

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Governmental Center
March 14, 2000**

Present: Commissioner President Julie B. Randall
Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson
Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
Alfred A. Lacer, County Administrator
George Forrest, Deputy County Administrator
Kate Mauck, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to accept the agenda as amended (to add a press release and to add a Proclamation for Purchasing Month). Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

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

PROCLAMATIONS

The Board of County Commissioners presented the following Proclamations:

- **National Girl Scout Week**
- **Census Awareness Week**
- **Purchasing Month**

CELEBRATION OF BIRTHDAYS

Charlene Newkirk presented a birthday cake to Commissioner Randall and Commissioner Anderson in celebration of their March birthdays.

PROCUREMENT POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Present: Jim Haley, Procurement Officer
Jim Stirling, Director, Office of Capital Projects
Charlie Hayden, President, Hayden's Auto Supply, Inc.
George Edwards, Retired Air Force Procurement Officer
Debbie Raley, U.S. Navy Contracting Officer
Renee Thomas, Purchasing Agent, St. Mary's College

Mr. Haley outlined the establishment of the Procurement Policy Review Committee as well as the assignments the Committee was tasked to perform. Mr. Edwards provided an in-depth assessment of the Committee's recommended changes to the existing Procurement Policy and Procedures Manual. After completion and thorough discussion concerning the twelve recommended changes, Mr. Edwards stated that the Committee does not recommend that the Board of County Commissioners adopt a local, small disadvantaged vendor and/or minority preference policy. The Committee does recommend:

- That a system be put in place to easily identify local contractors participating in the County's procurement process;
- That the Office of Central Services in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, Minority Business Alliance, and the Economic Development Commission sponsor periodic seminars on "How to do Business with St. Mary's County Government"; and
- That this issue be revisited periodically after data gathering to determine which direction the percentage of local contracting is heading.

Discussion took place concerning set-asides, response by the Federal government, advertising, how to get minority and small businesses involvement, and percentage of business given to the local community as well as the costs associated with that.

The Board of County Commissioners requested that the County Attorney's office be involved in this effort and provide legal sufficiency of the document, as well as assistance in ensuring the wording of the document is correct. The Finance Department is to review the process changes in light of their workload.

The Committee recommended that the Contracting Officer and Procurement Officer be two separate individuals. They also recommended that the Board of County Commissioners form a Procurement Review Board to review various topics prior to approval. **In response to this, the Board of County Commissioners instructed the Committee to work with Mr. Haley in turning over recommendations concerning the need for a Procurement Review Board and all the functions they would perform to the County Administrator and the County Attorney. The Committee was asked also to look at the subject of award authorization limits.**

Much discussion took place concerning small disadvantaged businesses. There is currently no capability to enable the County to track local business. It was determined that local businesses may have a need-to-know about bidding in advance to enable them to plan ahead given time constraints they may have as possible small business owners. It was suggested that the Committee work with the Business Resource Center in an effort to better educate vendors about the County government processes concerning bidding.

(The Board of County Commissioners recessed at 11:28 p.m. and reconvened at 11:40 p.m.)

LOWER POTOMAC RIVER TRIBUTARY TEAM REPORT

Present: Beth Horsey, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Lauren Wenzel, Department of Natural Resources
David Waring, Lower Potomac Tributary Team
Sean McGuire, Lower Potomac Team Coordinator
Sue Vieth, St. Mary's County Planning and Zoning Department

A presentation was given on the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement, which is open for public comment until March 31, 2000. The Agreement sets forth goals and commitments for restoring the Bay over the next decade, and will guide the regional Chesapeake Bay Program and Maryland's Bay efforts. A signing ceremony of the Agreement is planned for the end of June. Five sections of the Agreement were covered in-depth:

- Living Resource Protection and Restoration
- Vital Habitat Protection and Restoration
- Water Quality Restoration and Protection
- Sound Land Use
- Individual Responsibility and Community Engagement

Also covered was the Maryland Local Government Partnership Agreement. An update of this Agreement is being worked on, and it will formally acknowledge the critical role local governments play in restoring the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed, and it will outline joint commitments by the State and local governments.

