

April 23, 1963

Present: All commissioners. Mr. L. Schlup sat in during the meeting.

Marathon Races

Mr. Chesildine presented a resume of the proposed races which will begin at the Pentagon lagoon in Washington, D. C. and end at the Piney Point Marina on June 29th. Letters and applications already received were shown to the commissioners. It was requested that the county present the winner of each class with a trophy. There are six classes and total cost for the trophies would be about \$250. This price would also include engraving. The State is backing this effort and will also present trophies to winners. Mr. Burch said he would want St. Mary's County named on the trophies and Mr. Chesildine said the engraving might read "Potomac River Marathon, St. Mary's County, and the date". Mr. Chesildine will be notified of the commissioners' decision regarding this request.

Burning Ordinance

Mr. M. Dean and Mr. K. Duke, Deputy Director of Civil Defense, informed the commissioners that there are no local laws about burning, and this might be a favorable thing to have in the future, as this problem is getting serious. Mr. Duke suggested contacting some other county or perhaps Baltimore, for the formula for such an ordinance. This will be discussed with Mr. Guyther.

Tidewater Fisheries

Mr. Bingley, Sanitary Engineer, Md. State Department of Health, Mr. Hollis, Asst. Director of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission, and Dr. A. Houser were present.

Furnished information regarding sewage lagoons, relative to three applications for same for three areas: Greenview Knolls, Town Point and Chingville. Mr. Bingley said he is not convinced that this is the ideal way to dispose of sewage, but that there is no ideal method for all situations. There are certain risks in anything of this type because you are dealing with a water type hole in the ground, which must have a depth of 4 to 5 feet. We are talking about an acre of surface area per 200 people, and there is a potential odor hazard. The cost is about \$25 per person for a sewage lagoon. There might be problems with scum, paper and rags, and this type system requires a lot of upkeep. Also, the chlorinization would create a nuisance in the stream and probably have some effect on the fish life.

There is a problem with any type of sewage disposal under certain conditions. You have to determine what you should do in relation to the fish life at the discharge point. Mr. Burch asked the opinion of these people concerning the requests made, and was told they are very concerned with Greenview Knolls and that the Town Point discharge point is right in the area of highly productive oyster beds just planted this year. If sewage is discharged in this area, the beds will be closed. There is always the possibility of having something happen which would necessitate discharging untreated sewage for a period of time.

Mr. Bingley said he wanted the commissioners to be fully aware of anything brought to his office about later development, as they are the ones who are going to have all the responsibility. Mr. Bingley said his department felt that they should not permit the discharge of treated sewage into the Patuxent River.

In the Chingville area, there are about 15 or 20 apartment units. They are talking about a sewage lagoon which would discharge into a ditch, but this would eventually discharge into the St. Mary's River. Mr. Bingley feels this could be done without causing harm to the river. There is a bill pending which will prevent the sale of detergents which are not degradable, as this causes foaming in the rivers. If the federal government would do this on a national scale, this would be a good thing. Mr. Bingley said he did not think the Chingville project would be any great problem.

Mr. Burch asked how far the county could go with the septic tank system, and Dr. Houser said they had gone about as far as possible, as complaints were coming in already, everyday. He said that the FHA will not finance anymore houses in the North Town Creek area and are now looking over the other area in Town Creek.

Dr. Houser said that a perk test cannot be gotten anywhere in the Town Point area, and there is no way to dispose of sewage underground in the entire area.

Mr. Bingley explained that there is still liquid going out in any type of lagoon system, and this is too hazardous an area unless the liquid is disposed of in the bay. He asked if the commissioners would back him if he told these people they could not go ahead with putting sewage overboard into the Patuxent River, and would rather have an expression of opinion from the commissioners. He also stated that he would prefer to have the commissioners create a Sanitary Commission for St. Mary's County.

Mr. Bingley further stated that his office would prefer to submit applications for sewage disposal in the county to Dr. Houser for discussion with the commissioners and a decision could be reached on same. Tidewater would report their opinions and the commissioners could act accordingly. Letters could be exchanged in such a matter. The commissioners are faced with the potential problems of the shellfish areas and will probably have to take a calculated risk.

Mr. Bingley gave times for perk tests as follows: 1 - 5 minutes - 20,000 sq. ft., 6 - 15 minutes - 25,000 sq. ft., 16 - 25 minutes - 30,000 sq. ft., 26 - 30 minutes - 40,000 sq. ft., and if the test exceeds 30 minutes, the ground is not suitable for sewage.

Mr. Bingley asked if the commissioners wanted his office to write and tell them what is proper and get their opinion before any final action is taken, and was told yes. A copy of any letters exchanged should go to Dr. Houser so that he can also give his opinion.

Cash Register Maintenance

Mr. P. Raley discussed with the commissioners contract with the National Cash Register Company, costing \$76.30 per year, covering maintenance, labor and parts. The man worked on the cash register in the treasurer's office and said this would

come under the contract as the first call if the commissioners wanted to accept the contract. Mr. Burch said he would like to have Mr. Guyther read the contract before signing it.

Roads

Mr. A. Stone told the commissioners about a small road going passed his house that he is continually maintaining at personal cost. He asked if the roads people could run equipment across the road several times a year and keep it graded and graveled. He said he did not know who this road was deeded to and the SRC will not touch any road not in the county system. The commissioners will inspect this road today, and will let Mr. Stone know their decision.

Mr. T. Hall and Mr. D. Raley reported that some skin patching had been done. Two-thirds of the cost of the trash removal is being paid by the county and two-thirds of the roads are county roads.

Sandgates Project - wooden bridge is being designed and the plans for this will be presented next week. Mr. Carr is the designer. Mr. Burch asked why a pipe wasn't being used here when this was what had been agreed on, and was told they didn't know. Mr. Raley said pipe would cost about \$3,300, and a bridge a great deal more. Cost will be figured and presented next week. Mr. Burch said they would look over the plans next week and then decide what to do. (Mr. Thompson asked the Bridge Department in Baltimore to design the bridge for this area.)

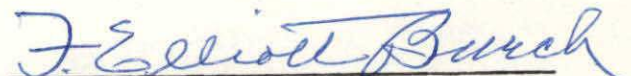
St. George Island - 200 feet of seawall is needed, but 300 feet would take care of this area for a long time. The cost is \$22 per foot, and it will cost about \$5,000 to build 200 feet of bulkhead. Mr. Ridgell mentioned that the ditch near the Garner & Shaeffer store in Tall Timbers needs to be cleaned out. Jones Wharf - previous commissioners went to Mrs. Henderson but she would not let them have the necessary right-of-way. The county owns 40 feet of right-of-way in this area. Mr. Raley said Mr. Stone's Road must be deeded over to the county before any work can be done on it. The Piney Point ditch will be put on the schedule.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Bean will be asked about completing work on windows recently bricked up in the jail.

Meeting adjourned, and commissioners left to attend open house at Library in Lexington Park, and will meet at 5:00 p.m. with commissioners from other two counties to finalize matters pertaining to the Humane Society.

Approved,



F. Elliott Burch
President