

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 12, 1995

Page 491

Present: Commissioner Barbara R. Thompson, President
Commissioner D. Christian Brugman
Commissioner Paul W. Chesser
Commissioner Frances P. Eagan
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Aleck Loker, County Administrator
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Eagan, to approve the minutes of Tuesday, December 5, 1995 as corrected. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS

Present: Aleck Loker, County Administrator

1) **Correspondence**

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

- To Maryland Department of Environment waiving the County's right to a public meeting on the sewage sludge permit applications for August H. Stash, Ray Norris, and James Cryer sites.

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

- To Dr. Margaret O'Brien expressing congratulations on being selected as the successor to Dr. Ted Lewis as President of St. Mary's College.

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

2) **Response Letters**

The County Administrator presented the following response letters for the Commissioners' review and signatures:

- To Alliance of Concerned Taxpayers regarding recycling services and sale of recyclables
- To W. Vernon Gray regarding reappointment of individual to the County's Housing Authority.

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

- To St. Mary's Chamber of Commerce regarding the organization's comments relative to restricting development in the AICUZ area of Lexington Park.

The Commissioners requested that the letter be modified to include language regarding sensitivity to the need for development in the area as well as sensitivity to AICUZ. The letter will be amended and returned to the Board for approval next week.

3) **Boards, Committees, Commissions**

Appointments

Commission for Disabled

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to make the following reappointments to the Commission for Disabled: Nancy Hutson, Dennis Nicholson, Charles W. Ridgell. Motion carried.

Annual Reports

The County Administrator presented a proposed memorandum to chairs of all boards, committees and commissions regarding the format for presentation of annual reports. Mr. Loker suggested that the boards be given an opportunity to either present the reports in person as has been done in the past or to submit them by mail.

The Commissioners gave their concurrence to proceed with the annual reports as recommended.

3) **Marcey Halfway House - Supplemental Funding Request to State**

The County Administrator presented correspondence from the Director of Marcey House addressed to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration requesting Supplemental funding for Fiscal Year 1996 in the amount of \$40,677, representing \$15,477 shortfall and \$25,200 for replacement of equipment. Relative to the Supplemental Request, Mr. Loker presented a Human Services Contract proposal to be signed by President Thompson.

Commissioner Chesser moved, seconded by Commissioner Eagan, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Human Services Contract Proposal as submitted. Motion carried.

4) **Clearinghouse Project No. MD951117-1123
MD 237 from MD 235 to Pegg Road**

The County Administrator presented the referenced clearinghouse project and advised that the Department of Public Works has reviewed the project and recommended that it be forwarded to the State with the comment that the project is consistent with the County's plans, programs and objectives.

The Commissioners gave their concurrence to submit the comment to the State as recommended.

5) **Information Releases**

The County Administrator presented the following Information Releases for distribution:

Risk Management Award

Also Present: Steve Welkos, Director of Finance
Joe Suchinsky, Accounting Officer

Announcing Risk Management Award from Local Government Insurance Trust acknowledging efforts and accomplishments of Joe Suchinsky, Accounting Officer.

Small Cities Development Block Grant

Announcing the Governor's approval of a Small Cities Development Block Grant in the amount of \$136,781 which will provide funding for the construction of a Neighborhood and Head Start Center in the Patuxent Wood community.

Myrtle Point

Also Present: Doug Durkin, County Attorney
Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation and Parks

Giving a status report relative to communications with RTC and the Trust for Public Land regarding the proposed acquisition of Myrtle Point property and indicating that the County should maintain status quo until certain areas have been addressed by RTC. No action to be taken by the County until RTC acquires title.

Lexington Park Redevelopment Area

Announcing that the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has concurred with the County's designation of Lexington Park as a revitalization area, which will entitle businesses in the area to apply for funding from the Neighborhood Business Development Program.

TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER EXPANSION PROJECT

Present: Ed Tucker, Chief, Animal Control Services
Bob Anderson, Shelter Supervisor
Paul Wible, Director, EMA

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to reiterate a previous request for St. Mary's County's participation in funding the Tri-County Animal Shelter expansion project. Mr. Tucker referred to a letter dated March 24 from former County Administrator Cox which indicated that the County had tentatively allocated \$37,500 to cover St. Mary's County's share of the project pending submission of specific plans.

In light of that request Mr. Anderson displayed a floor plan of the proposed addition and pointed out that in accordance with the Humane Society of the United States, the existing facility is deficient. The proposed addition would provide space for adequate runs and cages and would better serve the citizens of the tri-county area.

Discussion ensued relative to the spay/neutering program, number of animals from St. Mary's County brought to the shelter, holding period for animals, and method of determining whether an animal is vicious.

ALLIANCE FOR ALCOHOL DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

Present: Joe Dick, Director
Walt Biscoe

The referenced representatives of the Alliance for Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention appeared before the Board to present information on the following programs:

Rural HIV/AIDS Prevention/Education Project

Memorandum of Agreement between the Aids Administration of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the County Office of Community Services relative to the County conducting an HIV/AIDS Prevention/Education and Risk Reduction Program. The program will be conducted in four weekly sessions rotated among four sites: Patuxent Woods Apartments, Lexington Park Family Support Center, Leonards Freehold, and St. Joseph's/King Kennedy Estates. The grant from the State is in the amount of \$10,000 for the period September 15, 1995 through June 30, 1995.

