

Board of County Commissioners' Meeting

Tuesday, June 22, 1971

Present: George R. Aud, President
J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner (In A.M. only)
J. S. Guy, Jr., Commissioner
Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney
Cecelia B. Adams (Mrs.) Recording Secretary

The meeting came to order at 9:35 A.M.

Dr. Houser Re: Pending Metropolitan Commission's Action

Dr. Alan D. Houser of the local Health Department, appeared before the Commissioners regarding the impending action by the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission. At 6:00 P.M. that day, the Metropolitan Commission was scheduled to turn off the water to residents of Lexington Park that had not paid their bills. Dr. Houser stated that since this is written in the law, they had every right to do this. A conservative estimate on his part was that the Health Department was going to have 1400-1500 people who would not have any water after that time. Dr. Houser felt that this would constitute a possible health hazard. He had spoken to the Attorney General's Office and was told that there was nothing he could do to stop this action until it had actually occurred. He suggested that the County Attorney prepare an exparte injunction and have it ready for Judge Dorsey to sign at the time scheduled for the water to be turned off.

Commissioner Guy stated that he felt the County had to make provisions assuming that this action would take place. He stated that Dr. Houser should be more concerned with providing water facilities to persons in this area through water trucks, tanks, etc. He felt that the Commissioners should respond to these people in the communities to be affected and provide water through the Navy, National Guard, Civil Defense or whatever resources they might have. He stated that the Commissioners have already gone on record as saying they support the Metropolitan Commission.

Dr. Houser stated that he had informed Mr. Bingley of the State Health Department that he would give the Commissioners an opportunity to prevent this or if it does happen to ask the Court to provide immediate relief.

Commissioner Guy stated that he felt provisions should be made immediately for the people who would need water.

Commissioner Bowles stated that the only responsibility the Commissioners had was to contact every agency that has

a responsibility and to see that they do their job whatever that might be.

After considerable discussion it was decided to arrange a special meeting at 11:30 that morning, with the Commissioners, Mr. Otis Wood of Civil Defense, a representative from both the National Guard and Naval Air Station, Mr. Charles Donaldson, Fire Marshall and Dr. Alan Houser.

State Roads Commission-Twenty Year Highway Study

Present: Miss Susan Dunn, Beacon, Mr. Jack Kershaw, Enterprise Mr. Dick Meyers, Radio Station WKIK, Mr. August Wagener, County Engineer, Mr. Douglas Bond, SRC Leonardtown, Mr. Al Tate, District Engineer, SRC, Gen. Robert Hogaboom and Mrs. Polly Barber of the St. Mary's City Commission, Dr. Renwick Jackson, St. Mary's College, Mr. Leon Etzler, Tri-County Council and from the SRC Bureau of Highway Planning, Messrs. Charles M. McCormick, Jr., Peter R. Brock, William Mangels and J. A. Fitch, Jr.

The purpose of this meeting was to review the Twenty Year Highway Needs Study (1973-1992). Mr. Broch explained that he and the other Highway Planners had appeared before the Commissioners to go over what they felt were the critical highway projects. He explained that the State Roads Commission is required to update the Highway Needs Study on a bi-annual basis. The proposed Highway Study was broken down into two sections: critical and non-critical and classifications were based upon a series of formulas.

Commissioner Aud informed those present that he had been over the entire State during the last month and had found that the main arteries of other Counties are exceptionally good. He went on to say that he could not say the same for St. Mary's County, since Md. Rt. 235 was placed on the critical list some time ago and scheduled for completion 1968 and is scheduled to be completed in 1975 now.

At this time, the meeting was turned over to Mr. Fitch who proceeded to review the Highway Plan.

Md. Rt. 5 proposed improvement would consist of base widening and resurfacing the existing facility on the existing alignment for a length of 6.8 miles. It was felt that this highway improvement was justified since it served a seasonal volume of traffic to the Point Lookout State Park. The existing facility is characterized by a deteriorated roadway surface and poor geometrics.

Construction funds are programmed for disbursement in Fiscal Year 1976 in the amount of \$500,000. A remaining \$950,000 would be funded for construction after Fiscal Year 1976.

Commissioner Guy stated that he was concerned over the fact that this road leads to a State facility and the need for improvement is guaranteed by the use of that facility. He felt that there should be funding outside of the portion already allocated to St. Mary's and this additional funding should come from the State. This should be done to improve the economy of St. Mary's after the phasing out of the slot machines as was promised the County.

Md. Rt. 5 Relocated improvement is proposed to be eliminated from the 1971-72 Study. It is in conflict with agreements between the State Roads Commission, the St. Mary's City Commission and the County Commissioners, to save historic St. Mary's City from further destruction by highway construction. An acceptable by-pass is planned as Md. Rt. 489, a portion of Md. Rt. 235 and proposed Md. Rt. 5. St. Mary's City would then continue to be served by Md. Rt. 5, an adequate two-lane highway.

General Hogaboom stated that it had been proposed at a meeting with the Commissioners, St. Mary's College and the St. Mary's City Commission, that this road running from Park Hall to Three Notch Road be improved to the same quality as Md. Rt. 5 to take traffic coming from the south toward Lexington Park so traffic would go over to the Three Notch Road. General Hogaboom went on to say that the St. Mary's City Commission had obtained funds for a study of St. Mary's City for future planning. Their planner in cooperation with the County's Planning and Zoning Commission and the Tri-County Planner, concluded that to have three different roads in the peninsula was not satisfactory. General stated that he felt there would be a considerable amount of money saved by following this plan and that the St. Mary's City Commission planned to make this a scenic highway.

Dr. Jackson stated that he strongly endorsed General Hogaboom's comments. He went on to say that it had been extraordinary that there had not been a fatality in St. Mary's City College area since there are over 900 students and some 100 faculty who must cross Md. Rt. 5 every day.

Mr. Aud made a motion that page two regarding the above be taken from the Highway Needs Study and that pages 3 and 12 be left in. Mr. Guy seconded the motion.

Md. Rt. 235-Three Notch Road-St. Andrews Church Road to Red Hill Road is proposed to be a four lane highway with partial control of access planned for this portion of Md. Rt. 235. The improvement would consist of adding a second roadway

paralleled to existing Md. Rt. 235, for a length of 2.7 miles. This improvement is necessary to serve traffic demands generated along its corridor area. Construction is programmed for funding in Fiscal Year 1973 at an estimated cost of \$1,360,000. Additional rights-of-way will be acquired in Fiscal Year 1972 amounting to \$393,000.

Md. Rt. 235-Three Notch Road-RedHill Road to .8 Mile North of Hollywood is planned for improvement by adding a second roadway paralleled to existing Md. Rt. 235 for 1.0 mile and construction of four lanes for the remaining 1.2 miles. Construction is estimated to cost \$1,142,000 and tentatively scheduled for funding in Fiscal Year 1974 and 1975.

Md. Rt. 235-Hillville to Md. Rt. 247 is planned for improvements by adding a second roadway paralleled to existing Md. Rt. 235 for a distance of 2.9 miles. Construction is estimated to cost \$939,000 and tentatively scheduled for Fiscal Year 1973 and 1974.

Md. Rt. 235-Md. Rt. 247 to Laurel Grove improvement planned would consist of adding a second roadway paralleled to existing Md. Rt. 235, for a distance of .9 miles. Construction is estimated to cost \$791,000 and tentatively scheduled for funding in Fiscal Years 1973 and 1974.

Md. 236-Lockes Crossing to Md. Rt. 5 improvement is scheduled for reconstruction along the present alignment for a distance of 1.8 miles, except for a minor relocation of Md. Rt. 5 intersection. The minor relocation of Md. Rt. 5 has been scheduled for preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition in the Critical Project Fund.

