

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Governmental Center
October 19, 1999**

Present: Commissioner President Julie B. Randall
Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson (entered meeting at 11:35 a.m.)
Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator
George Forrest, Deputy County Administrator
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to accept the agenda as amended (to delete Sheriff's Department discussion on the Detention Center). Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to authorize Commissioner President Randall to sign the Check Register. Motion carried.

(Questions on bills included traffic signals on Routes 5 and 245; repairs to damaged trunk line; and Bell Atlantic bill for Office on Aging and Recreation and Parks (staff to submit past six month's experience).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, October 12, 1999, as amended. Motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Present: Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator

- Draft Agendas for October 26, 1999 and November 2, 1999

1. Department of Public Works

Also present: George Erichsen, Director, DPW

Public Works Agreement for Avonlea Subdivision, located in the Fifth (5th) Election District. A letter of Credit has been provided by the First National Bank of St. Mary's in the amount of \$58,000.

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign Public Works Agreement. Motion carried.

2. Grant Documents
 - a. Office on Aging – Grant Agreement
Title III Federal Grants (\$81,093)
(no local funds)
(grants are included in the FY 2000 budget)

Also present: Gene Carter, Director, OOA

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the Grant Agreement. Motion carried.

- b. Housing Authority
Letter of Intent for the MD Housing Rehabilitation Program
(Reservation of \$23,509 of state loan dollars for the program)

Also present: Dennis Nicholson, Director, Housing Authority

Areas of discussion included explanation of the loan program, comparisons to other counties, particularly Charles County, that amount of loans are dependent somewhat on available staff time to assist applicants.

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the Letter of Intent. Motion carried.

In conclusion the Commissioners requested that Mr. Nicholson return at a later date to brief the Board on needs assessment, means of addressing those needs, funding and staff shortfalls to meet the needs, and what staff it takes per project.

3. Calendar Year 2000 Holiday Schedule

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve the Calendar Year 2000 Holiday Schedule as presented. Motion carried.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE (INTRODUCTION OF BASKETBALL COACHES)

Present: Margaret O'Brien, President, St. Mary's College
Shann Hart, Women's Basketball Coach
Alfred Johnson, Interim Men's Basketball Coach

Ms. O'Brien appeared before the Board to introduce Ms. Hart the Women's Basketball Coach and Mr. Johnson, the new Interim Men's Basketball Coach. The representatives from the college thanked the Commissioners for their support of the programs at the college and presented each with a hand towel with the college's initials.

The Commissioners expressed appreciation to Dr. O'Brien and the coaching staff and wished them every success as the basketball season begins.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Present: Sheriff Richard Voorhaar
Capt. Steve Doolan
Lt. Rusty Malone
Sgt. Michael Merican
Cpl. Greg Laxton

Sheriff Voorhaar and representatives of the Sheriff's Department appeared before the Board to present proposals relative to compensation for the Sheriff's deputies. The Sheriff provided comparisons to Charles and Calvert Counties as well as the Maryland State Police, and pointed out that without adequate salary compensation, the Sheriff's Department will be experiencing serious retention problems. Calvert County has recently

implemented a pay scale comparable to the Maryland State Police, and Charles County, which is similar in size and composition to St. Mary's, has a more favorable compensation package than St. Mary's. Sheriff Voorhaar requested that the Commissioners consider comparable pay and benefits for St. Mary's deputies.

Areas of discussion included using performance incentives rather than longevity; petitioning Maryland State Police for more manpower in St. Mary's (and how many state police have been added locally during the county's recent growth, and how many have been assigned to Calvert and Charles); educational opportunities.

(Commissioner Anderson entered the meeting at 11:35 a.m.)

After discussion the Commissioners requested information regarding the total compensation package given to the deputies (salary plus benefits); regarding proposals for a complete compensation study (which departments are included in the study and which departments are not included).

Y2K BRIEFING

Present: Dave Foggo, Washington Gas
Tom Tudor, SMECO
Carl Smith, Bell Atlantic
Marjorie Marsh, County's Information Technology Dept.

The referenced individuals appeared before the Board to provide a briefing on their agency's/department's readiness for the Year 2000. Each agency spoke to the issue of certain equipment not recognizing the four-digit year (2000). Highlights from each department included:

Washington Gas

The impact on the company's software caused by the change to Year 2000 (Washington Gas corrected a number of systems and replaced others).

Washington Gas has been addressing the Y2K issues since 1996 including development of strategies in the following areas (business application systems, embedded systems, vendor/supplier relationships, communications with customers, business continuity management planning, and independent verification and validation).

Established a Year 2000 Project Office comprised of executive management and employees with expertise in the information systems field, procurement, operations, law, and human resources, as well as the expertise of outside consultants.

Southern Maryland Electric

Joined with two Virginia cooperatives to develop a comprehensive project plan addressing the components affected by the Year 2000 change and outsourced information technology operations to an outside contractor.

