

November 19, 1963

Present: Mr. Burch, Mr. Ridgell, Mr. Oliver Guyther, Mr. S. Donaldson.

Septic Tank and Drain Field Licenses

Will go into effect on May 1, 1964. Dr. Houser will be contacted concerning proper procedure for issuing licenses and form of same.

Dump Request - Valley Lee

Dr. Houser, speaking for the St. George Island Improvement Asscn., stated that island residents have need for a dump on the island, but topography of the island prevents this. Had discussed the possibility of constructing a bulkhead in the water and filling it up with trash, but the Health Department would not allow this. A dump in the Valley Lee area would be used by the island residents, and Dr. Houser asked about possibility of placing one in this particular area.

Mr. Ridgell informed Dr. Houser that the Valley Lee area had been under study for some time as a locality for a dump, but so far, nothing has been available. Mentioned several places where plans had been set up, but failed to materialize.

The commissioners informed Dr. Houser that they would appreciate any ideas the island residents might have relative to the location of a dump in the Valley Lee area.

Delinquent Personal Property Taxes

Mr. W. H. Riley, State Supv. of Assessments, Mr. W. Herbert, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. L. Cryer, County Inspector, Mr. Roe Cecil, Senator J. Frank Raley, Jr.

Mr. Cryer said the purpose of the meeting was to find out the difference between the traders licenses and the construction licenses, as far as he was concerned, as some people were using a dodge to keep from obtaining the former. The traders licenses cannot be issued until personal property taxes are paid, and Mr. Cryer wanted a definition as what constituted a trader. Some people owe taxes, then leave the county. What is to be done about them?

It was mentioned that the tax bills take precedence over anything else. A certificate must be gotten from the assessors office before a traders license can be issued showing that the person applying for the license has paid his personal property taxes.

Senator Raley stated that the law, which is protecting the construction firms who are allowed to purchase construction licenses without paying personal property taxes, can be changed to state that all such taxes must be paid before any license can be issued. This would pertain to traders or construction licenses. The law covering this at present is in Section 1, Article 56, of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Mr. Cecil mentioned that someone must have signed for those corporations who had gotten licenses, or Mr. Greenwell would not have issued them. Senator Raley stated that a procedure should be set up whereby the county will collect the taxes. Mr. Guyther said that he feels the procedure used in the past is wrong. He does not think the sheriff should be sent to collect delinquent taxes.

Mr. Riley said that personal property taxes can be collected through a suit (Section 206, Art. 81, of the Code) but anything that has not been collected within the past four years cannot be collected.

Senator Raley suggested that as this county is the only county using 100% taxable basis, legislation might be passed to reduce this so that our county would be in line with the other counties.

Mr. Cecil mentioned that usually a man from the state comes into his office and those people who have not gotten their licenses are checked on.

Senator Raley mentioned that in the new session of the legislature they are going to do away with the county basis for education allotments. So if these delinquent taxes are collected, there will be a little more money in the county treasury.

Mr. Herbert said that in the past, assessments are left on the books for people who have failed to file schedules. The assessors office does not get any record when a business is transferred. Mr. Cecil stated that before a new business can open all of the back personal property taxes have to be paid if there are any remaining that particular property. Mr. Herbert and Mr. Riley agreed, if the new man takes over the old equipment and inventory.

Mr. Riley said the most effective way to collect the taxes is by getting a judgment. He said he would like to see a law passed stating that all licensees be required to pay all taxes before any licenses will be issued. Senator Raley said we cannot get such a law until 1965, unless the Hughes Committee can do this. A procedure should be set up and make a judgment of all unpaid taxes on the books, and either collect them or take them off the books. Mr. Guyther said that this should be done annually. Senator Raley said the Clerk of the Court could request clearances before issuing licenses, in order to keep a list of business people current. Before approving an application for a traders license, make sure the people concerned have filed for this year. As to who should purchase a traders license, the law defines this.

Mr. Guyther stated that those people who are exempt from purchasing traders licenses, are not exempt from the law which states that personal property taxes must be paid. Judgments can be gotten against such people.

At a tax sale, the taxes must be paid for the current year and all back taxes. SMC operates under a state law in tax sales. After the property is sold for taxes, there two more years of taxes added before the sale is ratified by the court. Mr. Riley said property should sell for the amount of all taxes, not just the one year previous.