It was pointed out that should voluntary efforts to correct nutrient-related problems in the Chesapeake Bay be unsuccessful by the year 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency would intervene and further regulate local jurisdictions. Commissioners discussed areas of concern with the Team members that they felt were not adequately addressed in the Report. **The Board of County Commissioners directed Sue Vieth to draft a letter for review by the County Administrator, to be signed by the Board of County Commissioners, with suggestions to include the following additions, changes or items for review: shore erosion control, tax policies and County land development codes.**

Questions were raised about oysters and the proposal to boost the oyster population ten-fold. The Team stated they would get back to the Board of County Commissioners with more detailed answers about how this would take place.

(The Board of County Commissioners recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:45 p.m.)

DIRECTOR, LEXINGTON PARK REVITALIZATION STATUS REPORT AND FUNDING REQUEST

Present: Robin Finnacom, Director, Lexington Park Revitalization
Nancy Hutson, Executive Director, Community Development Corporation
Jimmy Langley, Vice Chair, Community Development Corporation
Martin Fairclough, Director of Economic Development
Aleck Loker, Representative, Department of Social Services

Ms. Finnacom presented a comprehensive overview of the progress made in the efforts to revitalize Lexington Park. In an effort to better educate the public, a Public Information Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2000 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Lexington Park Elementary School. This meeting will provide a showcase of the projects that will occur and will be open for public discussion. Ms. Finnacom outlined improvements the State will be making to streets and sidewalks, and her desire to have property and business owners in the area adopt improvements that are in line with what the State is doing. She stated there that there are three ways the Board of County Commissioners can contribute to the first year effort to implement the Master Plan:

- Acceleration of the schedule for transportation improvement identified in the Lexington Park – Tulagi Place Master Plan;
- Fully fund the Department of Public Works budget request for countywide streetscape and street lighting improvements and dedicate those funds to the Lexington Park Development District; and
- Provide \$75,000 in seed funding to establish a façade and property improvement grant program in the Development District; and offer owners who redevelop or significantly renovate existing properties an abatement of their property taxes.

The Board of County Commissioners commended Ms. Finnacom for her efforts in this area. They offered their services to help spread the word about the April 4th meeting. **The Commissioners asked that a separate page on the County's website be developed for the revitalization of Lexington Park. The Commissioners also directed that Mr. Stirling and Mr. Erichsen have the map of the Lexington Park Master Plan updated prior to the April 4th meeting. They also requested that Ms. Finnacom give her thoughts on the draft ULDC when it comes back to the Commissioners for review. In addition, the Finance Department, along with Economic Development, is to provide input concerning matching grants and property tax abatements. They would also like to see if funding for office necessities could be provided for Ms. Finnacom. The Board of County Commissioners would like to know the status of the Skipjack money – how has it been used to date and how liquid is it? They would also like coordination of departments on projects that affect Lexington Park (CDC/Economic Development, etc.) so that all necessary information is presented at one time.**

The Board of County Commissioners assured Ms. Finnacom of their continued support for this project and stated that they would indeed be present at the April 4th meeting.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
CABLE FRANCHISE RENEWAL DISCUSSION**

Present: Al Lacer, County Administrator
George Forrest, Deputy County Administrator
Patrick Murphy, Acting County Attorney
Stan Goodwin, Chair, Cable Advisory Committee

Mr. Murphy announced that the County is about to undergo its cable franchising renewal process. The County currently has a ten-year agreement with two companies: Jones/Comcast and Western Shore. The first contract expires on January 1, 2001; the second expires February 25, 2002. There is an informal process and a very complicated, legal formal process; the County has been advised by experts to pursue the informal process first. Mr. Murphy stated that he advises the hiring of a trained telecommunications consultant who is an expert in the area of negotiations. Mr. Murphy outlined the four following areas that would be handled by this consultant:

- Negotiation
- Financial Review
- Needs Assessment
- Technological Assessment

The cost for engaging services of a consultant to handle the renewal process would be approximately \$200,000. Some of this could potentially be recouped as part of the renewal process. The County has not exercised its right to have an audit conducted, and it would be appropriate for it to occur expeditiously. The County is entitled to 5% of the proceeds made by the cable companies, and is currently paid once per year. Mr. Murphy recommends that a re-writing of the Franchise Ordinance would be appropriate at this time. Mr. Lacer concurred with Mr. Murphy's recommendations and suggested that in the future, audits on cable companies be performed every few years.

