

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Governmental Center
Tuesday, November 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
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to accept the agenda as amended (to eliminate (c) and (d) from the Department of Public Works items on the County Administrator's list and add discussion on the Annual Department of Transportation letter; and to delete discussion/decision on St. Clement's Museum property acquisition; and add an executive session on personnel on the County Commissioners' agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to authorize Commissioner President Randall to sign the Check Register of November 2, 2000. Motion carried.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to authorize Commissioner President Randall to sign the Check Register of November 10, 2000. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, November 2, as corrected. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION – OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Present: Sheriff Richard Voorhaar
Elaine Kramer, Director of Finance

The Board of County Commissioners conducted a public hearing to consider an appropriation in the amount of \$59,416 in Federal Grant Funds from the U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, to the Office of Sheriff, for the purpose of providing funds for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants program to purchase equipment, technology and materials directly related to improving the deliveries of law enforcement services.

The hearing was opened for questions and comments from the audience; hearing none the public hearing was closed. The record will remain open for ten days, after which the item will be placed back on the agenda for decision.

PROCLAMATIONS

The Commissioners issued the following Proclamations:

- Designating December as National Hospice Month
- Designating November as Adoption Awareness Month and Recognizing John and Marion Woodland for welcoming a sibling group into their home in addition to their five children.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Present: Alfred A. Lacer, County Administrator

1. Draft Agendas for November 21 and November 28, 2000
2. Grant Documents
 - a) St. Mary's County Housing Authority
Rental Allowance Program (RAP) Grant Application – RAP to Work

Present: Dennis Nicholson, Director, Housing Authority

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Randall to sign Grant Application. Motion carried.

- b) St. Mary's County Housing Authority
Rental Allowance Program (RAP) Grant Application and Grant Agreement
Fiscal Year 2001

Present: Dennis Nicholson, Director, Housing Authority

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Randall to sign the grant application and agreement. Motion carried.

- c) Department of Planning & Zoning
St. Mary's County Historic Preservation Program Phase 7 Grant Agreement

Present: Jon Grimm, Director, DPZ
Kirk Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor, DPZ

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

3. Department of Public Works Items
 - a) Public Works Agreement for Valley Wood Estates Subdivision, Phase 4, 5th Election District, with a completion date of August 1, 2001. The letter of credit has been provided by Peoples Bank of Kent County, Maryland in the amount of \$103,800.
 - b) Claim Letter to the First National Bank of St. Mary's in the amount of \$1,500 for Entrance Permit #97-0050, which has been not completed by Quade Brothers, Inc. The entrance is located off Long Road, Ray Quade Farmstead, Clements, Maryland.
 - c) Recycling Contract/MOU between St. Mary's County and Patuxent River Naval Air Station for joint efforts to recycle cardboard, mixed paper, etc.

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

- d) Annual Letter to Secretary Porcari, Maryland Department of Transportation

The Commissioners discussed the two versions of the letters drafted by Mr. Erichsen, which were a follow up to the DOT's annual state highway tour. After providing their priorities (including Chancellors Run Road; Route 5 from Camp Brown Road to Point Lookout, and Route 5 in the Leonardtown

area) and support for regional projects (Hughesville Bypass and the Solomon's Bridge), the Commissioners directed Mr. Erichsen to redraft the letter for their signatures for later today.

4. Department of Planning & Zoning

(Request to execute contract with Army Corps of Engineers and The County Commissioners for St. Mary's County for the St. Mary's Watershed Feasibility Study)

Present: Jon Grimm, Director, DPZ
Sue Veith, Environmental Planner

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Randall to sign the referenced Contract. Motion carried.

5. Employment Contract
County Attorney

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Randall to sign the Contract for Acting County Attorney Patrick Murphy, designating him as County Attorney. Motion carried.

6. Director of Finance
Incumbency Certificate on Sunset Bank lease for Information Technology to reflect current personnel

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

7. Introduction of New Facilities Management Director

County Administrator Lacer introduced Mr. Richard Rohrbaugh, the new Department of Facilities Management Director to the Commissioners.

AIRPORT ISSUES UPDATE

Present: George Erichsen, Director, DPW
Charles Lamb, Consultant

Mr. Erichsen and Mr. Lamb appeared before the Board to provide an update on various St. Mary's County Airport issues.

