

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 12, 1996**

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 11:55 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Personnel (Consideration of Appointments to Boards)

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

(Jim Haley attended the session from 12:22 p.m. - 12:27 p.m.)

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1
Time Held: 12:05 p.m. to 12:40 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners reviewed the current status sheet, made recommendations, and directed staff to contact the individual and prepare appropriate letter of appointment for approval at a future meeting. Discussion of other vacancies will be held in executive session on March 19.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Eagan, to approve the minutes of Tuesday, March 5, 1996 as corrected. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS

Present: Aleck Loker, County Administrator

1) **VisionQuest Application to Board of Appeals**

County Administrator Loker presented correspondence from Attorney Karen Abrams advising that VisionQuest has withdrawn its application for a camp on the Somerville property in Loveville.

2) **Correspondence**

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

- a. To Jim Haley, Airport Manager awarding him a Superior Achievement Award
- b. To Superintendent of Schools Kozlovsky regarding temporary relocation of Piney Point Elementary School students to the soon-to-be vacated Community College site during the reconstruction of Piney Point School.
- c. To Three Oaks Center Board explaining the County's contributions to the facility and denying the request for operational funding to the Shelter.
- d. To Michael Whitson, Tri-County Abstract, Inc. regarding sale of easement rights on parcel owned by Sotterley Foundation.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Eagan, to sign and forward the letters (a, b, c and d), as presented. Motion carried.

- e. To Paul Tobin encouraging him to schedule a public meeting at which he and SHA representatives can brief the public regarding a public landing site for his ferry boat operation.
- f. To State Highway Administration regarding Route 235 widening project.
- g. To Maryland Department of Natural Resources regarding proposed amendment to the Wildlands Legislation for St. Mary's River Park

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

3) **Length of Service Awards Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Advanced Life Support Volunteers**

The County Administrator presented for the Commissioners' approval of 14 certified annual listings for 618 active volunteers of fire departments, rescue squads and advanced life support who qualified for service credit in 1995.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commisisoner Brugman to approve and sign the listings as presented. Motion carried.

4) **Fiscal Year 1996 Rental Allowance Program**

On behalf of the Housing Authority the County Administrator presented the Rental Allowance Program (RAP) Agreement for Fiscal Year 1996 for the Commissioners' consideration. RAP is funded through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and provides short-term rental assistance payments for eligible countians occupying eligible housing units.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Brugman, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Rental Allowance Program Agreement as presented.

5) **Resolutions**

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

- a) **No. 96-12**
Sale of Public Facilities and Hospital Refunding Bonds of 1996 and Metropolitan Commission Refunding Bonds of 1996
Awarding the sale of the referenced Public Facilities and Hospital Refunding Bonds of 1996 (\$18,965,000) and Metropolitan Commission Refunding Bonds of 1996 to the firm of Ferris, Baker and Watts. (follow up to March 5 bond sale)
- b) **No. 96-11**
Metropolitan Commission Infrastructure Bonds (Wicomico Shores Water/Sewer Systems)
Concurring in the adoption of MetComm Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of Metropolitan Commission Infrastructure Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$880,000.

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Brugman, to approve and sign Resolution No. 96-11. Motion carried.

5) **Budget Amendments**

The County Administrator presented the following Budget Amendments recommended for approval by the Director of Finance:

- a. **No.96-37-** Economic and Community Development (\$2,500)
(To provide funding to Watermen's Association as approved by the Commissioners on February 20.)

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign Budget Amendment No. 96-37. Motion carried.

- b. **No. 96-38 -** Alcohol Beverage Board (\$1,500)
(To provide funding for temporary help during absence of administrator)

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign Budget Amendment No. 96-38. Motion carried.

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL GIRL SCOUT WEEK**

The Commissioners presented the referenced Proclamation designating March 10 - 16 as National Girl Scout Week in St. Mary's's County.