Summer of Safety Arts Camp

Maryland State Arts Council Arts Project Grant Application for Fiscal Year 1997 for a joint project between Office of Community Services and Recreation and Parks Department. The camp will consist of five six week summer day camps for 6 - 12 year olds residing in high risk neighborhoods and 125 high school age youth service corps volunteers to be utilized as artistic counselors in training. Age-appropriate prevention education themes will be explored through improvisational theater techniques.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department

Commissioner Brugman expressed appreciation to Hollywood Fire Department for responding so quickly to his home. He stated he was burning leaves and a neighbor called the fire department because of the smoke and thought there was a fire.

Buzzards at Golden Beach Area

Commissioner Jarboe advised that he received a telephone call reporting that a large number of buzzards have been locating in the Golden Beach area, and he inquired whether they are a protected species. Commissioner Thompson related a similar situation she had and that she learned that buzzards are a protected species. Commissioner Jarboe indicated he would contact a natural resources individual on the base.

**Efficiency Task Force
Privatization/Consolidation**

Commissioner Eagan referred to December 11 correspondence from the Efficiency Task Force Chair recommending that the Task Force play a role in the standing committee for the privatization/consolidation process.

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, that the Chair or representative of the Efficiency Task Force serve as a member of the Standing Committee for Privatization/Consolidation of County Services in relation to County Policy Memorandum No. 93-1.

After discussion Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to amend the motion that after the task force completes its mission that a citizen be appointed to the Standing Committee. Motion carried.

Vote on the main motion as amended was unanimously carried.

Three Oaks Shelter

Commissioner Chesser advised that he attended the Opening Ceremony and Reception for the Three Oaks Homeless Shelter on Sunday and was very impressed with the facility. He suggested that the Commissioners take the opportunity to visit the facility.

Correspondence to Leonard Greess

In response to comments from Leonard Greess at the December 5 Public Forum, Commissioner Thompson presented correspondence addressed to Mr. Greess apologizing for release of November 14 letter to the PRA to the media before the PRA had had an opportunity to read it. The letter further reaffirms the county's position regarding payment of PRA's legal fees

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

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to meet in Executive Session to discuss a matter of Personnel (Consideration of Appointments to Boards, Committees, Commissions), as provided in Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1. Motion carried three to two with Commissioners Brugman and Jarboe voting against.

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

Personnel (Department of Economic & Community Development)

Present: Commissioner Barbara R. Thompson, President
Commissioner D. Christian Brugman
Commissioner Paul W. Chesser
Commissioner Frances P. Eagan
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Aleck Loker, County Administrator
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1
Time Held: 2:48 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

Action Taken: The County Administrator discussed the applicants for the Director of DECD position and reviewed options concerning the department.

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
Aleck Loker, County Administrator
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1
Time Held: 3:40 p.m. - 4:35 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners reviewed the current Status Sheet, made nominations, and directed staff to prepare appropriate letters of appointment for consideration at a future meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Present: Steve Welkos, Director of Finance

The Board of County Commissioners conducted the following public hearings:

Supplemental Appropriation - Blue Cross/Blue Shield Refund

To consider a supplemental appropriation of \$111,000 from County General Fund balance to refund to County employees their share of a health insurance premium refund received by the County for the July 1, 1993 - June 30, 1994 settlement period.

Mr. Welkos distributed a handout explaining the purpose of the hearing and giving the background of the issue. He advised that the County received a health insurance premium refund for the July 1, 1993 - June 30, 1994 settlement period because of favorable claims

experience during that period. Mr. Welkos indicated that the refund was reflected in accounting records as an expenditure savings in the individual departments and returned to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. The total refund to the employees is \$111,000, which includes interest for the period it had been held.

The hearing was opened for comments from the audience.

Commissioner Eagan on behalf of a citizen, Eva Field, inquired whether the funds were placed in a separate account or put in the county budget.

Mr. Welkos responded that the refund was reflected in each department's budget as savings in the salary accounts; however, because a portion of the refund was employees' contributions, it did not belong in the departmental budgets. It did flow through the county's books as part of the county's budget, but it should not have been part of the county's budget.

Commissioner Jarboe inquired if there was a policy that could be implemented to avoid this occurring in the future.

Mr. Welkos indicated that there could be a reduction in premiums to the employees for the next period if there should be a favorable claim period or there could be a premium holiday.

County Administrator Loker suggested that if it should happen again that the funds be put into a separate account and not mingled with taxpayers' dollars.

The public hearing was closed; the record will remain open ten days for written comment.

Supplemental Appropriation - Library Board of Trustees

To consider a supplemental appropriation of \$11,970 from the Library Fund Balance to the Board of Library Trustees for recurring operating costs as the result of the expansion of the Charlotte Hall Library.

Mr. Welkos distributed a handout setting forth the purpose of the hearing and giving the background. He advised that the Charlotte Hall library public service area is expanding from 2,600 sq. ft. to 11,600 sq. ft. in the building shared with the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association.

The hearing was opened for comments from the audience.

Susie Fowler, Janet Pettengill, Jane Bailey, and Robert Pettengill spoke in support of the supplemental budget request.

The public hearing was closed; the record will remain open for ten days for written comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Chessner, to meet in Executive Session to discuss a matter of Personnel (Department of Recreation and Parks), as provided in Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1. Motion carried three to two with Commissioners Brugman and Jarboe voting against.

Personnel (Department of Recreation and Parks)

Present: Commissioner Barbara R. Thompson, President
Commissioner D. Christian Brugman
Commissioner Paul W. Chesser
Commissioner Frances P. Eagan
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Aleck Loker, County Administrator
Douglas Durkin, County Attorney
Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation and Parks
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1
Time Held: 5:10 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed a personnel issue relative to the Department of Recreation and Parks and gave direction to staff in handling the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

**Minutes Approved by Board of
County Commissioners on 12/19/95**
Judith A. Spalding
Recording Secretary