

July 30, 1963

Present: All commissioners, Mr. W. S. Donaldson, Mr. Oliver R. Guyther.

Sheriff

Sheriff R. Miedzinski requested permission to send out warrants for the arrest of a Mr. Harrison. This man was tried on a bad check charge, put on probation, and given seven days to make the checks good. He disappeared. He could be in South Carolina or Georgia. When the man is arrested, the sheriff would like to have two men go to pick him up to bring him back to the county. It would be an expensive proposition to bring this man back, but the sheriff feels this is the right thing to do. Mr. Burch stated that he thought the business places should use some discretion about cashing checks in order to protect themselves. The sheriff said it would cost about \$200 to bring Mr. Harrison in.

On the subject of deputies, the sheriff said he did not think you could take the deputies off the job as they were only part-time workers. Mr. Burch asked how much time the deputies had put in during the past 30 days. The sheriff said they had put in a whole lot of hours, more than part-time pays them. Mr. Sanner does a lot of work, as for the rest of them, it would be hard to say. Mr. Guyther mentioned that the law does not state that these jobs are part-time. These men are supposed to do what the sheriff tells them to do. Mr. Burch suggested setting up a schedule for the men. The sheriff said he usually takes care of the things up in the courtroom and did not know how many hours these men worked, as there are no records kept. Mr. Burch said that some sort of time record should be kept on these men. The sheriff said the deputies are out every night, and in the daytime they are out and take care of things in their own territory. Most calls are made to the home of the man. Additional help is needed. Mr. Burch asked the sheriff that if he has no records and no system for certain men to do certain things, how can he tell how much additional help he needs? The sheriff said that Bill Sanner puts about 40,000 miles per year on his car and George Sanger puts in less hours than any man he has. The \$1700 hardly pays for the car expenses for the year. He stated that if these men were paid more money they will do a little better job. A man is needed just to serve papers. Sometimes there is not enough time to get in touch with these people by mail, as a lot of this is last minute action, and the papers must be delivered personally.

The sheriff said he wants to be able to hire extra help for carrying prisoners. Most of the extra help is for matrons. A deputy can be used on some of these cases but going to the hospital the sheriff prefers to hire someone. Mr. Guyther remarked that it is not the responsibility of the county to take care of the violent patients at the hospital.

On Mrs. Combs' salary, the sheriff stated that she was given a raise of 5% as he requested, but he also requested she work an extra day for the same amount of money for the fifth day as she is getting for the other days. At present, Mrs. Combs is working four days a week. The sheriff would like to have the 5% increase in pay for her for the fifth day, also. Mr. Burch said if the sheriff is willing to set up a system and get things organized, he would be willing to go along with this. Unless records are kept there is no way of knowing how much time is being spent on the job.

Mr. W. Loker, the Trial Magistrate, came in at this point. He remarked that Mrs. Combs is very busy. He said there will be some legislation introduced in the next session to have a clerk to the court, who would be bonded, and who would be responsible for all administrative reports, to get this off the trial magistrate's back. You might want to think about having one of these women as the clerk. Mr. Loker explained that there is usually a good bit of delay in the morning. With an additional clerk, one could be out in the courtroom to lessen the load.

Mr. Guyther remarked that something should be done about the deputies who do not put in very many hours, citing George Sanger as an example. Mr. Bowles said he did not think Mr. Sanger should be an isolated case; if they were going to clean house, then let's clean house.

Mr. Guyther also stated that there are no records kept in the sheriff's office as to minor arrests, breaking and entering, etc. He said he will write up a proposal of some suggestions of how to correct the present set up and present them at the next meeting. He asked if the commissioners wanted this department to submit expense accounts. Mr. Burch said they should require some sort of report on how the expense money is spent. Mr. Bowles said that the best thing for the county economically is to let the sheriff's office alone.

It was agreed that a decision will be made on Mrs. Combs after it is determined if she is needed for the additional day after another person is hired to work in this office.

On the Harrison case, the commissioners agreed that this man should be brought back by the sheriff's department. Mr. Guyther said that a deputy should be asked to go. Mr. Burch said the sheriff will be asked to use the deputies as much as possible, and that two deputies or the sheriff and one deputy could get this man. The sheriff will be requested to use deputies as much as possible on trips to state institutions.

