

County Commissioners' MeetingTuesday, June 9, 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 9:20 a.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting which was held on June 2, 1970 were read, amended, and approved.

Library (Tudor Hall) Restoration

Mr. A. M. Moschetti, Field Engineer, HUD
 Mr. Orin M. Bullock, Jr., Architect
 Mr. Russell Frazier, Contractor
 Attorneys Oliver Guyther and James A. Kenney
 General Robert E. Hogaboom
 Adm. Thurston B. Clark
 Mrs. Polly Barber
 Mrs. Katharine Hurrey
 Mrs. Mary Jansson
 Mr. Dick Myers (WKIK) and Mr. Jack Kershaw, The Enterprise

Mr. Oliver Guyther opened the discussion by outlining the basis of a suit which he contemplates on behalf of his client, Mr. Russell Frazier, of the Frazier Construction Company. Mr. Guyther stated that Mr. Frazier was financially unable to complete the roofing on the Library because of sub-standard shingles which were delivered and which were packaged to cover 55 square feet rather than the standard 100 square foot requirement, as represented by advertising and labeling on the bundles. Further, the Architect, Mr. Bullock, has determined that the shingles are not aesthetically correct for the historical and architectural period. A decision must be made to (1) finish roofing with the same type shingles as have now been placed on approximately half of the roof; or (2) to remove all shingles and order the proper shakes so that the entire roof can be covered in keeping with the architectural design of the building. In either case, the cost increase will approximate \$3,000.00.

Mr. Moschetti of HUD stated that if the contract were increased in the amount of \$3,000, plus or minus, that the \$95,000 grant approved for the restoration of the Library would probably not be seriously affected since HUD was committed to a full \$95,000 grant, and that the full amount of \$95,000 must be expended in order to qualify for the grant.

The Board of County Commissioners determined that the Library Board should consider the two alternatives offered and come back with a recommendation before an approval can be made by the Board. The Library Board agreed to discuss the matter in detail with the Architect and decide on their preferred course of action.

Railroad Right-of-Way use by Metropolitan Commission

Adm. Thurston B. Clark, Metropolitan Commission, broached the possibility of the Metropolitan Commission using the railroad right-of-way up to the Esperanza Shopping Center, at a \$40,000 saving, in lieu of obtaining other rights-of-way through condemnation proceedings.

Mr. Burch advised A. m. Clark that he should check with the Southern Maryland Electric Coop., Inc. on this subject, and Mr. Bowles added that there might be an additional problem with the SRC. The matter was taken under advisement.

Town Creek Citizens Association

Protest on Tax Assessments

Mr. William R. Shoemaker, Assistant State Supervisor
Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation
Mr. William F. Herbert, Supervisor of Assessments, St. Mary's

Messrs. Herbert and Shoemaker appeared to brief the County Commissioners concerning the questions which are to be asked of them at a meeting of the Town Creek Citizens Association this evening. Mr. Shoemaker gave a full and informative report to the Board on the methods used for arriving at assessments, County- and State-wide, and advised the County Commissioners that St. Mary's County had the next to the lowest assessment ratio in the State, well within the State-wide uniformity standards -- Garrett County being lower. The Board of County Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Mr. Shoemaker for his well-organized and helpful presentation.

Airport Property, Mr. J. W. Henderson, Sr.

Mr. James W. Henderson, Sr. appeared to apprise the Board of County Commissioners of the availability of a parcel of land owned by Claude L. Abell, comprising approximately 130 acres, abutting St. Mary's County Airport property. The asking price is \$32,500 and the owner wishes to retain approximately ten acres for himself as a building site.

Mr. Burch stated that the Board would need to know the exact location and boundaries of the land before a decision in the matter could be reached; and, if possible, would like to view the aerial photographs of the property which are on file in the Soil Conservation Service office.

Camp Calvert Pool

Mr. Henderson also brought up the Camp Calvert Pool project which Mr. John V. Baggett is planning for this summer. It was agreed to advertise for bids for the modifications required at the pool, and that Mr. Baggett would prepare detailed specifications on same, to be available by Thursday, June 11, 1970.

Roads Meeting

Mr. J. Dennis Raley, Jr. of the SRC stated that the problems were increasing at the local trash disposal areas, especially on St. Andrews Church Road and at Compton, where burning violations occur frequently. Mr. Raley also entered a complaint against the attendant at St. Andrews Trash Disposal Area, Mr. John Thomas. It was decided to give Mr. John Thomas disciplinary counsel, and to strengthen the watch over the Trash Disposal Areas in order to apprehend arsonists and the like.

Mr. Raley went over his expense accounts with the Board of County Commissioners and reported that he would need an additional \$5,000 to carry him forward. The Board approved payment of \$10,033.19 -- \$5,000 of which is an advance for operating expenses and \$5,033.19 to reimburse for expenses already incurred.

Mr. Aubrey Cusic joined the meeting at 2:00 p.m. since Mr. Douglas Bond is on leave.

