

Board of County Commissioners' Meeting

Tuesday, April 6, 1971

Present: J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner
 J. S. Guy, Jr., Commissioner
 Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney
 B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance
 Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer
 Helen M. Bailey (Mrs.), Admin. Asst. (Recording)

The meeting came to order at 9:45 a.m.

The minutes of the previous meetings which were held on March 23, 1971 and March 30, 1971 were read and approved.

Press Conference

Present: Mr. Jim Chevez, The Beacon
 Miss Sandy Jones, The Beacon
 Mr. Chuck Lyons, WPTX
 Mr. Jack Kershaw, The Enterprise
 Mr. Dick Myers, WKIK

Commissioners Bowles and Guy conducted the "First Tuesday" Press conference, which was officially tape-recorded by the Administrative Officer and preserved for permanent record.

Trash Disposal Violations

Commissioner Guy stated that he is becoming increasingly disturbed with the continuous problems the County is experiencing due to the public throwing trash on the public highways -- both County and State -- and the tremendous expense which is incurred in cleaning up after this apparent deliberate wanton disposal of trash.

Commissioners Guy and Bowles requested that an official letter be drafted and directed to the Officer-in-charge of the Leonardtown Maryland State Police detachment and the St. Mary's County Sheriff, with copies to the Beacon and the Enterprise, deploring the wanton disposal of trash in defiance of the laws of the County and the State, and urgently requesting that these

law enforcement officials give specific attention to the enforcement of these laws and assist us in every manner to bring this deliberate distribution of trash on our public highways to an end.

Sanitary Landfill Property
Raymond F. and Thelma E. Tennyson

Commissioners Bowles and Guy agreed to and the County Attorney was requested to draw up an option to buy 46.5 acres (more or less, to be determined by survey) of land in the 4th Election District from Raymond F. and Thelma E. Tennyson for the purpose of establishing a sanitary landfill. Mr. Walter A. Miles, Section Head, Monitoring and Surveillance, Division of Solid Wastes, Environmental Health Services, has advised that his letter of site approval for this parcel of land is on its way to St. Mary's, containing the information that while the land is hard clay, there is absolutely no problem with pollution. The County Attorney was requested to proceed with making arrangements for a boundary line survey on this property.

Tall Timbers Shore Erosion Project
Mr. William Vernstein

Mr. William Vernstein appeared to state that he had been in communication with Delegate John Hanson Briscoe concerning the possibility of front footage assessments on the properties in the Tall Timbers Shore Erosion district and that Delegate Briscoe had indicated to him that the statutes provide for setting the assessments on a front footage basis. Mr. Vernstein indicated that the property owners in the district seemed to prefer the front footage assessment basis. Mr. Vernstein is in the process of circulating a petition concerning the desires of the citizens involved. Mr. Wigginton pointed out that it is now too late to make any changes prior to the distribution of the 1971 tax bills, since legislation may be required. Commissioner Guy concurred saying that between now and next May, there should be some meeting of the minds among the legislators, the County Commissioners and the citizens. It was the consensus that a firm request, or proposal, be drawn up for presentation to the Commissioners prior to January of 1972, so that the appropriate request for legislation could be processed prior to the next session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Junk Automobiles, Licensed Auto Wreckers, etc.

The County Attorney, Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, reported that he had met with Sgt. Wayne Pettit of the Maryland State Police, Commissioner Guy, and Mr. Paul R. Raley to review the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Police, and the clerical operations involved, in administering the disposal of Junk Automobiles. Mr. Wigginton stated that Sgt. Pettit was in the process of preparing a procedural statement for the use of those involved in this activity.

NAACP re Employment, Schools, Voter Registration, Housing, etc.

