

Board of County Commissioners' Meeting

Tuesday, January 26, 1971

Present: George R. Aud, President
 J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner
 J. S. Guy, Jr., Commissioner
 Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney
 Chauncey W. Karstens
 Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer
 Helen M. Bailey (Mrs.), Admin. Asst. (Recording)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

The minutes of the meetings which were held on January 5, January 12, and January 19, 1971 were read and approved.

Director of Finance

The Director of Finance, Mr. B. Harris Sterling, recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve his recommendation to place Mrs. Mary Jane Alvey on Permanent Status as of January 28, 1971. Mr. Sterling stated that Mrs. Alvey had completed her six-months' probationary period and that he was highly satisfied with her work. Mrs. Alvey is an Account Clerk B at Salary Scale 5.

Upon recommendation from the Director of Finance, the Board unanimously approved the following investment schedule:

1. Close out the St. Mary's Plumbing Fee account and apply the balance of \$4,164.16 to the County Commissioners' General Fund at the First National Bank.

2. Increase the investment in the Baltimore Federal Savings and Loan Association as follows:

Certificate No. 61-337 from \$15,884.41 to \$20,000.00 -- an increase of \$4,115.59.

Certificate No. 61-3760 from \$16,040.20 to \$20,000.00 -- an increase of \$3,959.80.

The total increase in investment will be \$8,075.39. (Transfer from St. Mary's Plumbing Fee account of \$4,164.16 and the balance of \$3,911.23 from the Commissioners' General Fund at the 1st National Bank).

Mr. Sterling stated that the purpose of these transfers was to increase the Certificates up to \$20,000.00 each so that the interest rate would be 6%.

Personnel Actions

Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles stated that he was concerned about the turn-over of employees in this office, about the capabilities of the employees being selected to work in this office, and it made him wonder if we should not establish positions at a higher grade in order to attract and get more qualified people and thereby keep them. Commissioner Bowles stated further that the more qualified the people are in this office, the more efficiently it will run.

Secretary B - New Position: It was unanimously agreed that a new position be created in the Office of the Board of County Commissioners, advertised, and the examination be given for one Secretary B at Salary Scale 5.

Adams, Cecelia B. (Mrs.): It was unanimously agreed that Mrs. Cecelia B. Adams be promoted from Stenographer, Scale 3, to Secretary A, Scale 4. The Administrative Officer, Mr. Paul R. Raley, stated that he was in full agreement with Mrs. Bailey's recommendation for this promotion; that Mrs. Adams was performing her job in a highly-satisfactory manner; and that she had made remarkable progress during the last year.

Based upon the implementation of the foregoing two personnel actions, the complement of the Board of County Commissioners' Office would stand at:

- 1 Administrative Officer (Administrative Specialist II) - Paul R. Raley
- 1 Administrative Assistant B (vacant)
- 1 Administrative Assistant A - Mrs. Helen M. Bailey
- 1 Secretary B (being advertised for examination)
- 1 Secretary A (Mrs. Cecelia B. Adams)
- 1 Stenographer, Scale 3 (vacant)

James W. Downs - It was unanimously agreed that Mr. James W. Downs' request for a reduction in salary from \$2,833.60 per year to \$1,500.00 per year be granted inasmuch as Mr. Downs has a limitation on earnings for Social Security purposes. Mr. Downs will continue to work his regularly-prescribed hours.

Jail Attendants - The question of salary for the proposed Jail Attendants came under discussion vis-a-vis the salaries of the Communications Clerks at the Emergency Operations Center. Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles stated that he thought a salary rate of \$2.50 per hour for the Jail Attendants would be more realistic.

Mrs. Joyce A. Cusic - It was unanimously agreed to continue the services of Mrs. Cusic through the end of the month in order that the opaquing of the tax maps could be completed, and so that she could provide temporary relief in the Office of the Board of County Commissioners.