The Joint Solution has four phases: inventory, assessment, correction, and testing.

Explanation of *active impact* (device using a calendar date to generate activity) and *passive impact* (device has special date stamp circuit which monitors an activity).

Affected equipment, systems and software have been separated into two categories (electric system group and business system group).

Provided examples of Y2K ready systems (programmable substation reclosers, meter reading system, desktop PCs and printers, PC office software, telephone system, local area network, etc.)

All Y2K inquiries are being responded to via telephone, letter, e-mail, brochures, and newsletters.

Y2K readiness is 95%.

Bell Atlantic

Remediation work completed to ensure that customers will have continued service (almost all network equipment and related software in the company's 14-state service area are compliant).

Bell Atlantic has spent more than four years in assessing and addressing the impact of the Year 2000 date change

January 1, 2000 should be just another day for processing messages; however, consumers should ensure that their own equipment is Year 2000 compliant.

Preparation and testing will continue during the remainder of 1999.

St. Mary's County Government

County contracted with Diverse Technologies Corporation in November 1998 to address Y2K issues. The contract included Awareness, Inventory, Impact Assessment, Conversion Solution Plan.

All noncompliant PC systems have been replaced.

The County's web page provides a publicly available site for status of Y2K.

That Y2K should not be looked at as a problem but as a time for celebration.

INFORMATION RELEASE

COUNTY'S BOND RATING/ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS

The Commissioners agreed to distribute an Information Release announcing that St. Mary's County has received a bond rating increase from the firm of Standard & Poor's from A+ to AA; Moody's bond rating remains unchanged. Bonds will be issued in the amount of \$29,575,000 through First Union Securities at an interest rate of 5.52%.

VISIT FROM BALTIMORE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Present: Dutch Ruppertsberger, County Executive
Robert Hannon, Executive Direction, Economic Development
Arnold Jablon, Director, Permits and Development Management
David Fields, Director, Office of Community Conservation

After getting a tour of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, the referenced officials from Baltimore County appeared before the Board to explain Baltimore County's processes for zoning and economic development issues.

In his opening remarks Mr. Ruppertsberger stated that after having the tour and traveling through the area, that St. Mary's County has the potential to be a premier county to live in and raise children.

Mr. Fields addressed planning issues and provided the Commissioners with documents from Baltimore County (including Comprehensive Plan, Five-Year Plan; areas of concentration included public safety, education, and community conservation.

Mr. Hannon addressed economic development issues including business development; number of businesses in the County; employment issues; and major thrusts of economic development (business development, revitalization development, economic

investment program, workforce development and technology); the development of a working relation between education and industries.

Mr. Jablon addressed zoning issues (planning and zoning departments have been separated out); Baltimore County has a Zoning Commissioner; discussion of approval and appeal processes.

Other areas of discussion included ADA accessibility requirements, school construction issues (Baltimore County created a priority plan and went to the Interagency for School Construction with a united front; had to prove its case; hired a consultant to look at projected populations and another to assess needs for every school.) He stated that Mr. Stenzler, Director of IAC suggested the following: to make sure budget and planning officials agree with education budget; create a county-wide consensus; make sure priority list has integrity; and to know where the elected officials' authority comes from.

In conclusion the Commissioners expressed appreciation to Mr. Ruppertsberger and his staff and suggested that the two counties continue on with a good working relationship. Mr. Ruppertsberger suggested technology issues and that Maryland Association of Counties is a tool to use in getting jurisdictions to work together.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Additional Letter to Interagency for School Construction

Commissioner Randall suggested that the Commissioners rethink the letter that was sent to the Director of the Interagency for School Construction last week. She stated that it was important that the Commissioners, Board of Education and legislators present a united front to the State with regard to the public school's capital improvement program and that a new letter should be sent giving a clear message that the Commissioners are supportive of the school system and the capital projects. At this time the Commissioners reviewed a draft letter to Mr. Stenzler, discussed affordability and budget time line issues, the state's changed funding formula.

After discussion and revisions to the letter, the Commissioners agreed to sign and forward the letter to the Director of the Interagency for School Construction.

In closing Commissioner Randall suggested that the Finance Departments for the County and Board of Education develop a formal process for the Capital Improvement Program (including funding issues and time lines; and tracking of costs and reserves from completed projects).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to meet in Executive Session to discuss a matter of Personnel, as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1. Motion carried.

Personnel

Present: Commissioner President Julie B. Randall
Commissioners Joseph F. Anderson
Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator
Al Lacer, County Attorney
George Erichsen, Director, DPW
Jim Stirling, Director, OCP
Melvin "Mac" McClintock, Director, DHR
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1
Time Held: 5:30 p.m. – 6:52 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed a personnel issue and agreed to take action in open session to direct staff to proceed as discussed.

Follow Up to Executive Session

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo to direct staff to go forward as agreed to in executive session. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

**Minutes Approved by the
Board of County Commissioners on 10/26/99**

Judith A. Spalding
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder