

December 5, 1967

Present: All commissioners

Meeting convened at 10:00 a.m.

Railroad

Messrs. M. Dean, Bowling, Williams, R. Wigginton, O. Guyther, and Pantaleo. Mr. Burch stated that this meeting was called as it was felt that there should be an agreement reached between the commissioners of this county and Charles County, and the REA regarding the railroad. There is a tentative agreement drafted by Mr. Wigginton that should be considered.

Mr. Dean said that the SMECO intentions are to buy the 229 acres or 28 miles of right of way for transmission lines, and they would not ever interfere with the railroad bed or the Economic Development Commission in any development pursued so long as it did not interfere with them. They are solely interested in the land for their lines as business increases, as it is extremely costly to buy land for this purpose, and build new lines. They trust that the railroad can be operated and maintained over this land and will not interfere with the transmission lines on the property.

Mr. Burch stated that the commissioners of Charles and St. Mary's Counties can purchase the railroad from GSA and the latter feel that the title should be in the name of the county. Then an easement could be granted to SMECO and they would have the use of the land for the construction of their power lines. A 15 year agreement can be arranged with GSA and SMECO can arrange for payment over this time period. If the property is ever disposed of, SMECO would have first refusal. Mr. Wigginton asked about advisability of the Charles County Commissioners entering this as they do not have any authority under the statute to participate. Mr. Burch said that Congressman Machen was very helpful in arranging their meeting with GSA, and getting them to favor the counties in purchasing the right of way. Perhaps Charles County would be willing not to participate, however we can ask them to state their interest in the project.

General discussion concerning terms of lease, and the gentlemen from REA and SMECO favor a perpetual easement for use of the right of way as they have such sizeable investments on the land. It would not be feasible for them to build a two million dollar power line on any property where they have only a short term lease. With a perpetual lease there would never be any future need for REA to purchase the property. Mr. Burch asked if REA would pay \$225,000 in cash for the railroad for a perpetual easement, and it was generally felt that this was not possible. Answering question about paying the amount over a period of one year, Mr. Coakley said they have many other commitments and could not discuss this here today. Mr. Williams suggested asking

GSA to accept the money over a period of a year after the \$45,000 down payment is made, and arrange to allow for anticipation of pre-payment in the agreement. Mr. Guyther stated that the right of pre-payment is in the agreement presented by GSA.

Mr. Guyther will draft an agreement and Mr. Dean can present it to his board and have it back to the commissioners by next Monday morning. General discussion regarding some payment to the county in lieu of taxes, and Mr. Williams said that this would have to be discussed with his board before any agreement would be reached.

Mr. Guyther telephoned Mr. Read McDonagh, Charles County Commissioner, regarding Charles County's participation in the agreement. Mr. McDonagh said that they want the portion of the railroad bed in Charles County owned by the county, and do not care how we arrive at this result. He further stated they are only interested in obtaining the railroad as an aid to St. Mary's County. Mr. Guyther will draft a separate agreement with Charles County to effect this.

Roads

Mr. Pantaleo and Mr. Bond. Mr. Bond said that the signs were posted on the St. Andrews Church Road prior to the accident that happened on August 26th. If any were missing, this was due to vandalism.

Mr. Burch asked Mr. Bond to place a curve warning sign on the Breton Beach Road where it deadends at the entrance to Camp Maria, then makes a sharp left turn. Mr. Bond said he will investigate and make a recommendation to the commissioners.

Mr. Pantaleo reported that Mr. D. Raley, Jr., wants him or the commissioners to ride the Indian Bridge Road to determine what needs to be done, and also the Hickory Hill Road to inspect entrance pipes that have been installed.

Mr. Bond will inspect entrances at J. Bean's and V. D. Flynn's on the Chancellor's Run Road, for erosion problems.

Harland Bartholomew Planning Study

Mr. Pantaleo reported on the status of this study, and that this firm now states they have concluded their contract, but he does not feel they have. They have said that if the county wants a set of subdivision regulations, this will cost extra money. The firm has also stated they will do no further work in Leonardtown, and this portion has not been completed, either. Mr. Pantaleo said their contract will have to be reviewed and a decision made as to what is to be done.

Lexington Park Library Furniture

Mr. Terry Luborg, Revere; Mr. John Anderson, Republic Steel; Bryan J. Cox, Free State Business Machines; Jake Johnson, Estey Corp; Bruce R. Ribb, Clover School and Office Equipment; Mrs. Kitty Hurry, St. Mary's Library Asscn.; Mrs. R. Boyd (same); Mrs. Mary Janssen, St. Mary's County Library Board; Mr. Guyther. Bids opened with Myrtle Desk Company apparent low bidder with total bid for all groups of \$23,210.20, with offer of 2% discount if they are awarded all groups.

Revere bid for Group II was low at \$8,756.55. If contract is awarded to Myrtle Desk Company for Groups I and III, and to Revere for Group II, total cost will be less than if awarded to Myrtle Desk Company for all groups, with the 2% discount. The library officials will review all bids submitted, and make a recommendation to the commissioners. (Copy of bid tabulation sheet in files.)

Dog Damage Claim - Wathen

The commissioners approved payment of \$75.00 to J. A. Wathen, Helen, Md., for three hogs killed by stray dogs on October 31, 1967, as approved by J.P. J. R. Hayden.

Lexington Park Library Architect Fees

The commissioners approve payment to Mr. Stanley Arthur, architect, in the amount of \$1,559.48, for work on this facility.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Approved,



F. Elliott Burch, President