Office of Planning and Zoning/County Engineer/Liquor Board

Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles pointed out the working conditions are such in the Planning and Zoning Office that he wonders how anyone can get any work done. This Office accommodates the Liquor Board as well as Planning and Zoning and the County Engineer. The Administrative Officer was requested to seek some accommodation which would provide relief and the suggestion was made that the Grand Jury Room and/or the Court Reporter's Office could be utilized.

Judge Clarence Dodge - The Board unanimously agreed that the temporary service being rendered by Judge Dodge as a Jail Attendant could be discontinued on January 29, 1971. Judge Dodge was employed to give assistance over the Holidays and during an unusually busy season. The Administrative Officer, Mr. Paul R. Raley, was requested to so advise Judge Dodge.

Sara King - Increase in Pension - The advisability of increasing the pension of Sara King from \$100 per month to \$125.00 per month under the authorization contained in Section 148 of the St. Mary's County Code was tabled, pending further investigation.

Planning and Zoning Ordinance

Mr. Chauncey W. Karstens brought up the proposed Planning and Zoning Ordinance, outlined the inadequacy of the maps which had been prepared for presentation at the Election District Hearings, and submitted a list of questions for the Commissioners' review. Mr. Aud stated that it was his understanding that no changes were to be made regarding zoning until after all the Public Hearings have been held; Mr. Guy stated that one errata sheet should be prepared and maintained for use at the Public Hearings and that such errata sheet (or addendum) should include notification to the public of the decisions under consideration. Mr. Karstens requested that the Commissioners insist on written recommendations from the public in order to document the requests, which request was concurred in. It was agreed that the Planning and Zoning Commission Secretary, Mrs. Leila Rogers, would be asked to produce a record of all decisions taken regarding Zoning which have been made subsequent to the November 18, 1970 Public Hearing.

Piney Point Seawall

The Board of County Commissioners unanimously agreed that detailed specifications and contract information would be prepared, and that the bids which were received on January 5, 1971 be rejected, so that the job can be re-advertised and re-bid.

At 11:30 a.m., Messrs. Dick Myers and George Clark of WKIK entered the Conference Room.

Electrical Board

President George R. Aud stated that the present compensation for the members of the Electrical Board was \$60.00 per year -- \$5.00 for each meeting. Mr. Aud also stated that the members of the Electrical Board would like to incorporate so that none of its members would be individually responsible or subject to suit. The County Attorney, Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, said that he could see no advantage to incorporating since it would not give an individual member relief in the event of negligence. Mr. Aud suggested that Mr. Wigginton discuss this matter with the Electrical Board and specifically requested Mr. Wigginton to look into the feasibility of a salary increase for the members of the Board, even if it meant special legislation.

(At 11:35 a.m., Mr. Jack Kershaw of the Enterprise entered the Conference Room.)

Mr. and Mrs. George S. Barnes
Zoning Appeal

Mr. and Mrs. George S. Barnes appeared to outline their reasons for requesting that their property, which abutts the Steuart Oil Company, be rezoned from Agricultural to Residential 1, which request was documented by a prepared letter and incorporated into the official files of the Board of County Commissioners. The Barnes are requesting that the Steuart Oil Co. be required to allow a proper buffer zone of 1,000 feet between their industrial operation and the Barnes property, which is presently zoned as agricultural. The Barnes contend that limited farm operations are pursued by them for the purpose of appearance only and that there is no basis for also zoning the Steuart Oil Co. property, which is in question, as agricultural either. The Barnes request that their home property be rezoned to Residential-1 and that the Steuart property in question be zoned as Light Industrial. At the present time, the Barnes contend their property is being used as the "buffer zone" to the benefit of Steuart.

Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles stated that after all of the Election District Hearings are conducted, and the various requests of the public have been taken into consideration, appropriate recommendations for changes will be prepared and reviewed at the General Public Hearing. The Board advised Mr. and Mrs. Barnes that they would give the matter their serious consideration, and make known their recommendation in the matter prior to the General Public Hearing.