The treasurer gets information from the assessor's office for the tax bills and then he must collect. The treasurer must collect everything on the tax rolls and if it is not collected, the taxes should be abated. Senator Raley

suggested having Mr. Donaldson handle this in order to clarify the procedure. Mr. Riley presented Mr. Donaldson with a copy of the law regarding these matters.

Senator Raley said the commissioners should decide whether they are going to file suit against these delinquent tax payers, and then carry out their decision. All of these people should be investigated to make sure the assessment is right and that the people still owe the taxes. Abate those that are illegal or who have left the county, then get letters out stating that a judgment will be filed if the taxes are not paid. Could have a consultation with the state auditor and the state comptroller as to abating the taxes, if they will agree to do this. One of the state people will be able to go over this with the county. Mr. Riley said that this county is all right ratio-wise.

A list of people who are not reporting can be compiled so that an assessment can be made on them. Mr. Cryer locates such establishments on his travels around the county, and many of them are doing business without traders licenses of any kind. Mr. Burch suggested Mr. Cryer make a list of such places and then check with the assessor's office to see if they have ever filed a schedule. Those places that are operating without a license can be brought before the trial magistrate and told either to buy the required license or they will be fined. The commissioners can deputize Mr. Cryer so that he has the authority to swear out a warrant.

Mr. Donaldson will screen the list of delinquent taxpayers and decide which could be abated, then Mr. Guyther will take the necessary steps to notify the people concerned. People will be notified by letter and if the taxes are not paid in so many days, judgment will be levied against them. If the letters can be sent out this year and the summons' were also issued, it would save one year on the statute of limitations.

Mr. Riley said that the law requires that all property be assessed annually, but we have not been able to cover it all annually. There could be an improvement in the method of assessing personal property, but there is no point in attempting to do this unless the records are kept up to date. Someone is needed in the assessor's office to post sales on the tax maps and keep the maps current to show what the level of assessments is. One area may need re-assessing without re-assessing other areas. Personal property records could be improved. Mr. Riley would like to see the commissioners hire an extra clerk for this office, as this would give the assessors more time to spend out in the county. There are some properties that need changing every year and some that will remain constant. The efficiency of the office would be increased with an additional clerk and the added service by the assessors would more than pay for the cost of salary. The commissioners will consider this request.

Roads

Maintenance report Nov. 12 - 19, \$3,325.73, amount spent this month - \$7,333.97. Concerning the radios, Mr. Hall suggested giving the 3/4 ton pickup to Dick Arnold and the dump truck to Russell, then they will both have radios.

Golden Beach Roads - Mr. Burch feels that if there was some urgency to this project he would go along with the request to take over the roads, but this does not seem to be the case. Mr. Sterling suggested that perhaps the county could assume the responsibility of some of these roads, if not all of them. Mr. Guyther, Mr. Hall, Mr. Sterling and the commissioners reviewed plat of roads in Golden Beach, including those owned by the county and those not. Mr. Sterling said he will get a copy of the plans for the entire development. He was also asked to present some confirmation concerning the \$10,000 originally deposited by the Golden Beach Association for the road leading into the development.

Mr. Hall will be sent letter requesting speed limit be changed from 40 to 30 mph for the Drumcliff area, carbon copy to Mr. Thompson. County road signs will cost \$2.05 each, and about 100 are needed, or more. Mr. Guyther suggested that the EDC be asked to rename some of the county roads for historical reasons. Patuxent Park signs would cost about \$100, plus \$115 for labor. Suggested that the commissioners order these directly from the company. Signs are to be green and white. Mr. Hall will send a list of sign names to be ordered. Public landing at Smith's Creek will have a great deal of traffic, and Mr. Hall plans to widen this but will stay within the 40 foot right of way. Would cost about \$500 and could be paid out of the Parks and Wharves fund.

Mr. Thompson reported that the Clark's Landing Road can be blacktopped with two inches of bituminous concrete for the sum of \$10,500, without federal aid. This report was made via telephone conversation with Mr. Burch.

There is a balance of \$2,349.73 remaining in account SM524X517, and Mr. Hall was given a check in the amount of \$8,150.27 for this project. Mr. Hall said money can be given to him for grading and this can be put towards this account.

Welfare Project Work

Mr. Hall reported that this work can be done legally by the SRC on county roads, but any work done for the Forest and Parks outside of county right of way cannot be handled. The SRC can run trucks but the commissioners must buy the gas for them. It was suggested that the Forest and Parks Dept. supervise two of the old pickup trucks and this would not deprive the SRC of any equipment. The gas can be charged to the Dumps and Wharves Account. All of this depends on whether this entire program of welfare work will be approved or disapproved.