The Board of County Commissioners expressed the desire that customers of the cable companies complete a needs-assessment as well as a service survey. A public information meeting should perhaps be held on this subject as well. The upper end of the County is without full service cable television and this must be remedied. **The Board of County Commissioners expressed a consensus to support the Acting County Attorney's recommendation for the hiring of the firm of Miller Van Eaton to handle the franchise renewal process for the County.**

The Commissioners directed staff to make sure the fees were collected on a quarterly basis as called for in the Agreement.

The Board of County Commissioners called for a break at 2:55 p.m., reconvening at 3:03 p.m.

**METROPOLITAN COMMISSION
(\$840,000 BOND ISSUE)**

Present: Al Lacer, County Administrator
Steve King, Director, Metropolitan Commission
Joe Mitchell
Tom Russell
Valentino Johnson, Sr.
Elizabeth Woodard
Georgann Billetdeaux

Members of the Metropolitan Commission presented a request to approve the selling of MetCom bonds in the amount of \$840,000. St. Mary's County would be giving its approval to guarantee payment of the bonds in the event of a default. Mr. King provided detailed information outlining repayment plans, the purpose of the request, etc. Mr.

Welkos, the previous Finance Director, had reviewed the documentation and given his approval prior to his departure.

The Metropolitan Commission presented a Resolution to be considered, and they outlined their indebtedness, as well as a description of the bonds and loan, explanation of reserve funds, etc. MetCom's debt does not add to the County's bond indebtedness, and the purpose of the bonds is to pay for the Petty Building. Commissioner Raley suggested that in the future MetCom should consider coming to the Metropolitan Commission as well as the Board of County Commissioners much earlier in the process.

Commissioner Mattingly made the motion for the Board of County Commissioners to authorize a Resolution for the issue of the sale of bonds for the Metropolitan Commission up to the amount of \$840,000. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, March 7, 2000, as amended. Motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Present: Alfred A. Lacer, County Administrator

1. Draft Agendas for March 21 and 28, 2000
2. **Budget Amendment** No. 2000-30 – Information Technology (\$1500)
(to pay for advertisement of System Administrator position)

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign Budget Amendment No. 2000-30. Motion carried, with all members in attendance voting in favor.

(Commissioner Guazzo was absent at the time the vote was taken.)

3. Department of Public Works

Also present: George Erichsen, Director, Department of Public Works

- a) Contract for Dredging Services for Maryland Department of Natural Resources to perform dredging at Dukehart's Creek, 7th Election District.

(Commissioner Guazzo re-entered the meeting at this point.)

- b) Easement Agreements for the Dukehart's Creek dredging from Mr. and Mrs. Kopel and Mr. and Mrs. Downs.
- c) Easement Agreements from Alberta S. Langley for the construction of sidewalk and storm drain culverts along Maryland Route 5.
- d) Public Works Agreement Addendum for Westbury PUD Subdivision, Section 1, 8th Election District, extending the completion date to March 1, 2001. The letter of credit provided by the First National Bank of St. Mary's in the amount of \$176,000 remains as posted.

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the DPW documents. Motion carried.

4. **Grant Document
Office on Aging**

Also present: Gene Carter, Director, Office on Aging

FY 2000 Budget Reduction from Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
(Original Budget - \$84,427; Reduction - \$5,990; Adjustment - \$78,437)

Mr. Carter came before the Board of County Commissioners to explain the reason for the reduction in the budgeted amount. The Office on Aging was unable, due to weather, to keep it's center open all the necessary days to meet the budget requirements. Additionally, the Office on Aging has been unable to break-even with its Adult Day Care Program, and is finding itself with a negative amount per year of up to \$35,000. There was much discussion about the renovations of the old Hollywood school, and the need to move forward with the funding on this project.