Areas of discussion included:

- Maryland Aviation Administration is drafting an Expression of Interest for Commuter Air Service. The Commissioners wrote to the MAA on July 18, 2000 and DPW followed up on September 21, 2000 with respect to the type/size of aircraft that we would like to land at the airport. In addition we have been receiving multiple letters of support for commuter air service; one is dated September 26th from the Tri-County Counsel, and others are from the Department of the Navy and the Commissioners of Charles County. Letters continue to arrive.
- Because Hagerstown and Cumberland currently have commuter service, but not to BWI, those airports would more than likely receive this fiscal year's subsidy; St. Mary's could be next in line if there is a viable commuter service, pending additional subsidy.
- Funding Issues (\$435,000 of remaining commuter air service grant are available to the County for land acquisition, environmental assessment, and/or equipment related

to commuter service; land acquisition with possible reimbursement upon completion of environmental assessment and Master Plan; general aviation airports will receive \$150,000 of federal funds this fiscal year and the next two fiscal years, pending Congressional approval of the appropriations; other federal funds may be available through the Aviation Trust Fund).

- Commuter services issues (the consultant recommended a length of 5,350 feet instead of the currently proposed 5,000 feet; both the 5,000 foot and the 5,350 foot length would require obstruction removal)
- Environmental Assessment (can be broken down into two phases, with the most substantial portion being done in the first phase and then followed by the second phase; the EA would be eligible for reimbursement once the improvements were constructed).
- Runway Options (that the Commissioners were not in favor of the rotated runway option; the other options are: no build; extend existing runway to 5,300 feet for non-precision approach; or to shift runway 250 feet to accommodate precision instrument approach.

During discussion of amenities and revenues at the Airport, Commissioner Randall requested information as to what is customary at airports in other jurisdictions (re t-hangars—building and leasing; tie downs).

In conclusion the Commissioners requested Mr. Erichsen to prepare a synopsis of the environmental assessments for the airport and further indicated that the decision on which option to go forward with relative to the Airport Master Plan study.

(Kate Mauck recorded the following portion of the meeting.)

1:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING
SOLID WASTE PLAN AMENDMENT
(ST. ANDREWS CONVENIENCE CENTER EXPANSION)**

Present: George Erichsen, Director, Department of Public Works
Rick Tarr, Solid Waste Manager

Mr. Erichsen and Mr. Tarr appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to provide background information on the proposed Solid Waste Plan Amendment in order to improve customer service at the St. Andrews Convenience Center Citizen Drop-Off/ Recycling Facility. The proposed Amendment would allow for further improvements to the existing approved solid waste facility, which primarily includes the extension of the existing concrete wall to accommodate an additional refuse compactor trailer. The additional trailer has become necessary in order to accommodate a 30% increase in usage that the Department of Public Works is experiencing. In addition, a small pavilion enclosed in a fence would be added to accept paints, old fuels and related liquid homeowner waste as a part of implementing an on-going Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. Mr. Erichsen read the notice of public hearing that was properly advertised, and outlined the steps that would be followed to approve the text by resolution and then later roll the text into the new Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission had previously approved the text changes.

Commissioner President Randall opened the floor for public testimony, and as no individuals came forward to speak, the public hearing was closed. The record will remain open for a period of 10 days for public written comment, and the matter will then be placed on an upcoming agenda for discussion/decision by the Board of County Commissioners.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Present: George Erichsen, Director, Department of Public Works
Rick Tarr, Solid Waste Manager

- A) The Board of County Commissioners issued a Proclamation for Recycling Week – November 12-18, 2000.
- B) The Board of County Commissioners presented a Certificate and Savings Bond in the amount of \$50 to 8th grade student Ms. Lily Brown. Ms. Brown was the winner of the Recycling Logo Contest.
- C) **DISPOSAL OF MULCH**

In commemoration of Recycling Week, the Department of Public Works will be offering 280 tons of ground mulch to the citizens of St. Mary's County at the St. Andrews Church Road location. Advertising will be forthcoming to get the word out to the public.

