

County Commissioners MeetingTuesday, March 3, 1970

Present: F. Elliott Burch, President  
J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner  
George R. Aud, Commissioner  
Paul R. Raley, Administrative Assistant  
Helen M. Bailey (Mrs.), Admin. Asst. (Recording)

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on February 24, 1970, were read, amended, and approved.

Mr. Harris Sterling, Office of Finance, discussed the matter of putting the Deputy Sheriffs under the County Merit System and stated that we do not have enough authority to blanket the Deputies into the system without requiring them to take examinations; and that special legislation would have to be passed if we desired to blanket them in. It was requested by the County Commissioners that Mr. Sterling contact the Commissioner of Personnel regarding this matter. The results of his conversation with Mr. Robin Zee confirmed Mr. Sterling's interpretation of the County Commissioners' authority in the matter. The advisability of requesting legislation was discussed. Mr. Burch telephoned the Sheriff later and informed him of the findings. The Sheriff stated that he could see no objection to having the Deputies take an examination and thought there might be no difficulty, with the possible exception of one deputy, since they were all well-trained and efficient. In answer to Mr. Burch's inquiry, the Sheriff stated that he would like to have the Chief Deputy under the Merit System, and that this situation should pose no difficulty since he, or a new Sheriff, could shift the Deputies around so that the Chief Deputy would be of the Sheriff's choice. The Sheriff did not seem to anticipate any problem with rank or pay since all deputies would be retaining the security of being under the Merit System, whether they were serving as Chief Deputy or Deputy. Mr. Burch suggested that the Sheriff take the matter up with Senator Paul J. Bailey. The Sheriff stated that if the Legislators did not see fit to introduce legislation, that his Deputies would just have to take the examination if they were to be placed under the Merit System.

### Trial Magistrate

Judge John H. T. Briscoe appeared to explain his position regarding renovations to the Trial Magistrate's Courtroom. Mr. Burch expressed the opinion that the wrong impression had been created regarding the County Commissioners' delay in approving the partitioning off of approximately 22 feet in the rear of the Courtroom to make a private hearing room, especially since it had been falsely interpreted that the delay was occasioned by a pending bill in the Maryland General Assembly requesting borrowing power for a \$300,000 loan to make an addition on and alterations to the Courthouse. The County Commissioners authorized the improvement to the Trial Magistrate's Court and approved an estimate in the amount of \$258.97, which was submitted by John Maddox, of Hollywood, and hand-carried to the Commissioners by Judge Briscoe.

The County Commissioners were apprised that some security precautions should be taken for Mrs. Bernadine Boyd who handles the revenues for the Trial Magistrate's Court and it was suggested that a half-partition be installed to close her desk off from the public. Mr. Raley was requested to investigate and make appropriate recommendations to the County Commissioners.

### Metropolitan Commission

Thurston B. Clark (Adm., USN Ret'd), Director of the Metropolitan Commission, appeared before the County Commissioners to ask their support and influence in securing passage of the legislation submitted by the Metropolitan Commission; i.e., that the present law allowing the collecting of revenues only from the beginning of the fiscal year for water-sewerage connections be changed to allow them to collect for partial parts of the year, beginning at the time of connection. Adm. Clark stated that the Metropolitan Commission may get into serious financial trouble if this law is not changed to allow a steady inflow of revenues, spread over an entire year. Adm. Clark stated that he had an appointment with Senator Bailey on Thursday, March 5, to discuss this and other legislation and that he would also cover the possibility of having the County declared as one sanitary district.

Mr. Bowles mentioned that he was going to Annapolis on Wednesday to attend the meeting on S.B. 382 on State Control of Water and Sewage, which is sought by the Governor, and had called the Metropolitan Commission to ask whether they were interested in attending. Mr. Bowles said it would be helpful to know the Metropolitan Commission's position on this question.

Thomas E. Springer, Valley Lee

Mr. Thomas E. Springer of Valley Lee came in to request that Springer Road, off Route 249, in the 2nd Election District, be taken into the County Road System. Mr. Springer will have the plats made up, as well as a description, so that the right-of-way may be deeded to the County.

Roads Meeting

Mr. Douglas Bond, Resident Engineer, SRC, recommended that we take the un-named road in the 7th Election District, 7/10 mile off Hatchet Thicket Road, into the County Road System. This request was submitted by Mrs. Mary L. Tennyson. The County Commissioners and County Engineer concurred with Mr. Bond's recommendation.