The Board of County Commissioners determined to make room on an upcoming agenda for Mr. Carter to present recommendations on restructuring the Adult Day Care Program. These recommendations should include the scope of the program, expenses, information concerning clientele, and any possible alternatives that could make this program a success.

After much discussion, Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo, to authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the Budget Modification. Motion carried.

5. **Sheriff's Office
FY 1999 Police Protection Report**

(Reflecting police enforcement expenditures of the Sheriff's Office, which is a requirement in order to participate in annual grant of \$744,244)

Present: Richard Voorhaar, Sheriff, St. Mary's County

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the Police Protection Report. Motion carried.

6. **Department of Planning and Zoning
Tudor Hall Village**

(Request by developer for removal of condition of approval relating to financing stipulations)

Present: Jon Grimm, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning

Mr. Grimm appeared before the Board of County Commissioners, seeking direction on whether or not to proceed with a public hearing to consider a change of condition that would change the actual Ordinance on Tudor Hall.

Commissioner Guazzo requested that Mr. Grimm get back to the Commissioners on what portion goes to Leonardtown Recreation Incorporated as the "public portion" of the 31.64 acres and what portion is being given to the private developer. Also, the Board of County Commissioners would like an Ordinance to support the request at the Public Hearing. Mr. Grimm stated that the Ordinance would be prepared and present at the Public Hearing in support of the request.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to instruct Planning and Zoning to advertise for a Public Hearing to address the Tudor Hall's growth allocation request modifications. Motion carried.

7. **Aerial Mosquito Spraying – Department of Agriculture**

Mr. Lacer announced that Dr. Israel from the Health Department and the Department of Agriculture were unable to be present at today's meeting. It was requested that this item be placed on the agenda for March 21st. **Commissioner Mattingly stated that a letter had been received concerning a bill in Annapolis that is being proposed. It requests a response and relates to spraying statewide. He would like it to be included during the Aerial Spraying topic at the March 21st meeting.**

During this portion of the meeting, Jeannett Cudmore, Acting Finance Director, was asked to come before the Board of County Commissioners to assist in determining working session times for the budget process. Much discussion took place concerning the budget review process and time-constraints in the planning of future agenda.

8. **Boards and Committees (Letters of Appointment)**

The Board of County Commissioners made the following selections for appointments for Boards Committees and Commissions:

Board of Trustees for the St. Clement's Island Potomac River Museum:

Rose Davis

Callaway Citizens' Advisory Committee:

Frances Hewitt
Joseph D. Knott
Robert Paul
Harold Willard

Commission for the Disabled:

Lisa Kerr
Robert A. Kerr

Commission on the Environment:

Larry Greenwell – Reappointment
Lawrence B. Ludwig

Commission for Women:

Gregory J. Foltz
Bernadette Lewis
Holly South

Family Center of St. Mary's Advisory Committee:

Mike Schwartz

Housing Authority Board:

Barbara Ann Fenwick

Marcey House Board:

William J. Barker – Reappointment
Patricia Bryant
Hartmut "Harry" G. Metzler

Nursing Center Advisory Board:

Arlene S. Cooper
Connie S. Musgraves
Fred J. Wallace

Plumbing Board:

Tom Russell

Solid Waste Advisory Committee:

Kenneth Dayton

Zoning Board of Appeals:

Paul Sullivan/1st Alternate

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve the appointments and to sign the letters of appointment.

In addition, Mr. Lacer stated that the **Animal Control Laws Review Committee** that will review the County laws on animal control was being formed and he listed the following members for recommendation:

Mervyn Hampton

Carolyn Siebert

Henry Brooks

Janet Wilkins

Lorraine Greenleaf

Paul Wible, Director, Emergency Management Agency

Anthony Malaspina, Animal Warden Supervisor

George Forrest, Deputy County Administrator, who will serve as Chair

Patrick Murphy, Acting County Attorney

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the recommended individuals for appointment to the Animal Control Laws Review Committee and to authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the letters of appointment. The reporting date given to this Committee would be to report as soon as possible; however, not later than June 1st.