FOLLOW UP TO PUBLIC HEARING OF OCTOBER 3, 2000 RODO BEACH TAXING DISTRICT ORDINANCE

Present: George Erichsen, Director, Department of Public Works

Mr. Erichsen outlined information that had been submitted to the Board of County Commissioners in a memorandum dated November 6, 2000. As a follow up to the October 3, 2000 Public Hearing on the Rodo Beach Taxing District Ordinance, new information was submitted for review and discussion. In-depth discussion took place concerning the percentage of property owners on Chesapeake Bay Drive and Lake Drive/Pizzant Lane owners that voted in favor of petitioning the County for inclusion as a taxing district. The Department of Public Works recommended the two roads be separated into two potentially different taxing districts, which would then lead to a change in the voting percentages. Chesapeake Bay Drive would have 100% of land/homeowners in favor, and Lake Drive/Pizzant Lane would have less than the required 51% necessary to go forward.

* After much discussion by the Board of County Commissioners, **Commissioner Guazzo moved to deny the Ordinance as presented at the Public Hearing in its present form. Commissioner Raley seconded the motion for the purposes of discussion.** Further discussion took place concerning the undeveloped lots, separation of the two roads, and tax assessment fees charged. Commissioners expressed concern for the potential further divisions that might occur in the Rodo Beach neighborhood due to the vote taken at today's meeting. **Commissioner President Randall called for the question and a vote was taken. The result of the vote was: Aye: Commissioner Guazzo and Commissioner Mattingly; Nay: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Randall and Commissioner Raley. The motion failed 2:3.**

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve the Rodo Beach Taxing District Ordinance. The result of the vote was: Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Randall and Commission Raley; Nay: Commissioner Guazzo and Commissioner Mattingly. The motion passed 3:2.

FISCAL YEAR 2000 AUDIT REPORT

Present: Elaine Kramer, Finance Director
Jeannett Cudmore, Assistant Finance Director
Desiree Ridgell, Accounting Officer
Tim Murphy, CPA, Murphy & Murphy
Dana Frazier, CPA, Murphy & Murphy

The Finance Department, in conjunction with Mr. Murphy and Mr. Frazier, appeared before the Board of County Commissioners in order to submit and present the St. Mary's County Annual Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for

the fiscal year which ended on June 30, 2000. The final draft was pending the resolution of the item relating to the designation of fund balance. Commissioners were asked to consider formally designating 6% of funds (\$7,023.952) for the purposes of the bond rating.

Ms. Ridgell provided an overview of the balance sheet and outlined changes that had occurred from FY99 to FY2000. Ms. Cudmore outlined the General Fund Balance Report. Ms. Kramer encouraged the Board of County Commissioners to submit questions on the report to the Finance Department. The following requests/comments were made by the Board of County Commissioners and/or the Finance Department:

- ◆ Analysis be formulated on Medical Adult Day Care;
- ◆ Change title from Miscellaneous Revolving Fund to Fire and Rescue revolving Fund;
- ◆ Change title from Designated for Revenue Stabilization Account to Rainy Day Fund;
- ◆ The Finance Department requested recommendations for a title for the \$7 million credit enhancement bond rating;
- ◆ If investment practices for money that is on hand goes from Category 1 to Category 2, would prior approval by the Board of County Commissioners be required?
- ◆ In future deliberations, attention should be given on whether to have 15 year or 20 year bond market term.

Mr. Murphy stated that the audit of the financial statements of June 20, 2000 were completed and great improvements had been made since last year's audit. The books and financial records of the St. Mary's County Finance Department met the standards of the Comptroller General of the United States, and in Mr. Murphy's opinion, the outstanding audit report is a direct reflection of the improvements that have occurred in the accounting department during the past year.

Additionally, Mr. Murphy provided a detailed outline of the Management Letter written by Murphy & Murphy to the Board of County Commissioners dated October 5, 2000. The only area of concern noted that requires attention was outstanding checks. The Board of County Commissioners expressed their appreciation to personnel in the County's Accounting Department for the excellent auditor's report and the hard work that they have done during the past year.

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley to approve the designation of 6% of the FY2001 budget to the bond rating unreserved account. All members voted in favor.

UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE PROCESS REVIEW

Present: Jon Grimm, Director, Planning and Zoning

Commissioner President Randall, in conjunction with Mr. Grimm, presented the Board of County Commissioners with a Proposed ULDC Adoption Process and Schedule dated November 14, 2000. The process outline began with a Recommended ULDC receipt from the Planning Commission on November 1, 2000 and ended with the Adoption of the ULDC on a date to be determined.

After discussion, it was determined that a copy of the schedule would be forwarded to the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee. Additionally, any members of the Committee should be invited to attend the December 19th work session, which will be scheduled late in the day.

