

November 28, 1950

Board met on Tuesday November 28th at 10 a.m. all members present.

Review of the 1951 Budget was the main item of today's meeting. About forty taxpayers were in the Board room, and many outside in the hall. This was the first real interest manifested in the County Budget since it's installation in 1948.

Besides the present Board, Mr. Leonard Alvey and Mr. C. Byron Guy incoming Commissioners were present in the morning. In the afternoon they were joined by Mr. Ernest Stone, third new Commissioner.

Mr. J.H.T. Briscoe, attorney to the Board, read the Budget items which were discussed. He explained that a number of salaries of County officials had been increased by act of the Gen. Assembly. Other expenses were increased to handle the extra work. Anyone was privileged to question the amounts to be paid.

Parochial School Transportation.

This was questioned by Mr. Ed. Cryer who asked if \$45,000.00 was sufficient for this expense. He was informed that was $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount, and the balance would be paid from other sources than direct taxation, such as Licenses for Beer, Wine & Liquor, Slot Machine etc. Rev. J.W. Hildebrand said that in comparison to the amount allocated to the County Public Schools it was quite large, since the Pub. Schools would receive only \$117, ---. He was informed that the amount allocated to Pub. Sch. was fixed through the County tax rate, on the basis. The Pub. Sch. also receives funds from the Clerk of the Ct. Ct. and the Treasurer (as well as from the State of Md).

Combination of Bus Routes.

The question was asked as to why the Parochial School Bus contracts and the Pub. Sch. contracts were not the same. Mr. Briscoe advised that the Bd. of Co. Com. had nothing to do with the contracts awarded for Pub. Sch. Transportation, and that they did not know on what Miss Dent made on her rate. The Paro. buses travel on all County roads that are in good condition where a number of children live and the children attend Paro. school. The law compels the Bd. of Co. Com to furnish transportation to all children attending schools that do not receive State aid. The Pub. sch bus travels on the State road only, even when the children have a mile to walk to meet it. The Paro. bus goes on all roads, as above stated. Rev. Hildebrand suggested that the routes be combined, which the Bd. agreed would probably be less expensive. Mr. Abe Weiner suggested that the new delegates prepare a Bill when they go to the Gen. Assembly this winter and have the two routes combined. This matter came up some fifteen years ago, but was not successful in being combined. Capt. Matt Bailey said the Bd. had no jurisdiction over how Pub. trans. was handled and was not informed on the matter by Miss Dent.

Supvs. of Assessments.

Mr. Oliver Guyther asked why there was an item of \$1,000 for expenses of the Supervisor of Assessments. This covers his expenses at summer Tax school held in Md. U and the several conferences he has to attend during the year in connection with his work. It also covers the extra work he does in seeking information on new buildings etc. The law requires the builder to get Bldg. permits but this is not always done, and all the new buildings could not get on the Tax records if the Supv. of Assessments did not go to look them up.

Liquor License Board.

Why the Liq. License Bd needs a clerk-attorney and a stenographer was also asked by Mr. Guyther. Mr. Briscoe explained that frequently the clerk was obliged to present the case to his Bd. and he could not also take the testimony. The salary of the Inspector came up and Mr. Guyther was advised that when the Inspector checked on Liquor Licenses \$1200 was satisfactory, but when it became necessary to have someone check on Slot machine licenses also a group went to the office of the Comptroller to see about the salary, and that office increased it to \$2400.00 per year to include both inspections. Mr. Guyther then stated there were many slot machines in his knowledge that were never inspected as to licenses

Planning and Zoning

How necessary is a Planning and Zoning Commission for the County was the next question raised by Mr. Guyther. Mr. Briscoe replied that at present there is only one section zoned, the 8th District in the area near the NATS Base. He pointed out that had the town of Leonardtown had zoning, the erection of a warehouse on the main street in a residential section would never have been allowed. The question was asked if it would not be possible to have the County Surveyor draw all necessary maps and pay him for that work; rather than pay a Technical Advisor a salary of \$3600.00 and \$400 expenses. Mr. Briscoe explained that Mr. Nicolet had been employed by the Navy at \$7500 and came to the Co. Com for \$3600. This item was felt to be necessary.