9) **CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTER**

Also present: George Forrest, Deputy County Administrator

Mr. Forrest brought a last-minute request from Becky Stevens, Director of the Child Care Resource Center, for a letter of support from the Board of County Commissioners to the Department of Human Resources. Mr. Forrest stated that a grant request was currently being reviewed by the Department of Human Resources for the Child Care Resource Center. The Center was in jeopardy of losing the grant since they were unable to reach 10% minority participation.

After some discussion, the Board of County Commissioners directed Ms. Stevens to appear before the Commissioners through the regular agenda process on March 21st or 28th. The Board of County Commissioners would like to hear first-hand about what efforts had been made to reach the minority participation requirements.

10) **Office of Central Services
Federal Transit Administration Assurance**

Also present: Jim Haley, Director, Office of Central Services

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the Federal Transit Administration Assurance.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Commissioner Guazzo stated that it was 16 years ago that the Patuxent River Plan was adopted. As a member of the seven-county Patuxent River Commission, she stated that changes need to be made on this plan. All these counties need to adopt an addendum to the Plan, to be presented at the next Legislative session for follow through.

Commissioner Guazzo asked that staff find out what procedure needs to be done to accomplish this goal – perhaps a public hearing, etc., and the Commissioners would

need to adopt a draft addendum. She also stated her regrets that she would be unable to attend tonight's public forum featuring Disability Month. A family obligation is preventing her attendance; however, she will be viewing the tape.

Commissioner Raley reported that he attended with Commissioner Anderson the Farm Bureau Banquet and he won three door prizes. He did give two of them back.

Commissioner Anderson provided updates from an Executive Committee meeting of the Tri-County Council:

- The Council voted to approve the submission of a grant that is related to Project Impact, which will be submitted to FEMA. This grant is approximately \$600,000;
- They voted to approve the consolidation of the Tri-County Council's funds into the local government investment pool;
- Delegate Bohanan reported that there is funding available for the design and construction of bike paths. He requested a committee from the three counties be set up to pursue this funding. The suggestion is that someone like Phil Rollins and/or George Erichsen be appointed to this committee; and
- Tri-County Council has representatives that are responsible to appoint individuals to the Southern Maryland Resource and Development Committee. This Committee would like to have a member of the Board of County Commissioners serve on that Board. A formal request should be arriving from them.

Commissioner Anderson read a press release covering the Southern Maryland Workforce Investment Board. The Board is to receive \$500,000 in grant money from the U. S. Department of Labor. The grant will fund the Southern Maryland Workforce Investment Board's initiatives to build local consortia and skills alliances that will enhance regional planning and workforce development capacities in the local service delivery area that is covered by the Workforce Investment Act.

Commissioner Mattingly stated that he had visited Annapolis yesterday because several important bills were being presented by Senator Dyson for the County. A number of residents from the Lexington Park area that participate in programs at the Family Center were there to represent their concerns. He expressed his gratefulness to the individuals who traveled out of the local area to represent St. Mary's County.

Commissioner Randall expressed the condolences of the Board of County Commissioners to the family of Eunice Leopold. She will be missed in our community as a friend, teacher and a role model for our children.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters of Property Acquisition, and Personnel, as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a)11 and 4-210(a)1, respectively. Motion carried.

Property Acquisition

Present: Commissioner President Julie B. Randall
 Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson
 Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo
 Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
 Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
 Alfred Lacer, County Administrator

Also present: Jim Stirling, Director, Office of Capital Projects
 Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation and Parks
 Joan Lolcama, Property Manager

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)11
Time Held: 5:35 p.m.

Action Taken: Discussed preliminary aspect of a purchase of land for Parks and Recreation and gave direction to staff. Discussed aspects of possible purchase of properties for the Board of Education and gave direction to staff.

5:20 p.m. Mr. Rollins departed meeting.
6:20 p.m. Executive Session adjournment.