FISCAL YEAR 1997 "TENTATIVE" RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Present: Aleck Loker, County Administrator
Steve Welkos, Director of Finance

Mr. Welkos reviewed with the Commissioners the FY '97 "Tentative Recommended Budget and highlighted major areas of the budget including total requests, recommended operating budget, estimated general fund revenues; position summary and changes; general fund budget by departments; public school's general fund budget; education staffing comparisons; and capital budget

The Commissioners agreed to schedule work sessions on the FY '97 Recommended Budget on Tuesday, (March 19 at 9 a.m. and starting at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 21, if necessary.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM**

Present: Dennis Nicholson, Acting Director, DECD
Harold Young, Acting Director, State Coordinator, HUD
Housing Authority Staff/Board

Mr. Young appeared before the Commissioners to provide information relative to various homeownership opportunities and home buyer education. He reviewed various affordability aspects of homeownership as well as HUD's 203K Program, which emphasizes acquisition to rent with option to buy or rehabilitation of property prior to homeownership. During his presentation Mr. Young indicated that homeownership programs target first-time home buyers and explained the program strategies.

In closing Mr. Young pointed out that Governor Glendening has designated March 1996 for home buyer education and encouraged the county to continue activities to provide education relative to homeownership.

ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER IN HOLLYWOOD

Present: Dr. V. Shah
Representatives of Shah Associates

Dr. Shah appeared before the Commissioners to describe the proposed Shanti Medical Center to be located in Hollywood and stated that the site plan for the project received Planning Commission approval on March 11. The building, to be located on a 30-acre parcel on the southwest side of Route 235, will be a 50,000 square foot facility. He displayed a plat of the property and schematic drawings of each floor, and explained the various services that will be provided and the integrated delivery systems that will be utilized at the new facility.

In closing Dr. Shah announced that the new medical center, which will be providing the most modern and futuristic concepts of health care, will be completed by November 15.

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

Present: Donna Sasscer, Agricultural/Seafood Specialist
Paul Scheidt, Md. Agricultural Land Preservation
Jim Conrad, St. Mary's Agricultural Land Preservation Board
Other Agricultural Land Preservation Board members

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to offer support of the County's Agricultural Land Preservation Board's request for \$100,000 in the Fiscal Year 1997 budget to be used as matching funds with the State (60% - state; 40% - county) for the preservation of farmland in the County.

Ms. Sasscer explained that the County's program was certified by the state November 1995 and is now authorized to retain 75% of the agricultural transfer tax; however, revenue collected for the past three years is approximately \$54,000, and the investment from the County is needed in order to compete with other counties in the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The County Board has established a goal of preserving 17,000 acres of farm land, and the \$100,000 from the County would generate \$180,000 from the state in the one-year cycle thereby providing a total of approximately \$330,000 of state funds.

During discussion the following points were made:

- 12 farms in St. Mary's County have had easements purchased since the program began in 1977; Carroll County had 101 farms purchased.
- funds not used by the county return to the state's program for use by other counties,
- costs of easements are approximately 1500/acre (Charles and Frederick County)
- character of county could be destroyed by continued development of farmland

Other areas of discussion included Transfer Development Rights (TDR's); interest from sale of county-owned land to be set aside for the program; and whether the requested funding would benefit the local certification program.

In conclusion the Commissioners agreed to give consideration to the request.

BALTIMORE GAS AND ELECTRIC

Present: Charles Cruse, Vice President
John C. Smith, Public Affairs

Presentation of Check to Sotterley Foundation

Also Present: John Hanson Briscoe

Representatives of Baltimore Gas and Electric presented a check in the amount of \$3,000 to John Hanson Briscoe on behalf of the Sotterley Foundation.

Calvert Cliffs Update

Mr. Cruse presented an update relative to the Calvert Cliffs Power Plant explaining the goals of the facility and recent grades received from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The regularly scheduled maintenance shutdown will occur during the Spring.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Present: Dan Ichniowski, Director, Department of Public Works

1) Snow Storm Costs Update

Mr. Ichniowski presented up-to-date snow storm costs including the recent March 9 storm for a total of \$546,511.50.

