

June 16, 1964

Present: All commissioners, Mr. W. S. Donaldson.

St. Mary's Beacon

Mr. John Philabert, editor, stated that he was concerned because news releases were continually being given to the Enterprise and not to the Beacon. He said he had assumed that all releases would be given to both papers, and Mr. Burch said that this was the policy which had been worked out over a year ago as the proper way to handle this. Mr. Philabert said he is only asking that he be given the same information that is given to the Enterprise, and referred specifically to a story concerning the SRC program for the county that had been given to the Enterprise and not the Beacon. Mr. Ridgell explained that Mr. J. Frank Raley, Jr., had been in contact with the Enterprise and that the commissioners sometimes have no control over what other people give to the papers.

The commissioners discussed this matter in the afternoon and decided that in the future no press releases would be issued except through the office, by the secretary.

Transmitter Room

Cpl. Wayne Pettit presented plan drawn for the transmitter room requested, measuring 96 square feet, and costing approximately \$950, including the wiring. This building would run 12 feet along the existing building, extending 8 feet out from same, and would be 8 feet high, with a roof sloping away from the existing building.

Sgt. Davis came in at this point, and said that the transmitters work most efficiently when the antenna is as close to the unit as possible, as there should be as short a line as possible between the antenna and the tower. He said that the biggest problem in going underground with the transmitters is the elimination of moisture.

Cpl. Pettit stated that he would like to have the office that the commissioners have offered the state police in Carver Heights, and Dr. Houser has approved the office they want. He said that the building the sheriff is interested in would be a more centrally located office, and he would be willing to check this if the commissioners desired. The state police would be glad to share this building with the sheriff and local law enforcement officers, and in the event the smaller building is used, the state police would continue to check the building at Carver Heights in an effort to prevent breaking and entering.

School Bus Transportation

Rev. Wilkinson presented resume of number of children who will be leaving his school. Eighteen families will no longer be sending their children, approximately 39, as the negro school is being closed, and these children will have

to attend school within their own parishes. (Mr. P. Raley was called into the meeting at this point.) Mr. Raley asked to be furnished with the names of the families in each of the parishes. Rev. Wilkinson said he will contact the nuns for the exact location as to where the families live, and also the buses they are riding.

Rev. Wilkinson mentioned fact that some discussion has been over the possibility of combining the two bus systems, parochial and public. There would be no objection to this so long as the parochial school children were given the same consideration as the public school children in going to and from school.

Fire Escapes at 7 Gables Hotel

Mr. Blakistone and Mr. B. Smith. Mr. Blakistone stated that the state wants him to install metal fire escapes and he cannot afford this expense. One escape would cost \$3200 and the other \$1970. He asked that the commissioners allow him to put up a wooden fire escape costing about \$400.

Mr. Smith stated that the State Fire Marshall can close the hotel in 30 days if their requirements are not met. A letter sent to Mr. Blakistone in June of 1962 was read. This letter was sent by Mr. Robertson who will be the new fire marshall after July 1, 1964, and mentioned inspection requests that were made by Mr. Robertson as to fire safety for the residents of the hotel. Mr. Smith said that the wooden fire escape would carry people from the building but there are glass panes within four feet of the fire escape and this is a fire hazard. The fire code definitely states that metal fire escapes should be used. There is one wooden one in the county that is acceptable, at Swann's Hotel. Permission to build wooden fire escapes at the 7 Gables Hotel should come from the state fire department, and Mr. Smith did not see where the commissioners have any authority in this matter.

Mr. Blakistone said he had complied with all requirements to date except several big items, such as the fire escapes. Also said he had difficulty finding anyone who was even interested in installing the metal escapes. Mr. Smith said that various people had been down and made suggestions, such as fire extinguishers, and have asked Mr. Blakistone to discontinue the old type, and the old type were still there. Inspections were made in October 1963, and March 1964, and another will be made in December 1964.

Mr. Burch said this will be discussed with Mr. Guyther to find out what authority the commissioners have in such matters and will notify Mr. Blakistone.

Civil Defense

Gen. R. E. Hogaboom, Director. Reported the equipment from Motorola has been installed and the base station installed in Hollywood. Second District fire siren has also been installed. Ridge Rescue Squad is trying to get a surplus ambulance from the navy and they are helping them accomplish this.

Gen. Hogaboom reported they have interviewed a couple operators and have one man, Tom Greig, now working at WKIK, who is capable and he would like to hire him to begin work on July 1st. He is not ready to hire the the other man just yet.

Gen. Hogaboom attended meeting in Pikesville and learned that in the future the state must spend \$2,000,000 before the federal government will provide aid for disasters. This would be money in excess of the budgeted amount for snow removal, etc. Gen. Van Brunt wants to know how much money the county spends for disasters, then if there is a need for additional aid, he will have the information necessary.