Whether or not the Sheriff had properly complied with the law as to his monthly reports and fees returns, then was asked by Mr. Guyther who also questioned the matter of \$500 for travel outside the County. Mr. Briscoe replied that the sheriff had not made his monthly reports, but that the item of travel was allowed by law and read the law which provides that the County pay for transportation of prisoners or those going to State institutions for mileage over the County line. Mr. Guyther did not know of this law.

Mr. Elliott Burch asked if all provisions in the Budget would go through if not questioned, and the secretary replied yes. Mr. Briscoe said they could be changed.

Estimated Budget

Mr. Cryer said that he did not understand the "estimated"

3- Nov 28-1950

Mr. Briscoe explained that formerly, until the law was changed, the old method was to levy money to collect enough to pay for the Script that had been issued. Script was discounted at 6% and when you were paid it was not for the full amount, but for 6% less. Then the County would Levy to pay the Script. The County went on a Cash Basis in 1948, and now they Bidget what to spend and levy sufficient tax to pay for it. The money which enabled the County to go on a Cash Basis and which furnishes the extra revenue comes from Coin Operated machines and Liquor licenses, etc.**

Library Appropriation.

The library appropriation at 4¢ rate, \$7220.00 was questioned. Mr. Abe Weiner asked about this and Mr. Briscoe explained that last year the Board granted an appropriation- not from taxes- but other sources** , as above noted- at the rate of 2¢ which amounted to \$3416.19 for the library. However, since it had only just been operating a little over a month it would be a waste of that money not to grant an appropriation for this year, in order to determine after a year's operation, whether or not the Library was an asset or not. If the County does not assist the State Library Aid is not available Mrs. Cuniberti read from a report that since Oct 15, 986 people had visited the library, 1074 books had been borrowed and over 300 people residing between Point Lookout, Charlotte Hall, Chaptico, etc. had registered. When it was suggested that perhaps more than half of these were from Leonardtown and Hollywood, Miss Pickrell-librarian- replied that less than half were from those sections. Mrs. Cuniberti further read from statistics to show that St. Mary's County, according to population, is less than the amount appropriated from any of the other counties of the State. The bookmobile which will be here in January will be a determining factor on how well the library will be patronized.

This was also a gift from Mrs. Davidson. Mr. Library Association stated that Mrs. D. had to the County for the library and the book- the County to cooperate in the matter of it to assist in the work.

appropriation ed for St. Mary's Hospital annually. This ts. Mr. Cryer asked why this was so low in nt \$9,000.00 appropriated for "other institutions" that the latter amount covered 8 State institutions me, boys and girls training school etc.

felt that figures in connection with the lib- hed in the two County papers. Miss Pichrell been done several times and that she would report each month as to the use of books etc.

ie of Women Voters both of the above were present and stated the to go on record as supporting the appropriation

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. OFFICE OF

ENCLOSED IS CHECK NO. _____
IN PAYMENT OF _____
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
Date _____

4- Health Center

Appropriation for a site and erection of a building for a new Health Center was approved by the majority. It was explained that the State would bear 44% of the entire cost of both site and building, while the County would bear only 56%. The exact location of the site was not made public, although the Fact Finding Commission appointed by the Board had located a piece of land, adjacent to the Court House and parking lot, which needs little or no grading- a very expensive item in building- it is part of the A.F.King estate and considered the best possible location for such a building as it would keep it among the County owned buildings. It was ascertained that the land could be purchased for the sum of \$5,000.00 which has been declared by real estate agents to be a very nominal price. It must be decided prior to Dec 31 1950 if the County is to receive the State aid and remain on the top of the priority list. It was intimated that this would be done.

Mr. Abe Weiner who was one of the most outspoken at the meeting, and in favor of what appeared to be the County' welfare- said he felt the Board should proceed at once with the New Health Center matter. This was also the opinion of the majority. Dr. Houser was present and stated he felt the State Bd. of Health would approve of the site- it is necessary for their approval before anything can be definitely settled.

Welfare Appropriation

Mr. Guyther questioned the advisability of allocating so much for Welfare. He felt the allotments were too high. Miss Lankford, supt. of Welfare gave an explanation that the County bears 1/6 of the expense, the State bears 2/6 and the Federal Government bears 3/6. She further explained about insurance etc., and that there are many children left orphans who are not eligible to that insurance since their parents had not paid Social Security

Hawks and Crows Bounty

Bounties for hawks and crows was approved and it was suggested that one for foxes be added. This is a matter for the General Assembly.