The Board of County Commissioners expressed a consensus on the ULDC Adoption Process and Schedule proposed by Commissioner President Randall.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Leonardtown Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Commissioner Mattingly reminded citizens that the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Leonardtown will occur on Saturday, November 25th. The Retailers Association was reinstated and additional decorations should be prominent this year. In addition, parking at the Governmental Center will be available, and STS buses will provide shuttle service into town. Advertising will follow.

25th Anniversary Celebration

Commissioner Mattingly expressed congratulations to the Leonardtown Rescue Squad and the Hollywood Rescue Squad on the event of their 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Veteran's Day Parade

Commissioner Mattingly congratulated St. Mary's County on the successful Veteran's Day Parade that occurred last weekend.

Public Information Office and Information Technology Department

Congratulations were expressed by Commissioner Mattingly to both the Public Information Office and Information Technology Department for their handling of the televised elections and election results. A great job was done for this first-time effort.

Thornton Commission

Commissioner Anderson stated that the Thornton Commission continues to hold public hearings throughout the State of Maryland. Hearings have occurred thus far in Towson, Salisbury, La Plata and in Allegheny County. The next public hearing will occur this Thursday evening, November 16th in Bowie. The Board of Education, staff and students have provided a very high quality of testimony at the hearings.

Local Workforce Investment Board

The Local Workforce Investment Board will be meeting on Wednesday, November 15th at Eagan McCallister.

Village of Callaway

Commissioner Anderson reminded citizens that the Callaway Community Draft Land Use and Development Plan will be presented and discussed at the Callaway Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 16th.

Naval Aviation Technology Museum

Commissioner Anderson attended a meeting for the Navy Museum on Monday, November 13th and reported that negotiations continue for property acquisition. Phase III of Route 235 continues and two issues regarding the Museum remain unresolved – access to the Museum and undergrounding of utilities. The State Highway Department, Navy Staff and County Staff are working heavily to resolve the access issue. The relocation plan should be ready in approximately two weeks. A final proposal on the design of the museum should be presented this Wednesday. A letter should be forthcoming from the Museum Committee asking for \$50,000 for design funding out of the \$250,000 that was committed by the Board of County Commissioners. Fundraising efforts are proceeding, and County Staff expects that it will take two weeks to procure permits for the demolition of the existing building.

Sustainable Development

Commissioner Anderson attended a meeting on the topic of Sustainable Development on November 4th. An excellent brief was provided on initiatives in this area, and about 30

people attended, which included a lively and spirited exchange of ideas. The group has strong indications of private foundation funds to occur in the near future.

St. Clements Island/Piney Point Museum

Commissioner Guazzo reported that she attended a board meeting of the St. Clements Island/Piney Point Museum. They are in the process of updating their Master Plan and are getting ready for re-accreditation. There is much interest at St. Clements Island; Piney Point is growing in visitorship. There are plans to open the Piney Point Lighthouse after decorating for Christmas and the gift shop will be open during the three weekends prior to Christmas. Future information on the hours will be placed on the County's Internet site. Subcommittees are forming for the two separate locations.

Museums in St. Mary's County

Commissioner Raley stated that the County is very lucky to have three wonderful museums. With the future opening of the Navy Museum, he is hopeful that they will all eventually work together and compliment one another.

Tobacco Buy-Out

Commissioner Raley spoke with Hagner Mister about the tobacco buy-out program. There are currently 240 farmers to date that have signed up to participate in this program. Commissioner Raley stated that he has mixed feelings about this issue, as it will be the passing of an era, yet it is good that farmers are being assisted. Commissioner Guazzo pointed out that the deadline for applying for the program this year is December 22nd. The program will reopen next fall for a couple of months for farmers that may decide to sign up at that time. Donna Sasscer is the individual to contact for answering questions in this area. The Tri-County Council has finalized and Christine Bergmar, Agricultural Specialist, will be the main staff person to provide assistance with this group.

Great Mills High School vs. Leonardtown High School

Commissioner Raley reported that Leonardtown Girls Field Hockey has a superior team, however, Great Mills, after going through two overtimes, won the Championship game. As a result of the Great Mills' win, Commissioner Raley pointed out that Commissioner Mattingly now owes him dinner. Great Mills was unsuccessful in winning the State Championships, but as a result, they did finish in the final four of the State Championship. William Christian from Great Mills won the 3A State Championship in Track and Field. Chopticon's football team is pretty good also. Congratulations were expressed to all. Commissioner Mattingly reported that he had already made dinner arrangements for Commissioner Raley.