Civil Defense Radios

Mr. C. Donaldson, Mr. K. Abell, and Mr. L. Goddard, Chairman of the Fire Board. Asked where the six radios recently purchased are going to be placed, as they have been delivered. Mr. Abell said they wanted one radio to go to the Ridge Rescue Squad, as they have none at all. This would have all of the first line ambulances with radios. Three radios would go to Hollywood, as they have only one radio, but no base station. Leonardtown would get one and they have one, which would give them five. All of these radios will be replacements for other radios.

Mr. Goddard mentioned that Mr. Thompson requested these radios and did not contact the Fire Board about it at all. A previous policy had been established that the Fire Board usually would send a letter of approval to the commissioners, but this was no longer being done. This same procedure was also followed when a new employee was hired. The Fire Board would write a letter of recommendations for employees being considered, as this operation belongs to the county.

The Fire Board also made their own survey regarding the generators. Decided that the 5KW which is a larger generator was needed at a cost of \$1600 each, and the Fire Department and the REA permitted this. \$3600 was put up and the commissioners were asked to hold this until enough money could be gotten to install these generators. This was to be matching funds. Between the time the \$3600 was put in the budget and the time to pay for them, the government stopped the matching funds for radios, or there would have been enough for twelve radios.

Mr. C. Donaldson suggested looking into the possibility of putting in a circuit to take care of the air conditioners, as these are what take the biggest load. It might be less expensive to run a separate circuit, then the generators could pull everything that was left on the other circuit, except the lights.

Concerning the radios, there are actually eight radios needed, and these gentlemen suggested buying two additional radios and a new base station. This would put the operation in good condition. Mr. Abell feels that the fire departments should be given preference over the rescue squad as the latter did not approach the commissioners for radios at all.

The narrow band is not giving the coverage the wider band was giving. The new base station would allow the present base station to be moved to Hollywood, as the one they have will not service the present radios.

Mr. Burch asked how these men justified their decision to give the Ridge Rescue Squad a radio and not the Lexington Park Squad. Mr. Donaldson said he put the ambulances on the list when the radios were requested as he knew they were going to need radios eventually. He stated that the rescue squads have never applied for allocated services and have never set up a set of standards. The rescue squads are still operating under fire department frequencies, and this is illegal on a sick call or a maternity call. When the FCC becomes aware of this the county will have to get a separate service for the ambulances.

Mr. Donaldson further stated that the Mechanicsville ambulance will run out of the county but the other rescue squads do not, so this squad needs the radio more than any other squad. Lexington Park rescue squad has the base ambulances, and three ambulances can be gotten if needed, as they have direct contact with the base.

It was mentioned that the fire departments would have made up the difference in cost as they would rather have Motorola radios than G.E. These gentlemen will be given a decision concerning placement of the radios by Mr. Burch tomorrow. He will call Mr. Donaldson. The commissioners feel that the rescue squads should make their own request for two radios. Mr. Donaldson said there is a possibility of buying a base station with matching funds.

Fire Prevention Code

This state does not have a code, nor does the county, which is badly needed. There is a fire prevention code to be presented at the coming legislative session and Senator Raley and the two delegates will be approached about this. Suggested that a meeting be arranged to have the delegates, the commissioners and other interested parties discuss with Mr. R. Robertson, Fire Marshall, the code that is to be presented. Suggested date and time, December 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Fire Board offered the name of Mr. Otis Wood to be considered as Asst. Director of Civil Defense. He is interested and they feel he will do a good job. The Fire Board would also like a response from the commissioners as to how they would like them to work. Are they going to be recognized, as they want to serve the county and are open to suggestions. Mr. Burch said the commissioners want to cooperate and work with them and commended them for the fine job they have been doing.

School Bus Extension - Rue

Mr. J. Rue has requested transportation for his children. Would mean 8 miles per day. The commissioners decided that Mr. Rue will be told that the bus schedule cannot be changed at the present time and he will have to bring the children out to the road.

Plastering

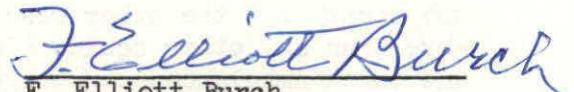
Mr. S. Graves will be hired to do this work.

Courthouse Painting

Paintrite, Inc., will be granted the bid, providing they will sign the contract to be presented as drawn up by Mr. Guyther.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved,


F. Elliott Burch
President