Md. Rt. 245 from Md. Rt. 235 to Hollywood is programmed as a two lane facility. The intersection at Md. Rt. 235 would be daylighted, the roadway widened at the base and resurfaced. Also shoulders would be added for a length of .4 miles. This improvement has not been scheduled for funding in the Five Year Construction Program.

Md. Rt. 246-Md. Rt. 5 to Md. Rt. 235 Intersection improvement is proposed consisting of adding a second two lane roadway paralleled to Md. Rt. 246 and resurfacing the existing roadway for 3.3 miles. This improvement has not been scheduled for funding in the 1972-1976 Five Year Construction Program.

Md. Rt. 246-Great Mills at Intersection of Md. Rt. 235 is proposed to be reconstructed. The congestion in this area is caused by vehicles turning left to abutting properties. It is suggested that access roads be constructed

as a part of this improvement. This improvement has not been scheduled for funding in the 1972-1976 Five Year Construction Program.

Md. Rt. 235 to Calvert County Line (Patuxent River Bridge Approach) improvement would consist of a two lane bridge over the Patuxent River. This proposed southern crossing of the Patuxent River would improve the existing traffic network in the Southern Maryland Counties. Studies indicate that an additional two lanes will be needed on this facility sometime after the twenty year planning period. Funding for construction is estimated at a cost of \$10,165,000 which began in Fiscal Year 1971, with additional amounts scheduled for disbursement for 1972 and 1973.

Mr. Aud inquired about a section of Great Mills Road. He stated that the road is fairly wide and suddenly narrows down in front of the Patuxent Park Subdivision. He asked Mr. Tate if possibly the median strip could be taken out since the County owned the street in front of Patuxent Park Subdivision. Mr. Tate agreed to meet with Mr. Aud in the next few days to inspect this site.

Commissioner Aud stated that he felt the State Roads Commission should proceed immediately with the land acquisition that would be needed for the proposed approach road. He felt that if they delayed new houses being constructed in this area would become involved.

Housing Authority Resolution Signed

The Commissioners signed a resolution No. 71-16 establishing a Housing Authority for St. Mary's County. This resolution declared a need for a housing authority in St. Mary's County in that there are unsafe and unsanitary dwelling accommodations and a grave shortage of safe and sanitary dwellings and dwellings in the County available to persons of low income at rentals they can afford, which makes it necessary for such person to occupy overcrowded and congested dwelling accommodations.

St. Inigoes Neck Subdivision-Approval to Health Department

The Commissioners signed a letter to Mr. Dane S. Bauer, Sanitarian, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. This letter stated that the Commissioners approved a change in the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan to permit a Community Water and Sewer System for the property know as St. Inigoes Neck Subdivision, located in the first election district of St. Mary's County. The approval was given upon the contingencies set forth in a letter to Mr. Reynolds dated June 22, 1971.

St. Inigoes Neck Subdivision-Approval to Developer Reynolds

The Commissioners signed a letter to Mr. Victor Reynolds,

one of the developers of the St. Inigoes Neck Subdivision, stating that they had approved the change in the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan for St. Mary's County for a community water and sewer system for his development. The approval was contingent upon the land use as represented by the preliminary plat presented to the Commissioners on June 15, 1971 and designated as Plat A, which called for a 50 acre commercial marina, 74 acres into multiple family use, limited to three families per acre and the remaining portion of said tract into two acre residential sites. Also the conveyance of 15 acres in the northeast corner of this tract to the Commissioners for a school or school sites, and Recreation and Parks for recreational use.

The said 15 acres are to be so designated on the plat before approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission and to conveyed fee simple, free and clear of any and all encumbrances and a total compliance with County Resolution No. 71-13.

In the event the number of houses on the tract increases to 1,200, a Middle School site will be needed. Requirements for the Middle School site will be 30 acres of land must be of such location that it can be served by the Community sewer and Water System approved for the entire tract of St. Inigoes Neck Subdivision.

