

County Commissioners MeetingTuesday, January 27, 1970

Present: F. Elliott Burch, President  
J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner  
George R. Aud, Commissioner

Paul R. Raley, Administrative Assistant  
Recording: Helen M. Bailey (Mrs.), Secretary

Payments Approved

Walter Wise, to install playground equipment and asphalt paving in the amount of \$1,850.00.

Payment of \$148.98 to the Employees' Retirement System, State of Maryland.

David M. Gruber & Company, \$2,250.00, fee for second quarter, fiscal year ending June 30, 1970.

Payment of \$45.00 for secretarial services performed by Mrs. Barton D. Strong during a planning meeting held on January 7, 1970.

Payment of \$1,892.80 to the Board of Education for alterations and additions to White Marsh Elementary School.

Payment of \$50.00 to Clarke Raley, appointed by the Circuit Court to defend John David Ford.

Air fare of \$845.00 and \$250.00 in expenses for the Sheriff and the Chief Deputy Sheriff to travel to California to pick up and return John Kenneth Whalen, who has forfeited bond in the amount of \$2,000.00 and which we hold on deposit.

Emergency Operations Simulation Exercise

Mr. Otis F. Wood, Acting Director of the Office of Civil Defense, Major Charles D. Ellison, Area Coordinator for the OCD, Dr. Pettigrew, Training Director, Region 2, Federal Civil Defense, Capt. Arthur Johnson, Training Officer for OCD, University of Maryland, and Colonel Hunt, State Civil Defense Training Officer appeared to brief the County Commissioners on a Simulation Exercise which will take place in St. Mary's County on Thursday, February 26, 1970, in the Emergency Operations Center.

The purpose of the exercise is to practice, under simulated conditions, the routine which will be followed during an actual threat to the safety of the citizens of St. Mary's County. The County Commissioners will hypothetically direct administrative and other operations, aided by technical representatives from the Maryland State Police, the Sheriff's Office, the Fire Department, the Office of Civil Defense and designees from other County Agencies, during a simulated emergency. As a decision-making team, the County Commissioners will be confronted with anticipated problems and unscheduled emergency decisions arising during the danger of radiation fall-out and/or the resultant confusion from a small "hit". The University of Maryland, in collaboration with the Maryland State Office of Civil Defense, has worked up a full-scale sequence of events which will take place and be handled through and from the Emergency Operations Center. Appropriate working materials, such as a St. Mary's County Materiel Resources list, Emergency Hospital inventories, detailed road and location maps, population distribution (by day and by night), location of school children and school shelters, scheduling of school buses, have been assembled and will be presented in the form of briefing books for the use of responsible officials. The principal task will be to establish a system of priorities in order to be able to recognize the need for doing "first things first". The exercise will last for approximately four hours. After the exercise is over, there will be a critique so that the necessary machinery can be set up and applied to every conceivable situation -- except, of course, a direct hit.

#### St. Mary's River Watershed

Mr. Howard Bailey, District 3 Supervisor, FHA  
 Mr. William Groome, St. Mary's County, FHA  
 Mr. John Hall, Soil and Conservation Service  
 Mr. Harris Sterling, Office of Finance

Mr. Groome stated that the St. Mary's River Watershed project was all ready for submission to the Watershed Protection and Management Loan Program, Farmers Home Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture and that FHA Washington was anxious to approve it. However, in his narrative report, Mr. Groome must state the method by which the County Commissioners are planning on obtaining and securing the loan of \$250,000 -- \$150,000 of which goes to the Department of Forests and Parks and \$100,000 to the Department of Game and Inland Fish. Also, there is the question of whether or not the County Commissioners have the authority to borrow the \$250,000. Mr. Groome must

spell out how the loan is going to be repaid and what security the FHA will have on the loan. The total cost of the entire project will run to \$3 million. The rate of interest on the loan of \$250,000 would be at 3½%, to be amortized over a period of 50 years -- costing approximately \$12,000 annually.

Mr. David M. Williams, Attorney for the County Commissioners, stated that in his opinion there was no authorization right now for the Commissioners to act without special legislation.

It was agreed to request special legislation to either appropriate or borrow the \$250,000 for the St. Mary's River Watershed.

Mr. George H. Dent, The Beavin Company

Mr. George H. Dent appeared to discuss the design, engineering and surveying of a road leading from Camp Saysf Road to a new north entrance at the Naval Air Test Center. Mr. Dent said that he thought we might get State aid and get it into the Federal system since it is leading into a Defense installation; the Beavin Company would be in a position to start the design and survey right away; and it would take approximately six months to engineer it. It was left that the Commissioners would review the plats which the County Engineer's Office has on file and that they would advise Mr. Dent of their findings in the matter.

Herman W. Hewitt, Jr.