Appropriation for Liq. Bd. and Inspector's salary.

Mr. A. Weiner said he felt the Liq. Liv. Bd. should be maintained as set up, and the Insoector's salary be paid as at present.

Mr. Elliott Burch, Pres. St. Mary's Civic Asso- sheriff's office said in part "Every year I pay my taxes and I demand the money be spent in the proper manner. I criticise the sheriff's department". Turning to Mr. Briscoe he further said "You, as State's Attorney- I demand you make an investigation of the sheriff's lack of turning in fees." Mr. B. replied this he would do.

Mr. Guyther asked the Sec. to the Bd. as to the amount of fees received in this office from the Sheriff and the answer was "none." He then read part of the law concerning the duties of the sheriff which he said had never been complied with, since Mr. Long took office in 1947. It is understood Mr. Briscoe will make the investigation.

5- November 28-1950

After session

Members of both old and new Board, Mr. Briscoe, Mr. Michaels reporter for the Star and the clerk were present at the afternoon session, altho it was a continuation of the public hearing.

Each item reviewed

Mr. Briscoe read each item again. Mr. Alvey asked about the duties of the Custodian, they were explained in small part. The duties of the Custodian are to see that all repairs are made, the County buildings kept neat and clean, painted etc., furniture bought or repaired as the case may be; appointments for use of the Court Room are made through the custodian; supplies ordered and stored etc.

Attorney's Salary

Salary for the Bd's. attorney was felt to be too high in the Budget which allowed \$1,000.00 per yr. This was done because previously Mr. Briscoe had to conduct all meetings, prepare Resolutions and opinions etc., and give far more of his time than the attorney to the Bd. usually does, and that had made his work worth more than \$300.00 a yr which had been paid him. He said he would be glad to serve for \$600, but no decision was rendered by the new Bd. except to say they would like to have the old Bd. set that salary.

Library appro.

This was felt to be rather high, but no motion was made to lower it and the old Bd. expressed their opinion that it should be allowed for this year and then next year it could be decided whether or not the library was an asset to the County.

Planning Com. Civil Defense Allotment

Mr. M.C. Thompson phoned about the Civil Defense allotment which had been allowed in the Nov. 14 meeting and was included in the Budget. This request came through the Civil Defense Commission of Washington since they feel this area will be a refugee section rather than a bombed area in case of attack. Planning Commission was allowed the \$4,000.00 requested.

Clerk for State Troopers

Mr. Briscoe explained that the entire amount spent for the service of the State Troopers since they had been operating in St. Mary's was \$800.00 used in the raid, this has already brought in a sum of over \$3,000 in fines and costs of cases tried. It was stated it was impossible for Sgt. Jackson and the Troopers to remain in office and do their reports, answer the phone etc. This was felt to be a very legitimate item.

The meeting adjourned at 5; p.m. No appointment of attorney or clerk was announced.

Nov 30-1950

1st Nat. Bank, Leonardtown, Md. int on GMHS loan paid \$132.71

County Trust " " " \$132.71

Loan renewed to Feb 28-1951

MATTHEW R. BAILEY, PRESIDENT
RIVER SPRINGS, MD.
FRANK BAILEY, MORGANZA, MD.
J. FRANK RALEY, RIDGE, MD.

TELEPHONE: LEONARDTOWN 17

JOHN H. T. BRISCOE, ATTORNEY
A. F. KING, CLERK

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
LEONARDTOWN, MD.

7-9-54

M. *John J. M. Bailey*
Secretary

Nov 15 1950

6193
1
98
1
98
1

State School Loan - New Dent \$66,789.60

O.K. John H. T. Briscoe, Attorney

Matthew R. Bailey Pres.

November 30, 1950

Notes at

First National Bank, Leonardtown, Md., renewed for Great Mills High School Loan, interest paid to Feb 28, 1951	\$132.71
County Trust Co., Leonardtown, Md., note for above renewed to Feb 28, 1951 and interest paid to Feb 28, 1951	\$132.71

Dec 4, 1950 Receipts - Dep. 1st Nat Bank CGF#1

Sub-Trial MagistrateCivil cases.....	\$9.10
Trial Magistrate.....Nov. Fines & costs	181.50
Cash, phone call to DC Mrs. Stone in re son in DC jail	1.38
	\$191.98