commissioners' support of the Teen Center.

Drew Hines - Spoke in favor of acquiring the 200-acre site at Myrtle Point.

Jane Sypher - Inquired whether there will be a public hearing on Myrtle Point. Commissioner Thompson responded that there will be a public hearing or meeting at a later time.

Ken Byrd, Allison Byrd, K. (Strickhas), Shirley Gerred, Christy Crowley, Marie McNee, - Expressed concern about the Commissioners' support of the Laurel Glen Apartment project for low to middle income families. Commissioner Thompson explained that the project will be mixed with not only low-income housing but middle and higher incomes as well and that it was not a subsidized housing project. Mr. Loker, Director, DECD, explained the competition process for tax credit housing projects. He further advised that the Housing Authority will be proposing a more rational process to make decisions at the state level about tax credit projects.

Pat Russell, John Everhart - Advised the Commissioners of the poor conditions of some of the ball fields in the County (holes, rocks, glass, water on field, backdrops falling apart, no fencing in front of benches, benches falling apart). Parks mentioned in the worst condition included Nicolette, Carver Elementary School, Piney Point, Cecil Park, and Spring Ridge. Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation and Parks, advised that his department is aware of the problems and that funds are not available for major repairs. He stated that he has met with the Board of Education regarding school fields and there will be a report with recommendations to the Commissioners and Board of Education. He further indicated that he will be meeting with Little League officials to discuss transferring some activities to the Regional Park.

Jane Sypher (R&P Board member) - Stated that in order for the renovations to the parks to be made in time for the next season, costs would have to come from FY '96 budget.

Katherine Owens - Inquired about the Strategic Plan Survey and whether it could be copied and distributed. Commissioner Thompson explained that staff and Commissioners have been making presentations to various groups throughout the County, during which background is given and the surveys distributed; however, the Commissioners would have no problem with individuals completing the survey. Commissioner Thompson did suggest that there may be a group that Ms. Owens belongs to that would like to have the presentation.

Elfreda Mathis - Expressed support of the Teen Center; indicated that the school system is working on upgrading its fields but there is no money available.

Mary Clements - Spoke in support of the Teen Center.

Ken Hastings - Inquired about tipping fees and transfer station fees, questioned the statistics used in calculations, inquired whether the fees would be increased, and expressed concern that there are revenues for the fees in the FY '96 budget without a plan. Commissioner Thompson explained that the Commissioners discussed the tipping fees/transfer station fees at today's meeting and that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee will be reviewing the issue and make recommendations to the Commissioners.

Doug Ritchie - Expressed concern over the rising property taxes and the inequity between higher income and lower income families in the payment of these taxes. He suggested an Affordability Study.

Regina Abell - Expressed concern about the possibility of having a transfer station fee, particularly for those individuals on fixed incomes.

Minnie Russell - Expressed concern about imposing a transfer station fee because it may create littering problems along roads and in her woods

The Public Forum concluded at 8:40 p.m.

**Minutes Approved by Board of
County Commissioners on 7/13/95**

Judith C. Spalding
Recording Secretary