Mr. Herman W. Hewitt, Jr. appeared with regard to the execution of an option for the County to buy 158 acres of his land for \$37,500 for future use as a Sanitary Landfill. Mr. Hewitt agreed to a 90-day option after it was explained to him that before the transaction could be finalized, a number of approvals from the State must be obtained as well as boundary line surveys, grade lines, and other engineering requirements. The option to buy was signed by the County Commissioners and Mr. Hewitt, who took the option with him in order to obtain his wife's signature.

Board of Education re problems in the High Schools

Dr. Robert E. King, Superintendent of Schools, President E. Harry Ocker of the Board of Education, and Principals Marvin Joy of Great Mills High School and Julius Leroy LeVay of Chopticon High School appeared to brief the Commissioners

on incidents in the High Schools on Friday, January 23, 1970, and to request their cooperation and assistance in maintaining order in the High Schools so that they would not have to curtail or cancel night activities. They said that the problem would eventually affect the night activities of the Board of Recreation and Parks if the violence could not be stopped. Specifically, it was requested that one officer from the Maryland State Police and one officer from the Sheriff's Department, in uniform, be detailed to cover night activities in the schools. Our support of this request would be appreciated. Mr. Ocker interceded in behalf of the Sheriff's Department by saying the Sheriff's Department was under-staffed so far as Deputies are concerned and suggested the consideration of increased manpower in the upcoming budget. It appeared that the incidents are provoked by High School drop-outs who come in from three sectors of the County to instigate trouble. Mr. Ocker stated that the Sheriff is swearing out warrants for these people -- some of whom were identified. In addition, trespassing notices to deny access will be sent out; under this condition, if the instigators show up, they are subject to arrest. Mr. Ocker stated that if he could get help from the law enforcement departments, we might be able to continue with night activities. In answer to Mr. Bowles query, Dr. King and Mr. Ocker responded that the Board of Education would prosecute -- "the days of not prosecuting are gone".

In answer to Mr. Aud's query concerning the use of narcotics in the schools, Principals Joy and LeVay related that while they knew narcotics were still around, they felt the sale of it in the schools had gone "underground" so that they did not know about it. There were only two "use" instances last month which they knew about and had investigated. They stated that there might be more use of "pills", and there was still LSD around, but they had not run into it.

The President's veto of the HEW appropriations bill was also discussed and Mr. Ocker stated that the veto would cost the County at least \$650,000 -- 20% of their budget. Mr. Ocker stated that this is a real tragedy since the money has already been appropriated and the \$650,000 represents the amount withheld from this school-year's budget.

#### Opening of Bids for Sheriff's Cars

At 2:30 p.m., the bids submitted by Fenwick Ford, Patuxent Motors, Bell Motor Co., Guy Chevrolet Sales, and Suburban Chrysler were opened, read, and duly recorded. The County Commissioners advised the bidders that they wished to study their submissions more closely and that they would be notified of the award in writing.

A representative from each company submitting a bid was present. After the bidders had departed, Mr. Bowles pointed out that we should request, from the bidder, a list of the equipment included in the "police package" prior to awarding of the bid contract, in order to insure that the list for each bid does in fact match the list of equipment in the specifications. Mr. Bowles mentioned that the actual equipment on each vehicle should be manually checked against the equipment list in the specifications prior to delivery.

Walter B. Dorsey, Attorney

Mr. Walter B. Dorsey appeared briefly with regard to Mr. James Deagle's application to place a trailer on Lot 66 at Belvedere Estates. It developed that his problem could be solved by the Health Department and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mr. John Schilling, Enterprise

The County Commissioners briefed Mr. John Schilling, reporter for the Enterprise newspaper, on the status of the acquisition of the Brandywine-Cedar Point railroad from the Federal Government (General Services Administration), which has been stalemated because the GSA had added the stipulation that we must sign an agreement with the State Roads Commission before the transaction can be finalized. Mr. Schilling was given a copy of the draft memorandum of understanding submitted to the County Commissioners by the State Roads Commission and our letter of reply to the State Roads Commission dated January 27, 1970. Mr. Burch explained to Mr. Schilling that the County could not possibly sign the proposed agreement for many reasons; specifically, because the County did not have the facilities to accomplish the engineering, surveying and judicial processes which would inevitably result from condemnation.

Sheriff Burroughs

Sheriff Burroughs and Chief Deputy Lancaster appeared to request an expenditure of \$1,095 in order to return John Kenneth Whalen from California to St. Mary's County for incarceration and trial. The Sheriff has obtained a warrant

for unlawful flight, and the charge against subject is breaking, entering and grand larceny. The Sheriff stated that the subject could get at least five or six years -- or as many as 20 years if convicted for the charges against him. The Sheriff and his Chief Deputy will make the trip starting from Dulles International Airport Wednesday morning, January 28, 1970. Inasmuch as subject had forfeited \$2,000 bond, which is on deposit with the County Commissioners, authorization to perform the travel and return the prisoner was granted.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Approved,



F. Elliott Burch  
President