(Judith Spalding recorded the following portion of the meeting)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, 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 A. Lacer, County Administrator
Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation and Parks

Richard Rohrbaugh, Director
Joan Lolcama, Property Manager
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)11
Time Held: 5:02 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.
Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed two matters of property acquisition and gave direction to staff.

Personnel

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
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1
Time Held: 6:10 p.m. – 6:25 p.m.
Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed appointments to MACo and Tri-County Council and agreed to take action in open session.

Follow Up to Executive Session

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, and motion carried, to make the following appointments:

Maryland Association of Counties

Julie Randall (Member)
Joe Anderson (alternate)

Tri-County Council

Tom Mattingly (Commissioner Representative) and nominee as Chair)
Shelby Guazzo as Commissioner Representative if another Commissioner is needed should Mr. Mattingly be selected as Chair)
Mary Lynn Stone (citizen representative)

(Kate Mauck recorded the following portion of the meeting)

Commissioner President Julie Randall was absent during the following portion of the meeting. Commissioner Thomas Mattingly, as Vice President of the Board of County Commissioners, became Acting Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

PEPCO BRIEFING ON ACTION PLAN

Present: Bill Gute, United States Department of Transportation
Stan Wisniewski, PEPCO Representative
Bill Moore, PEPCO Representative, Incident Manager
Wes McNealy, Natural Resources Development Association

Representatives from PEPCO provided an apology and expressed deep regret for the oil spill incident that occurred in Swanson's Creek in the town of Aquasco, Maryland on April 7, 2000. Approximately 3,323 barrels of #2 and #6 fuel oils were released in the creek on that date. As of November 1st, PEPCO entered a Winter Operations Mode, which entails a reduced level of operation, which will continue until April 1, 2001. Water quality and marsh activities will continue throughout the winter. This meeting is the first on the Action Plan. The next meeting scheduled will be at the Benedict Fire Department on November 7th at 7:00 p.m. The third meeting is still in the planning

stages and is expected to be in Calvert County tentatively in the second week of December.

PEPCO provided a brief review of the incident, government actions and the salient features of PEPCO's return-to service action plan as follows:

- ◆ Pipeline schematic & landscape illustration provided;
- ◆ Details of release of oil;
- ◆ Probable cause of incident: circumferential crack in a wrinkle bend, although NTSB investigation is continuing. The crack could have occurred during production, but most probably during installation. There are no other wrinkle bends on this particular pipeline. An anomaly was noted in 1997 on this wrinkle bend, but human error on interpretation of the notation occurred; therefore, the anomaly was not pursued or reinvestigated;
- ◆ Pertinent details and pipeline history, including original installation in 1972;
- ◆ Governmental Actions & OPS' Corrective Action Order outlined;
- ◆ Time line and summary;
- ◆ Elements of CAO and amended CAO;
- ◆ Details of PEPCO's Return-to-Service Action Plan, which is a three-phased monitoring plan, including prevention and detection and spill response. Elements of the Plan and proposed sequence of activities were outlined;
- ◆ Details of pre, post and post-return to service hydrostatic test phase;
- ◆ OPS oversight during hydrostatic test phase;
- ◆ Pipeline purging plan and safeguards to be implemented during displacement;
- ◆ Leak detection parameters and pipeline monitoring utilizing a fully operational SCADA System;
- ◆ Leak detection procedures, deliverables and training;
- ◆ Long-term O&M procedures and drawings, future ILI tool runs and performance measures;
- ◆ Spill response plans;
- ◆ Tactical plan vs. OPA plan and major elements of both plans;
- ◆ Schedule and conclusions.

According to PEPCO, although the pipeline is approximately 30 years old, pipelines can have an indefinite life span as long as corrosion is prevented. A "pig" or cleaning device is still present in this particular pipeline, located somewhere between Chalk Point and Riceville. The "pig" was placed into the line just prior to the incident, and will be removed during upcoming test. Further testing of the pipeline will indicate whether or not the integrity of the pipeline has been maintained. Oil had been trucked in at 40 truckloads per day. This method is cumbersome and difficult and presents its own set of problems. Properties of #2 and #6 oil were discussed, and both are not very combustible. Problems with utilizing coal as a source of energy for PEPCO was discussed. If the plan unfolds as scheduled, the pipeline may return to service in March of 2001. Phase III of the plan should be fully operational by June of 2001.