2) Kingston Creek Waterway Improvement District Army Corps of Engineer Permit

Mr. Ichniowski reviewed the Scope of Work of the Kingston Creek Waterway Improvement Project, which is estimated to cost \$15,000, and will include maintenance dredging, deposit of dredged material, construction of stone groin disposal sites, and repair of approximately 130 feet of timber jetty. After the presentation Mr. Ichniowski requested the Commissioners to authorize Commissioner President Thompson to sign the Army Corps of Engineers Permit.

After discussion Commissioner Chesser moved, seconded by Commissioner Eagan, to authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign COE Permit as presented. Motion carried.

3) Addendum to Public Works Agreement Maryland Rock

Mr. Ichniowski presented an Addendum to a Public Works Agreement between Maryland Rock Industries, Inc. and Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County extending the deadline for completion of improvements to Breton Beach Road and Abell's Wharf Road to January 1, 1997 and further reducing the Letter of Credit with First National Bank of St. Mary's to \$85,000. Mr. Ichniowski advised the Commissioners that the developer will not be doing the improvement work, but will be done in the County's Asphalt Overlay Program, and that the bonding and public works agreement guarantees payment to the County.

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Addendum as presented. Motion carried with four Commissioners voting in favor and Commissioner Eagan abstaining because she is on the Board of Directors of First National Bank of St. Mary's.

ANIMAL SHELTER DISCUSSION

Present: Sue Wilkinson, Administrative Officer
Paul Wible, Director, EMA
Phil Cooper, Deputy Director, EMA

As a follow up to previous discussions the Commissioners commenced discussion regarding the Tri-County Animal Shelter and animal control in St. Mary's County. Prior to the discussion beginning Commissioner Eagan She referred to the proposal presented by the Animal Welfare League on February 27 and stated that the Procurement Officer and County Attorney had indicated on another matter that the Commissioners could not accept unsolicited proposals. After discussion the Commissioners were in agreement that they would not discuss a specific proposal, but would look at the current Tri-County Animal Shelter and other alternatives including privatization or a separate shelter in St. Mary's County.

The Administrative Officer served as facilitator during the discussion of animal shelter options and provided statistics (national, tri-county; Wicomico County, and St. Mary's) relative to numbers of animals handled euthanation; number of animals returned to owners and adopted; capacity/growth; and shelter statistics) Areas of discussion listed on the chart included: the issue of whether the current operation or alternatives were humane; cost effectiveness; capacity; growth accommodation; accessibility; adequacy of local control; legal issues; and timing. An issue of discussion was whether St. Mary's County would participate in the funding request by Charles County for the expansion of the Tri-County Animal Shelter.

During discussion County Administrator Loker pointed out that the County is obligated to provide animal control and there should be assurance that there is a public safety service by picking up animals that are a threat to the public as well as assurance that the animals are treated humanely. He stated that the Commissioners need to make a decision whether to contract the service or to provide it in-house. He pointed out that there is currently only one animal warden in the county and if it is done in house, it cannot be done with just the one warden.

After discussion of whether to continue with the current shelter, participate in funding of the shelter expansion project, or whether to privatize (all or part of the animal control functions). The Commissioners directed staff to develop a statement of work to solicit proposals relative to the operation of an animal shelter breaking it down in segments so that the Commissioners could make a decision whether to privatize the entire operation, a portion of it, or none.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Willows Road/Soccer League

Commissioner Brugman advised that he attended a soccer league meeting and the issue of the availability of the Willows Road property from the Navy was raised. He requested the County Administrator Loker to find out the status of the Navy leasing that property to the county for recreational purposes.

Park Fees

Commissioner Brugman requested the County Administrator to find out whether fees are being collected from ballplayers only at Chancellors Run Park or other fields as well.

Science Fair

Commissioner Jarboe advised that he attend the St. Mary's County School's Science Fair and because of the efforts of local teachers the number of participants increased from 33 last year to 120 exhibits this year.

St. Mary' County Annual Report

Commissioner Jarboe stated that he believed that the Annual Report was not legal advertisement, but public information and requested the County Administrator to obtain a price quote from *St. Mary's Today* and return to the Board for a decision whether to proceed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes Approved on 3/19/96
by Board of St. Mary's County Commissioners

Judith A. Spalding
Recording Secretary