Mrs. Viola Murphy Gardiner -- Applicant

Mrs. Viola Murphy Gardiner, a resident of Maddox, appeared before the Board to inquire about employment in the Office of the Board of County Commissioners. Mrs. Gardiner stated that she was qualified to do all kinds of secretarial and clerical work. At the present time, Mrs. Gardiner is a GS-8 and earns over \$12,000 per year with the Federal Government in Washington, D. C. and commutes from her home in Maddox. Mrs. Gardiner stated that she would be willing to take a reduction in salary in order to obviate the commuting. Mrs. Gardiner reviewed the specifications and salary of the position vacancy under discussion (that of Stenographer at Scale 33) and stated that the salary was much lower than she had thought it would be.

Mrs. Gardiner posed the question as to whether the Board could employ her at the maximum of the grade because of her education, work experience, and salary history. Mr. Aud advised Mrs. Gardiner that it was the practice for the County to hire at the base of the grade, that the examination for the position in question would be given on February 20 or February 27, and that the examination would be conducted by the State for the County. Mrs. Gardiner expressed her interest in taking the examination and requested that she be notified of the date and place once it is set.

Commissioner Assignments

Commissioner J. S. Guy, Jr. proposed the delegation of certain responsibilities to each Commissioner on an individual basis for the purpose of continuing supervision and follow-through. The matter was taken under advisement when Commissioner Bowles stated that the responsibility for monitoring the Operations of the Planning and Zoning Ordinance, the production of suitable maps, etc. would be a full-time occupation requiring staff assistance.

Roads Meeting

Present: J. Douglas Bond, Resident Engineer, State
Roads Commission
August H. Wagener, County Engineer

Airport Road - It was reported that the necessary plats and deed for taking the Airport Road into the County System were now prepared and ready for submission to the State Roads Commission for approval.

St. Cuthbert's Farm Road - It was reported that the necessary deed and plats for recording had been submitted by Judge John H. T. Briscoe, so that the extension of St. Cuthbert's Farm Road can be taken into the County System.

Abell's Wharf Road - It was reported that a sign was needed in order to identify Abell's Wharf Road.

Peacock Manor - It was reported that Oliver R. Guyther has not, as yet, produced the necessary plats and deed for the roads in Peacock Manor.

Maypole Road - Mr. Bond inquired into the status of the deed and plats for Maypole Road and was advised that

same would be forthcoming in the very near future.

Bushwood Road - It was reported that George Ernest Hayden has complained of water flowing into his yard and also across the road into George Quade's property. Mr. Bond was requested to provide for satisfactory drainage.

Tippett Road - It was requested that Tippett Road be graded.

Booklet - St. Mary's Mother County of Maryland

President George R. Aud reported that the Naval Air Station was in need of 7,000 copies per year of the aforementioned booklet and that our supplies were depleted. It was unanimously agreed to have 1,000 copies printed for the immediate use of the Naval Air Station; and further, to request Dr. J. Patrick Jarboe to work in consort with the Historical Society and the Farm Bureau in up-dating the present text to include a new road map, improved educational facilities, the information on the St. Mary's County Airport, etc. Mrs. Helen M. Bailey was requested to draft a letter to Dr. Jarboe for Mr. Aud's signature requesting that this work be accomplished within the next sixty days.

Mercury Light -- Corner of Seven Gables Road at Route 235

At Mr. Aud's suggestion, it was unanimously agreed to install a mercury light at the corner of Seven Gables Road.

Junk Cars

Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles stated that he was concerned with the proliferation of junk cars throughout the County and that he would like to see some provision made to provide storage space for them at the Oakville Sanitary Landfill.