(Delores Lacey took the minutes from this point forward)

PUBLIC FORUM

6:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioner President Julie B. Randall
Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
Delores Lacey, Recorder

Absent: Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo

COMMISSION FOR THE DISABLED ANNUAL REPORT

Present: Cynthia Brown, Chair, Commission for the Disabled and
Director, Office of Community Services
Jeannie Kracinovich
Arthur Shepherd
Kevin Detwiler

Prior to the opening of the public forum, the Commissioners received a brief presentation by Cynthia Brown about the Annual Report for the Commission for the Disabled.

The Commission is a volunteer-appointed advisory council tasked to provide the Board of County Commissioners with advice and assistance with regards to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Responsibilities include: encouragement of local government's compliance with the ADA; facilitation of public education and awareness to improve attitudes toward persons with disabilities; and to serve as official advocates for citizens with disabilities.

Significant activities of the Commission consisted of providing an ADA Resource Library which is housed in the Office of Community Services; continuing community awareness during Disability Awareness Month in March; explored ways to expand the activities of the Commission; and serving as volunteers on a County government task force charged with coordinating an ADA Awareness Forum in July of 1999.

Problems and Challenges currently facing the Commission are the lack of balance of agency representatives. The frequent changes in personnel make it difficult to maintain membership consistency. Funding for County government facility upgrades continues to remain a challenge.

The Commission for the Disabled will continue to work with the Office of Central Services to make the most effective use of funds for ADA accommodations in County government. The Commission will once again coordinate the Second Annual Public Forum. A new name and a logo for the Commission is being discussed to better reflect their mission. Bylaws will be reviewed and possibly revised, if necessary. Community awareness efforts will continue throughout the current year.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Randall expressed her concerns about the membership. It was her understanding that the Commission members appointed were the ones attending the meetings and not representatives. The Commissioners asked Ms.

Brown to draft a letter for the Board of County Commissioner's signature to agencies represented asking for the continuity of members on the Commission for the Disabled.

Ms. Jeannie Kracinovich spoke of Saturday's Disability Awareness Day 2000, to be held on March 18th. There will be pony rides, a moon bounce, train rides & a petting zoo. The theme for this year's Awareness Day is "High Hopes for the Future", featuring 300 flying kites. Mr. Madden, President of the Hollywood Optimist Club, has donated the kites.

Mr. Arthur Shepherd was introduced as a member of the Commission for the Disabled and the Recreation Division Chief for the Recreation and Parks Department. It was noted that 17,000 Recreation and Parks Program Guides have been distributed to children through the school system, announcing on the front cover that March is Disability Awareness Month. In 1997, an Inclusion Study Group was established with citizens, agencies and public school representatives to work with the Recreation and Parks Department to help improve the facility use, accessibility, program adoption and renovations. This group has submitted wonderful recommendations to the Department as well as insight as to how the Department can improve their business and make the programs and facilities more accessible. Mr. Shepherd expressed his delight with the direction the Commission is moving.

Mr. Kevin Detwiler, a member of the Commission for the Disabled, indicated that St. Mary's County has come a long way and he appreciates the Board of Commissioners trying to meet the needs of the disabled.

A copy of the Annual Report is on file in the Commissioners' office.

PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Randall read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of March 2000 as Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Board of County Commissioners conducted the monthly public forum. Questions/comments from the audience included:

Lorraine Stiefel – California, MD. Has a child with a Developmental Disability. The St. Mary's County Public School System, in her opinion, continues to discriminate against her child with regards to beneficial placement within the system. She wants the community to be aware that the school system is using public funds for lawyer fees instead of supporting the children in the County and it is time for a change.

Barbara Hayden – Regional Director for the Center for Life. Spoke of her concern for transportation. It is hard for the disabled to get to the place they need to go, especially during evening hours. If there are restrictions on where an individual lives, where they need to be picked up from, and at what time, it makes it difficult for the disabled to be a part of the community. There needs to be a cooperative effort to search for funding to expand transportation. Ms. Hayden's other concern is an educational issue. Students with special needs do not get what they need. Teachers need training to deal with disabled children.