Gen. Hogaboom said he is also trying to get a surplus jeep for the Leonardtown Fire Department. A radio is needed in the Ridge tanker, and the Navy has agreed to let them put a radio in their tanker, and they will maintain it. Mr. Burch told Gen. Hogaboom that there will probably be two more used radios available, and he said the other used radios were all right and he would like to have the two additional ones. He will check if the used radios are operating satisfactorily and will inform the commissioners.

The general said he had given some thought to the employment of a Deputy Director of Civil Defense, but doesn't feel he has found such a man as yet. He will talk further with Mr. Otis Wood in this respect.

Mr. Burch informed Gen. Hogaboom of the request by the State Police to build the transmitter room at the base of the tower.

Roads

Mr. T. Hall presented maintenance report - up until June 8th - \$6,667.87, and up until last night another \$5,730.19. Estimated allocation for the month of June is \$24,662.19.

Reported the biggest part of the skin patching was done and the oiling will now begin. Snow Hill Road started this morning. Presented list of money expended by the county from July 1963 to present date. Explained that the county pays for vacation or sick leave and this procedure is followed by the state in all counties.

According to Mr. Donaldson, there is some discrepancy in the amount of money deducted for debt service from the estimated revenues and he reviewed his schedules with Mr. Hall. Mr. Donaldson said that approximately \$68,000 should have been taken out and not the \$90,000 indicated. He will write to the SRC asking for a breakdown as to how they arrive at the \$90,859.68 figure.

Dumps are becoming more of a problem and Mr. Hall said the commissioners should possibly consider a fulltime man to take care of them. This man would be helpful in getting people to dump trash where it belongs. Mentioned some of the problems at the dumps that are raising the costs of operating them, such as bulldozing, etc. Mr. Donaldson gave Mr. Hall a check in the amount of \$500, Check No. 19864, Voucher No. 28471, for dump maintenance.

Mr. Hall reported that the Klears want to terminate the lease on the Compton dump as their son wants to build a house in this area. According to a copy of the lease, the term for rental expires April 30, 1966. Mr. Burch said that these people should be informed that as soon as a new dump location is found, this contract will be terminated.

11th Series Bond Issue - \$124,000 - Snow Hill Road, Lanedon Road, and the oiling schedule have been advanced, and there is approximately \$53,780 remaining of this money. Mr. Hall and the commissioners reviewed the work programmed for this money and Mr. Hall mentioned that at the time this was discussed, it was known that construction costs would go over the bond issue money. He asked for a definite commitment to do this amount of blacktop so that paper work can be started. The commissioners agreed unanimously that the blacktopping should be requested for the six projects scheduled, totalling \$34,000.

Bridge at Locks Crossing Road needs repairing. Mr. Hall plans to use large pipe here, and would need 60 feet of pipe at \$17.00 per foot. Would cost \$1,000 for labor and fill, making a total cost of approximately \$2,000. Mr. Hall said he would rather this be paid for out of funds other than maintenance, and he will figure the least expensive way to do this. Money for this project will be taken out of the money left in balance to be expended for projects, rather than out of general fund. Mr. Donaldson said there is \$12,572.13 remaining in the current budget.

Mr. Hall asked the commissioners to pass a motion to prevent parking at the Chaptico Wharf as this is becoming a problem. Mr. Ridgell motioned that this be done, seconded by Mr. Bowles and passed unanimously. Mr. Hall will place "no parking" signs in this area.

Mr. Hall will investigate the possibility of a ramp at the Leonardtwn Wharf for boats to load and unload.

Colony Subdivision Sewerage

Dr. Houser was called in and asked his opinion on this. He said that the State Health Department will never issue a permit without the approval of the commissioners, and if the Health Department was against a project approved by the commissioners, the former would let them know. Mr. Bingley and Dr. Houser located this area as well as possible as there are no plats, and also went to the marina. Mr. Bingley said the marina is already there and it would be unfair to them to allow any kind of treated sewage to be discharged upstream from them. It was felt this should not go into Cat Creek at all but should go into the Patuxent River. According to Dr. Houser, there are oyster bars in this area of the Patuxent River. Mr. Bingley, in his letter to the commissioners, said there are no oyster bars in this area. Dr. Houser stated he had shown Mr. Bingley on his maps that there were oyster bars here and did not understand why he would state otherwise in his letter.

Dr. Houser said someone is going to have to make the decision as to whether people or oysters are more important to St. Mary's County. He said it might be possible to run a pipe out to the 90 foot channel and this would have no effect at all on the shallow water. He suggested that the meeting mentioned in Mr. Bingley's letter be held and to decide what should be done, then let Mr. Bingley give these people the news. Tidewater Fisheries should also be present at this meeting.

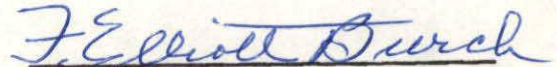
It was decided to wait until after the meeting tonight with Planning and Zoning before setting up this meeting.

Register of Wills Office

The commissioners agreed that the partitions requested by this office should be started and Mr. Peterson will be so notified by Mr. Paul Raley.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved,



F. Elliott Burch
President