Present: Mr. Mel Holland
Mrs. Everlyn Holland
Mr. William Green

Employment

The delegation explored the possibilities of increasing job opportunities for disadvantaged persons in St. Mary's County and inquired into the policies of the Commissioners concerning employment in the Court House. Further, Mr. Green expressed his interest in knowing whether the County Commissioners would be in a position to exercise any influence with business and industry in St. Mary's in order to induce employers to adopt an equal opportunity policy. Mrs. Holland stated that they were really talking about equal measurement -- being given the same chance for equal opportunity. Mr. Green stated that he really didn't see why it could not be known publicly, on record, that the County Commissioners were for equal employment and opportunity for black people in St. Mary's County.

Voter Registration

Mrs. Holland stated that they felt a lot of young people are not registering and a lot of older ones are not because of the lack of transportation -- this includes the group from 21 to 23-year-olds. Commissioners Bowles and Guy stated that the Commissioners had been requested by the Board of Election Supervisors to fund voter registration in the Election Districts and that they would support this request.

Housing Authority and Building Code

In answer to Mrs. Holland's query, Commissioner Bowles replied that he felt the Board of County Commissioners was in favor of a building code -- that it was long-needed; but so far as a housing authority is concerned, he would like to see a system devised whereby this authority would assist people to own homes thereby providing the incentive to maintain and improve their own properties. Mr. Bowles pointed out that the Commissioners do not have the statutory authority, however, to create an authority such as this on their own. Some type of government guarantee would be required for this type of financing -- similar to the Farmers Home Administration loans -- to allow a rate of interest whereby one could afford to meet a monthly obligation.

Unsanitary Conditions

Mrs. Holland inquired if there were any steps the Commissioners could take to correct the unsanitary conditions in housing in the Callaway area -- or if the Commissioners could impose any pressure on the Health Department regarding enforcing the improvement of this deplorable housing situation. Mrs. Holland requested that the Board exert influence on the Department of Health for support in this matter.

Study Committee on County Government

Mr. Holland stated that he was amazed at the limited amount of authority the Commissioners actually have and stated that he would like to have it known that he had been appointed as a member of the Study Committee on County Government and that, to date, no meeting has been called.

Schools

Mr. Green asked if the Board could exert influence to see that an investigation is conducted if it becomes evident that there is some particular aspect of the schools causing the community to be upset. Commissioner Bowles replied that anything that disturbs any part of the community is a concern of the Commissioners; and whenever a matter is brought to the attention of the Commissioners in this regard, it is investigated.

Bid Opening
Piney Point Seawall

At 3:46 p.m., the bids were opened for the construction of the Piney Point Seawall:

Southern Maryland Pile Driving-----\$10,740
(notation that this does not include
grading or filling of hauled fill)
\$200.00 check enclosed

Delahay's Pile Driving Service----- 11,818
\$200.00 check enclosed

The Commissioners present took the bids under advisement stating that the award would be announced after due consideration and review.

Bid Opening
Surplus Dog Warden Vehicle

There were no bids received on this item.

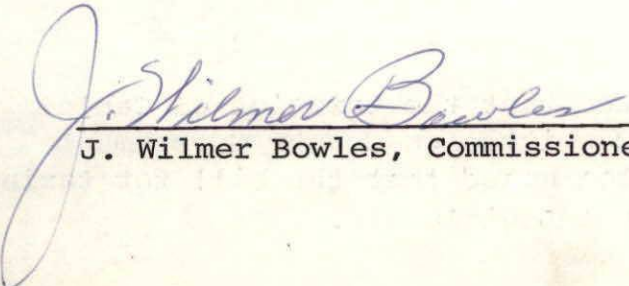
School Bus Shelter
Leechfield Road

The Administrative Officer reported that he had received a request to move the School Bus Shelter on Leechfield Road, off Route 235 between Park Hall and St. James, back onto County Property. Mr. Wigginton stated this would be possible provided permission were obtained from the Shelter-All Company, and if sufficient space is available on County property.

Purchase of Calculators for Assessor's Office

Commissioners Bowles and Guy approved the purchase of two Friden calculators for the Assessor's Office. The Administrative Officer will arrange the purchase, providing for trade-in allowances.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.



J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner

Approved,



J. S. Guy, Jr., Commissioner