Kim Trent – Leonardtown, MD. Spoke in support of Pam Chaney, Aquatics Physical Therapist, to receive further consideration for parking spaces. Another concern for Ms. Trent is that she has a daughter in gymnastics at the Recreation and Parks Gymnastics Center in Lexington Park and there are no handicapped spaces.

Darryl Hansel – Bureaucratic red tape limits therapy sites to be readily available. Because she could not receive immediate therapy, his wife had to be placed on an 8-month waiting list, which made her recovery from a bilateral hip replacement more difficult.

Ed Gildersleeve - Spoke on transportation issue. Has a 29-year-old son with Downs Syndrome, who will lose his job of 12 years if he does not receive the transportation he needs.

Marie Battaylia - Hollywood, MD. Spoke in support of Pam Chaney, Aquatics Physical Therapist, to receive further consideration in Zoning issues. Thanks to Ms. Chaney, Ms. Battaylia will start a new job on April 1 after five years of not working. She would not have the physical stamina she has today if it wasn't for Pam Chaney.

Carol Drury - Director for Division of Rehabilitation Services. Spoke on the transportation issue. Commissioners need to begin a campaign to hire people with disabilities within County Government.

Commissioner Randall noted that on the Board of Commissioners' agenda on March 28th this is a topic of discussion.

Grace Ann Guy - Clements, MD. Spoke in favor of Pam Chaney, Aquatics Physical Therapist, to receive further consideration in Zoning issues.

Dee Skok - Caller from Great Mills, MD. Her son has two appointments per week at St. Mary's Hospital. He has missed seven appointments over the past two months because the bus didn't come or the driver forgot. This affects him and the hospital. She would like to see an improvement in transportation.

Jeanie Kracinovich - Spoke as a member of the Workforce Investment Board. Expressed thanks to Commissioner Anderson for his efforts and the priority for the WFIB from this Board of Commissioners.

Margaret Ann Stewart: Spoke in support of Pam Chaney, Aquatics Physical Therapist, to receive further consideration for parking spaces. Also spoke of a sidewalk problem in front of Esperanza School. **She was assured by the Board of County Commissioners that the sidewalk issue would be directed to Mr. George Erichsen, Director of the Department of Public Works.**

David Stewart - Spoke in support of Pam Chaney, Aquatics Physical Therapist, to receive further consideration for parking spaces.

Mary - Caller from Leonardtown, MD. What is the status of the indoor pool at the Community College? Commissioner Anderson indicated the time frame is the year 2003 or 2004.

Linda - Caller from St. Inigoes. There used to be signs along Rts. 5 & 235 about fishing boats and seafood. Why aren't they permitted anymore? Commissioners responded that this is a State Highway issue.

Mrs. Schmalgemeyer - Her husband was injured on the job. He was run over by a tow truck, and she tried to get him into Chaney PT and could not. He was forced to go to Calvert County. Now he is at the Bean Center, but would like Chaney PT to be allowed to increase their caseload.

Harriett - Calvert County. Lends support of ARC on transportation.

Mike - He has a speech impediment and those with speech impediments need to be heard. 70% Americans with Disabilities have the ability to walk.

Pat Downs - Abell, MD. Need services from DDA and was told there were no funds until July. The Board of County Commissioners agreed and had spoken to the Legislators regarding funding for DDA and urges her and any citizen to write to the Legislators referencing their support. Spoke in support of Pam Chaney, Aquatics Physical Therapist, to receive further consideration for parking spaces.

Hannah Pratz - Submitted a letter in reference to FDR Boulevard.

Clare Whitbeck – Submitted a petition with 883 signatures in support of Moratorium on Smart Growth.

Dave Johnson: Caller from California, MD. What are you doing about trash, transfer station and landfills? Commissioner Raley stressed that Solid Waste is an issue with this Board of County Commissioners and they are currently looking at options in reference to Solid Waste.

Marie Battaylia –A ULDC Plan may make houses more conservative.

David Triantos – Medley's Neck, MD. Urges the Commissioners to hire a consultant to review the franchise renewal for Cable TV. He feels we will get our money back from the consultant.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Minutes Approved by the
Board of County Commissioners on 3/21/00**

Kate Mauck
Kate Mauck, Recorder