Mr. Douglas Bond also recommended that the County take an un-named road going past Corporal Sandidge's house into the system provided acceptable plats and description are submitted. The County Commissioners and the County Engineer concurred with Mr. Bond's recommendation. Judge John H. T. Briscoe will submit the legal papers.

Mr. Douglas Bond mentioned that the SRC was having difficulty in maintaining the ditches in Chaptico at Route 238 between Chaptico and Milestown. He wondered if there was any way to dig a ditch through the marshland which would take the water out with the rise and fall of the tide. Mr. Bond said he was thinking about the possibility of getting an easement to have a digger go in to open up a ditch. The County Commissioners concurred with this suggestion and requested Mr. Bond to report back on his findings after investigation.

Park Pines Sub-Division

Mr. Paul R. Riley reported that Mr. Anderson requested the roads in the Park Pines Sub-Division, 1st Election District, be taken over by the County. The County Engineer submitted a written report on his investigation into the matter saying that the entrance street into the Sub-Division, Park Pines Drive, is completely covered with pine trees. The road bed is approximately ten feet wide with a thin layer of gravel. Corrugated steel culvert pipes are installed across the road bed to carry the water to the ditches. These pipes are protruding above the road bed and have holes in them.

Mr. Anderson was advised by the County Engineer that the County would not take these roads over until they are put in shape so that they will meet the specifications of the County. The County Commissioners agreed, providing sufficient housing exists to justify same.

### Mobile Home Parks

Mr. Eldred W. Greenwell and Frank Dorsey Combs came in to request legislation which will prohibit the "indiscriminate mobile home park placement in the county" and presented a formal, written request which is excerpted for the record:

... "We request, therefore, that the County Commissioners formally affect through resolution or legislation a limiting of mobile home parks to non-rural, municipal areas of the County. For these problems have existed in the past and solutions in some cases have already been accomplished. In short, let's keep concentrations of population near other concentrations of populations for efficiency and good governmental planning. We know that such a resolution for limitation will give rise to charges of favoritism, but this can easily be countered by the fact that the law would not be a statement of where parks shall go but one providing that they will not go where they can harm and be a burden on everyone. That some profit and others lose by this is incidental, so long as all the County benefits. Any zoning or quasi-zoning regulation faces similar criticism.

"Please, gentlemen, provide for us an alternative to the dotting of the face of our County with this obviously undesirable method of providing cheap housing".

Mr. Burch replied that the Commissioners are very much aware of the pros and cons concerning mobile home parks and requested that the matter also be presented to the Zoning and Planning Commission for their consideration, comment, and recommendation.

### St. Mary's Nursing Home, Inc.

Drs. Guyther, Fenwick, Rehm and House; Messrs. Colvin, Carter and Sterling; Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Anderson appeared to alert the Commissioners on a problem which is beginning to have an effect on the financial status of the Nursing Home. Mrs. Thomas reported that the Federal Government and State subsidies which have heretofore been coming to the St. Mary's County Nursing Home have been reduced to the point where

they can't operate unless additional funding is obtained. Mrs. Thomas had particular reference to Medicare and Medicaid payments which are being regulated by the degree of nursing skills required. Federal and State requirements are such that the number of patients qualified for such aid is being gradually reduced. The Doctors present verified this and mentioned that the same problem would eventually affect the financial status of the Hospital.

Mr. Sterling reported that the County Commissioners did not have the authority to appropriate monies to the Nursing Home since it is a private corporation and in order to come to their assistance we would need legislation granting the authority to appropriate funds, if funding became necessary.

The County Commissioners agreed that there was reason for concern and requested Mr. Sterling to investigate regarding existing legislation and to prepare legislation if necessary, so that appropriations could be made to assist in the operation of the Nursing Home, if the need arises.

#### Payments Approved

Voucher numbers 36424 through 36478 were signed by Mr. Burch.

Southern Railway Co., two round-trip tickets to Atlanta and return for Messrs. Raley and Aud to attend meeting of Regional Councils, in amount \$151.70.

\$20.75 to Roy P. Carter, Court Reporter, for transcript of State vs. Paul L. Dyson.

\$150.00 to David M. Williams, fees for filing uniform non-support petitions and adoptions.

\$83.40 to County Engineer, August H. Wagener, official mileage from December 12, 1969 through February 27, 1970.

\$300.00 to International Association of Chiefs of Police for professional services rendered to the Sheriff's Department.

\$36.00 to William A. Guy for damage to poultry caused by dogs.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Approved,

*F. Elliott Burch*

F. Elliott Burch

President