Metropolitan Commission

Senate Bill 31 (introduced by Senator Paul J. Bailey)

Present: Mr. Cato Merchant, Chairman, Metropolitan Commission
Adm. Thurston Clark, Director, Metro. Comm.
James A. Kenney, Attorney, Metropolitan Commission
Mr. Jack Kershaw, Enterprise

Mr. James A. Kenney reported that Senate Bill 31 which was introduced by Senator Paul J. Bailey puts the Metropolitan

Commission under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission -- and that if the Bill is passed by both Houses, the condition of jurisdiction would be unique in the State of Maryland. Mr. Kenney stated that the bill is even more wide-sweeping than he had previously thought because it affects more than the rate structure. Mr. Kenney asked support from the Board of County Commissioners, specifically recommending that they participate in a Hearing which is to be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 1971, on this subject. Mr. Kenney said that he had talked with Bond Counsel, Mr. Ed Clark, who would attempt to be present at the Hearing. Purportedly, the Bill would also affect the rate-making power of the County and would have an effect on all bond-making issued, since such bond-making issues would have to be approved by the Public Service Commission. Mr. Kenney reported that PSC would take no position on the Bill. It was reported that Bond Counsel had raised the constitutional question as to whether this legislation would not form an impairment of contracts; and that comment on this question has been requested from the Attorney General. Commissioner Bowles stated that before he would take a position for or against the Bill, he would have to understand completely what the legislation would and would not do and what effects it would have on the operation of the Metropolitan Commission -- present and future. Mr. Kenney stated that the chain of command as he understood it would be first the Metropolitan Commission, then the County Commissioners, since the County Commissioners are ultimately responsible for the bonds and also for the appointment of the members who serve on the Metropolitan Commission. He said that this legislation would remove that and the County Commissioners would no longer have the ultimate responsibility; and that, to his knowledge, this was the first time that a bill of this nature ever got around to amending the State Law. Mr. Kenney was requested to report back on the progress made at the Hearing.

St. Mary's County Nursing Home

Present: Dr. J. Roy Guyther, Mr. Dick Lore, Mrs. Thomas
Mr. Francis Hewitt, Mrs. Elberta Hayden,
Dr. Alan D. Houser

Dr. Guyther opened by commenting that they would like to make a brief presentation of the situation and just get the Commissioners' feeling about an existing need at the

Nursing Home; that they had no concrete proposal to make. Dr. Guyther outlined the greatest need is for a segment of the elderly population who need long-term medical care and that the Nursing Home really wasn't designed for this purpose. In addition, there is a segment of the elderly population requiring a lower level of care which they call "custodial care". Dr. Guyther pointed out that, of course, the Commissioners were aware of a move by the Commission on the Aging to provide additional care for the elderly, but the Commission is not sure it is going to a "custodial" care or a "retirement home", and progress has been very slow. So the Nursing Home Board feels it cannot wait for this other facility and they are entertaining the idea of enlarging the Nursing Home so that they can take care of a portion of the needs for long-term patients. The Board feels they would like to separate the patients who are senile and noisy from the patients who are alert and capable of having friends in. At this time, there is a distressing atmosphere for some patients which is occasioned by the compulsory display of those patients who deserve more privacy. The Nursing Home was originally built for 46 beds and Dr. Guyther stated they were thinking in terms of an additional 16 or 20 beds dependent upon the cost. At the present time, the home is 95% occupied on a continuing basis, which is an indication that we need additional facilities. Dr. Guyther stated that the County could look forward to the State and the Federal picking up 66.6% of the cost; and Dr. Houser stated that at the present going rates, the cost would be approximately \$10,000 per bed -- or a total of \$200,000. Dr. Houser said that he would inquire into the matter and ascertain what the current cost projections are and report back to the Board. The Board unanimously agreed that they would have to review the County finances in great detail prior to making a commitment; however, they did look favorably toward providing the necessary and sorely-needed increase in facilities.

Assessment Appeals

The Board of County Commissioners reviewed the information obtained during the Assessment Appeal Hearings held on January 25, 1971. Decisions were made as follows:

The Board sustained the assessments placed by the Supervisor of Assessments on the Wilkerson and Loftis properties.

The Board over-ruled the assessments placed by the Supervisor of Assessments on the Cope and Herr properties, but sustained the assessments made on the buildings in each case. The land assessment for the Cope property was placed at \$3,000 a reduction of \$1,015; and the land assessment for the Herr property was placed at \$3,000.00 a reduction of \$1,050.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Approved,



George R. Aud
President