

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Governmental Center
December 28, 1999**

Present: Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr., Vice-president (Chaired the meeting)
Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson
Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
George G. Forrest, Deputy County Administrator
Mary M. Langley, Recording Secretary

(Commissioner Randall was not present.)

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

There were no bills for approval.

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR EMPLOYEE REFERRAL PROGRAM

Present: Melvin A. McClintock, Director, Department of Human Resources (HR)

Mr. McClintock presented an Employee Referral Bonus Program Policy for the Board's consideration pertaining to referrals by county employees of candidates for designated vacant positions in county government. The policy provides a monetary award (\$250) to an employee should their referral be hired. Mr. McClintock indicated that only the first referral received by HR would be eligible for the bonus and that it may not be split with the candidate or another employee. It was noted that, should employees jointly submit one referral sheet, the bonus could be shared. Mr. McClintock advised that there would be little fiscal impact as the bonus would be offset by funding from the vacant position and/or a reduction in advertising costs.

The Board of County Commissioners gave their approval by consensus for the implementation of the Employee Referral Bonus Program Policy.

MILLENNIUM COMMISSION STATUS REPORT

Present: George G. Forrest, Deputy County Administrator
Yvonne York, Public Information Officer

Ms. York indicated that the Millennium Commission has been working to coordinate the celebration of the millennium by hosting a series of monthly events throughout the year. The kick-off celebration is scheduled for January 21 at Great Mills High School. Themes for the succeeding monthly celebrations are: Voices of the Millennium (February); Sailing into the Future (March); Preserve the Environment (April); Shape the Future (May); Celebrate Past, Present and Future (June); Celebrate Freedom (July); Millennium Memories (August); Celebrate Science & Technology (September); Celebrate Community (October); Voices of Our Veterans (November); and Get on with It! (December).

The Commissioners requested that the Millennium Commission coordinate the celebration with the Navy Base and the Board of Education and noted that the county's role in the celebration is to be one of support, not leadership. The task of planning and implementing the celebrations will be borne by the Commission with assistance provided by the Public Information Office in publicizing the activities.

Members of the Millennium Commission are: Ann Marie Abell, Jody B. Dean, Joseph Donick, Lorraine Glidden, Becky Proffitt, Patricia Sawyer, Ingrid Swann, Ramon Veras, and Yvonne York.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TIME

Navy Alliance, County Membership

Commissioner Guazzo indicated that the Navy Alliance has forwarded correspondence to the Board requesting that they designate a county representative for membership on its board. She stated that the County Administrator had declined appointment due to lack of time and that the County Attorney had expressed an interest. She recommended that Al Lacer be selected due to his close interaction with the Commissioners and that the Director of Economic Development continue to be a participant in the process as a non-voting member of the Alliance.

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to appoint Al Lacer as the county's representative on the Navy Alliance Board. Motion carried.

Agriculture Land Preservation (ALP)

Commissioner Guazzo referred to a letter received from John Conrad, Chair of the county's Agriculture Commission, indicating that a landowner's ALP application has been jeopardized by a subdivision abutting his property. She requested that a letter be prepared to the Department of Agriculture/Land Preservation Agency, with a copy sent to the Maryland State Department of the Environment, supporting the application and stating the county's commitment to preserving our rural areas. The county's ordinance should place land preservation as a prime goal and not have it considered as an interfering factor with subdivisions. The Commissioners concurred with the drafting of the letter.

New Year Wishes for a Happy and Safe Celebration

The Commissioners extended wishes for a safe and happy New Year to county citizens and staff.

Video on Navy Aviation

Commissioner Guazzo referred to a video that was provided by the Director of Economic Development about Navy Aviation Technology, and expressed concerns that county funds (\$22,000) were used to produce a video that did not mention the county. Mr. Fairclough was unable to come to the scheduled meeting and sent word that the video is a "work in progress." He had indicated that he would be glad to bring the Board up to date when he gets on the Commissioners' schedule. The Commissioners gave their concurrence to adding it as part of the County Administrator's Agenda.

COMMENDATIONS -- AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Present: Phil Rollins, Director, Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP)
Tyronne Harris, DRP
Irma Donato, DRP

Seventeen children were awarded computers, donated by SMARTCO, on December 15, 1999, for their participation in the After-School Program. To qualify, the children had to have an 80% attendance record, a 2.5 grade point average and parental participation at least once a month and completion of special projects. Mr. Harris stated that the After-School Program is funded by the Department of Social Services, the County Commissioners, Hotspot and the Southern Maryland Childcare Resource Center

for total funding in the amount of \$192,000 which includes \$66,000 in in-kind contributions.

The County Commissioners presented commendations to the children receiving computers and noted the importance of the service provided by SMARTCO, an organization comprised of volunteers who devote their evening hours to repairing and updating donated computers for distribution to the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, December 21, 1999, as amended. Motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

(Portions of the County Administrator's items were discussed during various segments of the Commissioners' agenda, but are compiled here for continuity.)

