

County Commissioners' MeetingTuesday, June 2, 1970

Present: F. Elliott Burch, President
J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner
George R. Aud, Commissioner
Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney

Paul R. Raley, Administrative Assistant
Helen M. Bailey (Mrs.), Admin. Asst. (Recording)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting which was held on May 28, 1970 were read, amended, and approved.

County Attorney

Robert E. Wigginton, Esquire, of the law firm Wigginton and Loker, was welcomed to the meeting by the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Wigginton's law firm was retained by the Board of County Commissioners on May 28, 1970 to represent St. Mary's County as their Legal Counsel.

St. Mary's County Historical Society

Messrs. J. Frank Raley and Edwin W. Beitzell of the St. Mary's County Historical Society presented a proposal for setting up an Information Center in the Old Jail, which is being restored by that organization. The gentlemen requested authorization to appoint a secretary who possesses the expertise on St. Mary's County historical matters, and who would also accommodate the Office of Economic Development by displaying and handing out copies of their literature on St. Mary's County. The Secretary would be operating under the aegis of the St. Mary's County Historical Society only, however. The Historical Society has plans for installing a microfilm viewer in the Information Center for the use of visitors who wish to use the film library which has been collected and which includes old census records, land records, and the like.

The Board of County Commissioners assured the representatives of the St. Mary's Historical Society that an appropriation had been made and earmarked for the employment of a secretary for this purpose and that they were free to go ahead and make an appointment effective July 1, 1970, or thereafter, at such time as they were ready to open the office.

Mr. J. Frank Raley mentioned that he would want to make sure that good relations were established with the Economic Development Committee and that he would discuss this matter with Dr. J. Patrick Jarboe, the Chairman of that Committee. Mr. Burch stated that to his knowledge this venture was not in the budget or program for the Economic Development Committee and that he did not see where there could be any misunderstanding, but would be willing to discuss the matter with Dr. Jarboe.

St. Clements Island Shore Erosion Project

Mr. Edwin W. Beitzell mentioned that the State of Maryland awarded \$150,000 in the recent Legislative Session of the Assembly for the Shore Erosion Project on St. Clement's Island. There is a balance available also, in the amount of \$80,000 which has not yet been used. Mr. Beitzell stated that the total amount now available (\$230,000) should be ample to complete the project -- but that they were experiencing difficulty in getting the project underway. Delegate Henry J. Fowler has been asked to negotiate with Governor J. Millard Tawes, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, with the Department of Forests and Parks (Spencer P. Ellis, Director), and with the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs in an attempt to expedite action. The Departments of Game and Inland Fish and the Department of Public Works are also involved. The Board of County Commissioners offered to assist Mr. Beitzell in any way possible to speed up the Shore Erosion Project.

Sheltered Workshop for the Handicapped

Messrs. Paul Ludwig and Robert Dixon requested the advice of the Board of County Commissioners as to what steps could now be taken in order to implement plans for the Sheltered Workshop for the Handicapped in St. Mary's County. Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney, advised that the passage of H.B. No. 942, "to establish a Board of Directors overseeing a vocational training facility for the handicapped, providing for the establishment and staffing thereof and matters relating generally thereto" gives broad and sweeping authorities on this project, once the Board of Directors is established. Further, Mr. Wigginton stated that the State of Maryland was now engaged in establishing plans for setting up a State Facility for this purpose in St. Mary's County. Mr. Wigginton stated that Mr. Philip Greenwell was in the process of deeding his property, "Rosedale", to the State for this purpose and that the land would, in all probability, be conveyed by June 30, 1970.

Mr. Wigginton stated further that in his legal opinion, the County Commissioners did not have the authority, by statute, to give any land -- that if the County wishes to dispose of any land, it has to be accomplished by public auction. He stated that the County can only use their land for purposes which have been set up by law. Mr. Wigginton suggested that it might be wise to wait to see what the State Foundation will do in this regard before St. Mary's County formulates any plans.

Messrs. Ludwig and Dixon were supplied with the address and telephone number of Col. Frank J. Ellis, Executive Director, of the Community Action Agency, as the correct contact for seeking information and coordinating action from the State level.

Mr. Burch said that he was fully aware of the need for the Sheltered Workshop for the Handicapped in the County; but that the legislation did give him some concern and that perhaps we should wait for approximately six months, or request amended legislation, so that the County would be in a better position to help in the way of possible land use and expense. Mr. Wigginton stated that since he felt the legislation was too broad, perhaps it might be changed so that we could cooperate with the State in providing facilities for a Sheltered Workshop for the Handicapped.

Roads Meeting

Courthouse Drive, Leonardtown

Mrs. Jeanne B. Dorsey and Mr. R. Bascom Broun III, Leonardtown Commissioners, appeared to request remedial action at the corner of Courthouse Drive and Route 5. Messrs. Douglas Bond of SRC and the County Engineer, August H. Wagener, accompanied the Board of County Commissioners and the Leonardtown Commissioners to the site to inspect conditions. It was unanimously agreed to channelize the right lane of Courthouse Drive by painting a yellow line extending around the corner to the right, by eliminating the first two parking spaces on Route 5, and by removing the shrubbery on Courthouse property at that corner. If this solution is not effective, other remedial solutions will be considered or put into effect.