Chancellor's Run Road

It was noted that Mr. Douglas Bond of the SRC failed to keep an appointment with Commissioner George R. Aud, August H. Wagener, County Engineer, and Mr. James Dobry, which meeting had been scheduled for the purpose of inspecting Chancellor's Run Road. Mr. Aud and Mr. Dobry kept the appointment and surveyed the situation together.

Trash Area behind the California Post Office

Commissioner George R. Aud reported that the area immediately behind the California Post Office is an eye-sore and is piled high with tree trunks and other debris. The property is owned by the J. F. Fruchtman theatre chain which operates the 235 Drive-In adjacent to the property. The Board of County Commissioners requested that Mr. Paul R. Raley write a letter to Mr. T. L. Harrison, Jr., copy to J. F. Fruchtman, requesting that the area be cleared without delay.

Trash Barrels

Commissioner George R. Aud inquired about the distribution of additional trash barrels along the roadsides in St. Mary's and was advised by Mr. Aubrey Cusic that the project is underway. Fifty barrels have already been placed and the SRC is awaiting delivery of an additional 50 barrels which will be placed for the same purpose.

Board of Education/Raymond G. Boileau
State's Role in Financing the Schools

Dr. Robert E. King, Superintendent of Schools, appeared with Mrs. Katharine Barnes, Mr. Harry Ocker, Mr. Kennedy Abell, and other members of the Board of Education to discuss the State's role in financing the schools. Mr. Raymond G. Boileau, Director of Research, Governor's Commission to Study State Aid to Non-Public Education, appeared with them to outline his proposal for keeping St. Mary's County and Charles County informed on the progress made on this subject.

Mr. Boileau is the only Southern Maryland member on the Study Committee. He has offered his assistance to work with the Board of Education and the Commissioners of St. Mary's so that their views will be made known to the Commission. One of the alternatives being considered by the Study Commission is complete State funding of public schools. Mr. Boileau says the main concern of the Governor's Commission is to establish a uniformity of education throughout the State, as well as a

uniform tax rate. He said that now portions of the State get a disproportionate share of State Aid. It is hoped that the Education Study Committee will have their report ready for the next legislative session. Meanwhile, Mr. Boileau would like to meet throughout the summer with the County Commissioners and Board of Education to get their views on the subject.

The Board of County Commissioners expressed their interest and appreciation in receiving such information and their willingness to cooperate to the fullest extent.

Split Shift for Seventh Grade
George Washington Carver Middle School

Mr. Harry Ocker, Board of Education, advised the Board of County Commissioners that the Board of Education had planned for four trailers to make up for needed classroom space, but due to budgetary cuts were now forced to initiate a split shift for the seventh grade at George Washington Carver Middle School in Lexington Park. The shifts will be scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Board of Education hopes that the over-crowding at George Washington Carver will be eliminated with the final completion of the new middle school at Park Hall. However, money for construction of the Park Hall school is dependent upon acceptance of the \$4.5 million bond issue on referendum for this November's election.

William J. Cairns and Francine L. Cairns
vs. Board of County Commissioners

Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney, reported that he has prepared an "Answer to Show Cause Order", Equite No. A-3794, concerning the 10% tax on gross receipts at the Budd's Creek Drag Strip. The prosecuting attorney will be asking for the return of taxes paid in the amounts of \$539.39 for 1968 and \$3,520.79 for 1969.

The Board of County Commissioners unanimously agreed that the case should be heard in the Circuit Court; and, accordingly, signed the "Answer to Show Cause Order" prepared by Mr. Wigginton.

Payments Approved

\$350.00 to Charles A. Norris, Attorney appointed by the Circuit Court to defend James E. Stewart, Criminal Case No. 2746.

\$10,033.19 to State Roads Commission for road construction, maintenance, and sanitary landfill expense.

\$2,580.00 to Hugh W. Wilkerson & Associates for completion of survey plans and quantities for Hermanville Road.

\$675.00 to Dean and Beavers for 18 hours Pan Rental at \$37.50 per hour, at St. Mary's County Airport.

\$2,000.00 to David M. Gruber and Company, balance due on Special Financial Study, Board of Education.

\$8,045.00 to David M. Gruber and Company for preparation of Assessment Rolls, Tax Rolls, Class Report, Treasurer's Cards, and Tax Bills, 1970 Tax Levy.

\$893.24 to David M. Gruber -- 1970 Tax Billing.

\$500.00 to Lorenzi, Dodds and Gunnill for Plotting of "Taking Line", St. Mary's River Watershed, Project #1, April Payroll.

Appraisers for Watershed Survey

The list of approved appraisers for the Watershed Survey submitted by Mr. J. W. Henderson, Sr., was ready by Mr. Paul R. Raley.

Mr. N. B. Greenwood proposed to complete appraisals on approximately 640 acres, containing 11 parcels for the sum of \$2,000 -- \$190 each.

Mr. J. Spence Howard, Jr., nine parcels at \$200 each.

Clifford Realty, nine parcels at \$200 per parcel, but this fee not to include any court appearances or conferences concerning the properties.

The Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the proposal of Mr. J. Spence Howard, Jr. and N. B. Greenwood. Two appraisers are required by law.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Approved,

F. Elliott Branch