Present: George G. Forrest, Deputy County Administrator

- Draft Agendas for January 4 and January 11, 2000

(Commissioner Mattingly noted that two public hearings would be held on January 4—the first pertaining to the Text Amendment in conjunction with Callaway, and the second to a proposed moratorium and study of zoning regulation for Callaway Village study area.

1. Department of Public Works Items

Also Present: George A. Erichsen, Director

- (a) Public Works Agreement Addendum for Laurel Glen PUD, Phase 5, 8th Election District, extending the completion date to January 1, 2001. The Bond provided by the Fidelity and Deposit Company is being reduced from \$147,000 to \$103,200.
- (b) Resolution Nos. 99-27 accepting the extension of Cottonwood Parkway, County Route 30883, located in the Wildewood Subdivision, 8th Election District, into the county's Highway Maintenance System.
- (c) Easement Agreement from William & Patricia Reed for county to do drainage work at Town Creek Drive and West Quincy Terrace in the Town Creek Subdivision, 8th Election District.
- (d) Easement Agreement from Jacqueline Nowak for county to do drainage work at Town Creek Drive and West Quincy Terrace in the Town Creek Subdivision, 8th Election District.
- (e) Release, Termination and Vacation of Public Works Agreement between Southgate Partners, LLC, Richard L. Bernardi, Trustee, and Martha Foulon-Tonat, Trustee, for Southgate Park Subdivision. A new Public Works Agreement was executed by Southgate Partners for Southwoods PUD.

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve Public Works items a-e. Motion carried.

- (f) Continuation of Discussion on the disposition of property for the Old Hewitt Road Right-of Way (Maryland Manor Mobile Home Park Partnership and Paul Manchak).

Also Present: Karen Abrams, Attorney
Alfred Lacer, County Attorney

Mr. Erichsen provided a summary of events and items related to the disposition of property for the Old Hewitt Road Right-of Way. He noted that the Commissioners had discussed the abandonment of this property in executive and open sessions and advised that all items had been satisfactorily addressed with the exception of monetary compensation for the property. Mr. Erichsen advised that the county has historically quit deeded abandoned roadbed property, but concurred with the Commissioners' assessment that the acquisition of Old Hewitt Road right-of-way, which fronts Route 235, would enhance the value of the two adjoining property owners' property. Mr. Erichsen advised that the State is currently compensating property owners along Route 235 at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per square foot.

The Commissioners directed staff to continue negotiations with the adjoining property owners relative to monetary compensation.

2. Y2K – Staffing at Emergency Operations Center.

Mr. Forrest advised that the Emergency Operations Center will be additionally staffed on New Year's Eve to address any possible Y2K related emergencies. Staffing will include representatives from the offices and agencies of the County Administrator, Public Information, Emergency Management, Health Department, Public Works, State Highway Administration, Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, American Red Cross, St. Mary's Hospital, Metropolitan Commission, Washington Gas, Baltimore Gas & Electric, SMECO and Bell-Atlantic. Two rumor control lines have been set up, and the volunteer fire departments will have personnel in station as a contingency in case telephone problems are experienced at EOC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters related to litigation and personnel, as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a)8&1, respectively. Motion carried.

Litigation

Present: Commissioners Joseph F. Anderson
Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
George G. Forrest, Deputy County Administrator (left at 12:35 p.m.)
Alfred A. Lacer, County Attorney (left at 12:52 p.m.)

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)8

Time Held: 12:02 p.m. to 1:06 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed matters related to litigation and provided direction to staff.

Personnel

Present: Commissioners Joseph F. Anderson
Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
George G. Forrest, Deputy County Administrator
Melvin A. McClintock, Director, Dept. of Human Resources (left at 1:23 p.m.)

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1

Time Held: 1:06 p.m. 2:00 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed matters related to personnel and agreed to take action in open session.

**FOLLOW-UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION
(Personnel)**

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to direct staff to proceed as discussed in executive session. Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT AGREEMENT
(EYE CARE CENTER ON ROUTE 235 AND FIRST COLONY)**

Present: George A. Erichsen, Director, Dept. of Public Works
Dr. Edward J. Schwartzberg, Eye Care Center
Patt Mudd, D. H. Steffens Company
Nancy Randall, Wells and Associates
Karen Abrams, Attorney
Alfred A. Lacer, County Attorney
Ruth Grover, Deputy Director, Dept. of Planning & Zoning

Mr. Erichsen provided an overview of the project's history relative to the request for a railroad right-of-way easement. The proposed project has received Planning Commission approval in June with the stipulation that there be tie-ins to adjoining sites; the site is to be located in front of the First Colony Shopping Center, with southbound access to Route 235. The easement to cross the railroad right-of-way would provide accessibility to and from First Colony Center without entering and exiting on Route 235. The Commissioners expressed concern that the tie-ins and First Colony access would create additional traffic and safety hazards. Although language exists in the easement agreement that gives the Commissioners the right to revoke the agreement, they expressed concern that parameters/criteria does not exist outlining the reasons an easement can be revoked.

The Commissioners agreed to place the request for follow-up/decision on next week's County Administrator agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Minutes Approved by the
Board of County Commissioners on 01/04/00

Judith A. Spalding for
Mary M. Langley, Recording Secretary