#### Assessment Appeals

Mr. R. Miedzinski, represented by Mr. Oliver Guyther. Mr. Guyther stated that he was representing Mr. Miedzinski prior to January of this year in connection with the tax assessment increase. For that reason alone, he was following through with the representation. During this hearing he will be in no way connected with the commissioners. The commissioners will consult another attorney on anything requiring any legal decision, during this hearing.

The assessments in Leonardtown on the IGA building and the Town Cleaners building were raised, but these are not being appealed. This appeal is for the assessment on the motel in the amount of \$37,110.00 (last year's assessment \$16,985.00) and the land in the amount of \$9,400.00 (last year's assessment \$2,500). Total taxes are \$1384.80. This is an increase of \$781.00 over last year and this increase is too high, according to Mr. Guyther. The motel has 26 units and cost per unit to build was \$2,107. Land was acquired in two different purchases, one at \$3,000 and the other at \$5,000, making a total investment of \$62,782.00. Total cost of land is \$8,000.

Mr. Guyther stated that under the assessment law it is required procedure to allow for a vacancy when assessing a motel up to 25%. If this is applied, then in turn apply 50% of your remaining cost of evaluation that should be put on the property, you would have \$15,695.00 to deduct from the total investment

which would then amount to \$47,087.00. Taking the present program of assessment and taking 60% of that, you would have \$28,252.00 as what Mr. Guyther feels should be the total value of the property.

Mr. Herbert, Supervisor of Assessments, stated that this was not the case. The vacancy allowance would have to depend on the vacancy you would have. The same location in another area might warrant a 40% vacancy allowance. Mr. Guyther said that 25% is a conservative vacancy allowance to claim for the motel, as approximately 10 rooms a week is the average for the past 10 years. At that time they only had 16 rooms, with an average of 5½ rooms occupied during the year. Mr. Guyther said they could claim a 50% vacancy allowance and still be under the law, as there are 26 rooms in the motel. Mr. Miedzinski mentioned that since the wharf closed the average occupancy will be less.

Mr. Herbert stated that the 10 additional units were built in 1958 but had never been on his books until this year. Mr. Lawrence said that this motel was appraised as his office usually does this. It was assessed as frame as there is nothing in the manual about brick-crete buildings. It was worked on 60% with 25%, allowing 5% depreciation and 20% vacancy. This is figured on a square footage basis. \$745 represents 60% of the total cost per square foot. The land is assessed for \$30 a front foot and \$20 on the side street. At the post office it is \$40 a front foot. Total for the land is \$9400. These were figured from recent sales. The \$9400 is 60%. Total assessment is \$46,510.00. This includes building and land.

Mr. Guyther said he was contending it does not cost \$11 a square foot to build this type building, as the assessor's office figures. Mr. Lawrence said you could not build now for this amount of money. Mr. Guyther stated that in volume work of this type, a very good discount can usually be gotten. Mr. Herbert said that all the land is assessed on the \$20 foot frontage, even if there is no building on it.

#### Court Cost Request

Mr. John H. Briscoe, attorney to the Welfare Department, requested that the commissioners pay the court costs in the case of child support petition by one Mary Fenwick. Commissioners agreed to pay these costs, which Mr. Briscoe said would amount to approximately \$10.00. This would be paid to the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

#### Patuxent Water Company

The commissioners signed the resolution granting this company the right to extend their lines an additional mile in the Lexington Park area. Mr. Guyther explained that this resolution will be presented to the Public Service Commission and they will grant this company permission to do this.

#### Planning Consultant

Mr. Jack Wood, of the firm of Harland Bartholomew & Associates, Washington, D.C., was selected. Mr. Guyther requested a list of the names of all consultants interviewed and date of interview. He will frame the necessary resolution for the commissioners and this information will be released to the local press next week.

Mr. Dellinger said a decision was to be made as to whether another detention center should be built in southern Maryland. Figures are needed to compile this information and if files are not kept there are none available. He stated he would also send a sample form as to how to keep a record of prisoner days. The commissioners can charge so much per day for food per man and Mrs. Buckler will buy this. It can be purchased and charged to the commissioners and they will pay the bills as they come in.