McKay's Beach Road

Upon request, Mr. Roscoe Thompson of the Southern Maryland Electric Coop., Inc. appeared to discuss the status of upgrading the electrical supply on McKay's Beach Road, the need for additional right-of-way, and the moving of electrical lines and poles which will accommodate the County in widening the road. Mr. Thompson stated that the SMECO was in a position to assist the County on this project -- but that progress in obtaining the necessary rights-of-way had been seemingly curtailed by lack of communications on this subject. Mr. Wagener, the County Engineer, stated that he was not in a position to discuss the matter; that Mr. John Hodges was supposed to have obtained the necessary 40-foot right of way; but that he would contact Mr. Hodges in this regard. Mr. Wagener stated that there had been a slip-up somewhere and that he didn't know whether the Commissioners had okayed the project. The minutes of May 5, 1970 were read to Mr. Wagener, which minutes reflect Mr. Wagener's responsibility in this matter, and show that a decision had been reached and directions given by the County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners requested Mr. Wagener to proceed with the project as previously directed and to collaborate with the SMECO.

Chancellor's Run Road

Mr. James Dobry, Dobry Construction Co., Inc., appeared with his attorney, Clarke Raley, to discuss the shoulders and ditches on Chancellor's Run Road; to protest the passage of 35-ton trucks on Chancellor's Run Road; and to request that Bellmore Road, Fillmore Road, and Callahan Drive be accepted into the County system.

It is Mr. Dobry's contention that there are no shoulders on Chancellor's Run Road, that the road was improperly constructed thereby causing its present state of disintegration, that it was improperly located, and that there was no 40-foot right-of-way on the road, it being only 24 feet in some places; and that, further, it would be impossible to obtain additional right-of-way from the residents now.

The Board of County Commissioners requested that Mr. August H. Wagener, County Engineer, in company with Mr. Dobry and Mr. Bond of the SRC, arrange a mutually-agreeable appointment to meet and inspect Chancellor's Run Road, and to return with their findings and recommendations at the regular Tuesday meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 9, 1970.

St. Andrews Dump Road

Mr. J. Dennis Raley, Jr. of the SRC joined the meeting to discuss the County Commissioners' requirements on the construction of the St. Andrews Dump Road. Mr. Raley stated that there is a 50-foot right-of-way and he recommended a 20-foot roadbed, with 5-foot shoulders. The Board agreed that this would be adequate and requested such construction as far as the roadbed is now cleared, for a total distance of 3,336.995 feet.

Woodlawn Drive in Town Creek

It was agreed to request that a delegate from the District Engineer's Office, SRC, make an on-site inspection of the problem at Mr. Norman Ray's driveway entrance on Woodlawn Drive and submit recommendations for eliminating the safety hazard which exists.

St. Andrews Road

Mr. Douglas Bond was requested to have the grasscut on St. Andrews Road and to install a "Stop Sign" on Bellwood Street which enters into St. Andrews Lane.

Richneck Road

Mr. Wagener reported that Richneck Road has been surveyed all the way through and that it has been staked out for reconstruction.

Blanche Trossbach Ditches

The Board requested Mr. Douglas Bond to arrange for the clearing of Mrs. Blanche Trossbach's ditches, in the 1st Election District.

Hewitt Sub-Division Road

The possibility of constructing a road into the Hewitt Sub-Division came under discussion. Mr. Burch and Mr. Aud agreed to proceed with the project. Mr. Bowles went on record as objecting to such a project.

Mr. John Hall, Soil Conservation Service, USDA

Mr. Hall explained that he had a problem concerning the Sedimentation Law which goes into effect in St. Mary's County on July 1, 1970 in the Town Creek area where building permits are being requested for lots which have to have an approved Sediment Control Plan. The law requires that approved gutters and drainage ditches be installed prior to the issue of building permits. At the present time, there are applications for four building permits on lots in Town Creek, which do not have an approved Sediment Control Plan. The builder of the development has indicated that he does not wish to make the improvements since he is under the impression it is a County Road, and vice versa.

Mr. Wagener suggested that we should have a cooperative agreement between the Planning and Zoning Commission, the County Engineer, and the Soil Conservation Service on this.

Mr. Wagener was requested by the Board of County Commissioners to survey the situation, in company with Mr. Robert Dean, Mr. John Hall, and Mr. Douglas Bond, and to submit his recommendations to the Board on Tuesday, June 9, 1970.

Edward Freeman Copesey Property (Horse Landing)

Mr. Paul R. Raley produced the description and plat on Horse Landing Road and Bridge. The Board of County Commissioners requested that the deed be drawn up and recorded, and that Mr. J. Dennis Raley, Jr., of the SRC, be advised to proceed with construction of the Bridge.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Approved,

J. Elliott Burch