The Board of County Commissioners expressed concern about the transfer of the pipeline and generating stations to Southern Energy in the future. The President of Southern Energy, Mid-Atlantic, Mr. John O'Neill approached the podium in order to respond to questions. Mr. O'Neill stated that Southern Energy had assisted in the origination and implementation of the plan. Southern Energy has already agreed to meet PEPCO's exceeded standards.

Requests for permits have been filed by PEPCO for watering and non-tidal wetlands. These permits may be required as a contingency measure for excavation and repair during testing of the pipeline. Outreach centers in St. Mary's County and in Calvert County will be open for at least another year.

After the conclusion of the briefing by PEPCO, Commissioner Vice President Mattingly opened the floor for questions or comments as follows:

Phil Dorsey, Attorney - Directed a series of questions to Mr. Gute. Mr. Gute stated that NTSB would be issuing an official final report in the future which will detail all the of specific information that Mr. Dorsey was requesting.

Doug Ritchie – Suggested that natural gas be utilized as a non-polluting source of fuel in the future. PEPCO responded that they are already tied into the natural gas pipeline.

Shane Mattingly, Attorney – Had questions concerning the SCADA systems and the standard procedures for pipeline companies at the time of installation of the pipeline. PEPCO responded by stating that the system currently installed went in around 1990. Standards and technology have evolved so quickly in recent years that most pipelines do not have the SCADA system in use.

Georgia Wheeler – Expressed concern about the 40 truckloads of oil per day traveling on Route 249. Asked if the schools and bus drivers were aware of the extra trucks on the road. Secondly, Ms. Wheeler wanted to know if citizens would be informed when the hydrostatic testing is being done. PEPCO responded that all local officials, including the school system, was informed of the trucks on Route 249. In addition, all residents along the pipeline will be notified of the approximately 8-hour test in advance, as will all local officials.

Telephone Call-Ins:

Lisa Stallings – Wanted to see a map of the proposed location of the pipeline. Is PEPCO going to buy or just go over people's land or is the pipeline going to be located in the water? Commissioner Mattingly stated that the red lines on the map shown on the television screen illustrate the pipeline being discussed. There are no intentions to relocate any of the line with the exception of 600 feet of line to be relocated at the Chalk Point site where the leak occurred. About 13 locations will have digging for inspections, etc.

Dale Abell – Will any alterations be made to the Chestnut Ridge Route 5 entrance due to repair of the pipeline? PEPCO stated that they are unaware of any alterations that may occur in that area. Commissioner Mattingly asked that PEPCO share the location of the digs when they are determined.

Commissioner Mattingly pointed out that PEPCO's contact information would be periodically scrolled on Channel 12. In addition, citizens could either direct their questions/concerns to PEPCO or could send questions/concerns to the Board of County Commissioners, who would then forward them to PEPCO on behalf of the citizens.

MONTHLY PUBLIC FORUM

Commissioner Mattingly opened for the floor for public comment. The following individual spoke:

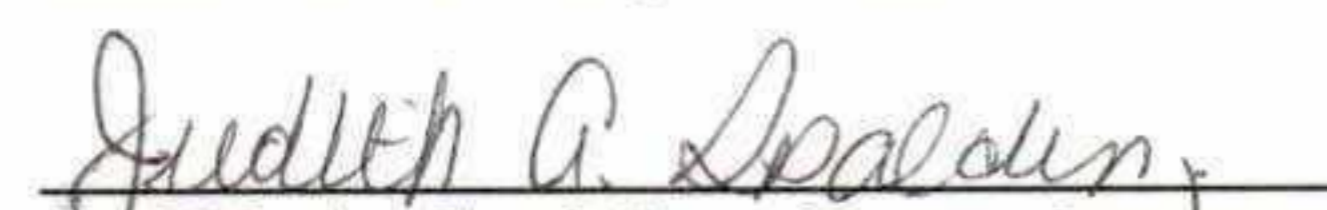
Georgia Wheeler – Urged citizens to attend the Callaway Citizens Advisory Committee meeting this Thursday, November 16th at the Callaway Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. The Committee would be presenting this plan for Callaway and all residents were reminded to attend.

Commissioner Mattingly closed the monthly public forum.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Minutes Approved by the
Board of County Commissioners on 11/21/00


Judith A. Spalding, Recorder