Mr. Dellinger said that in the "drunk" cell there should be nothing with sharp edges as the prisoner might harm himself. He suggested metal feeding trays as they are practically indestructable and rarely have to be replaced. He said he would help Mrs. Buckler in any way he could, and would be happy to come down for an inspection after improvements are made in the jail. Clothing of some special type ~~should~~ be obtained for the prisoners to wear. This would be for the ones who are sentenced. It would be up to the commissioners to give any time off for working or good behavior on the part of the prisoners.

#### Nursing Home.

Dr. R. Guyther wanted to know what is the next step to be taken on this project. No additional information is available from the local group. Presented a list of program of requirements but said he did not know whether we want all of these things in our nursing home. This will be up to the committee and the commissioners. Mr. Noakes has said that the amount of land available is enough.

Dr. Guyther said he had seen Mr. Loker about the additional land and Mr. Loker said it was not a shopping center going up on the land adjoining. The location of the building would be changed slightly if the additional land can be obtained. Mr. Noakes said if the new hospital wing was going to contain a laundry, the home could possibly use these services. The hospital board will consider this request and give Dr. Guyther an answer.

Dr. Guyther said the hospital board has never said whether the maximum security rooms will be in the new hospital wing. The final decision has not been made. He suggested letting Mr. Noakes go ahead with the preliminary plans and then call the committee and the commissioners and go on from there. The commissioners are in agreement with this. Mr. Moore will be contacted about information requested by Mr. Noakes.

#### Signs

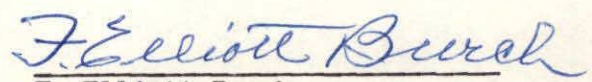
Mr. Paul Raley will be asked to work out something about the signs for the Health Department and the Board of Education, designating where these departments are located in the building.

#### Savings Accounts

Mr. Guyther will check legality of commissioners having savings accounts in local banks.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved,

  
F. Elliott Burch  
President

## Fire Departments

Mr. Donaldson asked how the money for the various fire departments should be disbursed. Mr. Guyther suggested that this money be given to these people all at once and let them handle it. The commissioners agreed that the fire departments and the rescue squads should be paid in one lump sum. Letters will be written explaining that this is their entire appropriation and no additional funds will be available.

## Roads

Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Gaskins requested that this road, Bennett's Drive, be fixed. Permission granted for a 30 foot right-of-way. Commissioners agreed that an additional 10 feet of right-of-way would be necessary and Mrs. Bennett said she could get this. Mr. D. Raley will supply Mrs. Bennett with the short forms necessary on Thursday of this week. Mr. Burch mentioned that this road could not possibly be done this year. Mr. Raley said the cost to build both pieces would be \$5600, and the piece Mrs. Bennett is speaking about would be about \$2800.

Sheran Drive - Mrs. A. Smith reported that Mr. Capps had done nothing to this road up to the present time, and requested some action be taken. Mr. Capp was notified on May 29th to have this road finished by August 1st. If the road is not started within the required 60 days, the bonding company can be requested to fix it. Mr. Burch will contact Mr. Capps about this matter.

People at St. Clements Shores notified that Potomac Ave. is on the oiling schedule. Requirement for right-of-way on Stienum Road will be 40 feet. Mr. Bowles stated that the 40 foot right-of-way should be maintained.

Mr. Raley said that the Abell's postoffice road should be blacktopped. If fixed it will last at least 15 years. Would cost about \$10,000.00. On the Camp Saysf Road Mr. Raley and Mr. Hall will work up the necessary right-of-way as to where the existing right-of-way is and where it should be. Scotch Neck Circle - Mr. Thompson requested this road be surface treated to avoid having to send men down to maintain it alone. It would cost about \$500. The commissioners agreed that this should be done.

## Jail

Mr. J. B. Dellinger, Inspector of County Jails, made various recommendations for improving the jail. Suggested that tempered glass be placed over light fixtures and held in place with tamper-proof screws. Suggested light color paint for the interior and that prisoners be required to keep up their own cells, and apprised as to the condition the cell should be kept in, and that they will be responsible for any damage.

Suggested closing part of the jail as all of the space is not needed. He was informed that under recent legislation, the jail is now under the county commissioners and not the sheriff. Mr. Guyther read said bill. Mr. Dellinger suggested serving three meals a day, and this should not be on the fee system. Records should be kept properly and he will send a sample form to use. There should be commitment papers ordering Mrs. Buckler to accept prisoners, and two sets of files maintained, active and inactive. Should also be a commitment file.