Administrative Assistant B Position

Mrs. Viola Gardner was called into the Commissioners meeting. Mr. Aud stated that the Commissioners had discussed the position of Administrative Assistant B that was available in the Commissioners' Office and inquired as to whether Mrs. Gardner would be interested in accepting this position. Mr. Aud stated that it was their feeling that she was more capable for the higher position than for ~~the~~ that of Administrative Assistant A which she had also applied for. Mrs. Gardner stated that she would be happy to accept this promotion and thanked the Commissioners for their confidence.

The Commissioners stated that this promotion was to become effective as of June 28, 1971. A letter will be sent to Mrs. Gardner notifying her of this appointment.

Administrative Assistant A Position

The Commissioners announced their decision to appoint Mrs. Judy Bowles to the position of Administrative Assistant A that was currently available in the Commissioners Office.

Commissioner Guy telephoned Mrs. Bowles and asked if she would accept this position. Mrs. Bowles stated that she would accept this position but that she could not report for work for another three weeks.

A letter of confirmation will be sent to Mrs. Judy Bowles.

Metropolitan Commission's Pending Action of Water Shut-Off

Present: Mr. Cullison, representative of the National Guard, Mr. Charles Choat, Supervisor of Utilities of the Naval Air Station, Mr. Rudy Resnick, Acting Public Works Officer, Mr. Mike Marlay of the Metropolitan Commission, Mr. Otis Wood of Civil Defense, Mr. Charles Donaldson, Fire Marshal and Dr. Alan Houser.

Mr. Aud stated that there was some concern by the Health Department and the Commissioners in that the water may be turned off in the Lexington Park area to some residents. Mr. Aud stated that the Commissioners wanted to meet with them to see how they might solve the problem without causing a health problem.

Mr. Aud stated that first they should know how many people they would be dealing with. Mr. Marlay of the Metropolitan Commission stated that the list they had last week had diminished considerably. Mr. Marlay estimated that about 80 customers as of this time were going to be affected.

Mr. Aud asked if there were any suggestions as to what the County should do to prepare for a possible need for drinking water only.

Mr. Otis Wood stated that he thought they should wait until tomorrow when the water was scheduled to be turned off. He did not think they should go to unnecessary trouble when there was the possibility that these persons might pay their bills and the water would not be shut off. He stated that if the fire hydrants were shut off he would request that the Control Center be notified so that in case of fire they would know what type of equipment to send.

Mr. Charles Donaldson stated that if the fire hydrants are shut off, he would hope that the Commissioners would see that there was someone nearby stationed for the entire time before the water is shut off.

It was decided to wait until the next day to see how serious the problem was going to be, before definite action would be planned.

ROADS MEETING

Commissioner Bowles- absent from the afternoon session.

Rev. Daniel J. Stone and a group of some twenty children sat in on the Commissioners meeting to observe local government at work.

Cornfield Harbor Road

One of the children from Rev. Stone's group inquired if the Commissioners could tell him of their plans to improve Cornfield Harbor Road. Mr. Aud stated that he had received a request to surface treat this road and had gone to look at the site. He found that four or five families lived on this road and because of the expense that would be involved, it was decided to take care of some of the roads that needed work a lot more.

Drainage Problem-Piney Point

Present: Mr. Jim Renney, Mr. Clarke Raley, Mr. Al Tate
Mr. Douglas Bond, Mr. August Wagener, Mr. Pinkey Nagel

Mr. Nagel stated that there was a ditch adjacent to his property that had been filled with gravel by Mr. Arthur Puchetti to keep his trailer park from flooding. The water consequently, was flooding Mr. Nagel's property.

Mr. Tate stated that several years ago he had met with Mr. Puchetti, the developer of Oakwood Lodge Trailer Park to have a survey made next to Md. Rt. 498. He found that the State Roads Commission is limited as to right-of-way there. Mr. Tate felt that this was a civil matter and he could not enter into this. He stated that the problem should be taken care of in Court. He went on to say that even if the State Roads Commission acquired an easement to this property, it could not be properly ditched since there are pipes running to the trailer park located in this area. Evidently, when Mr. Puchetti developed the trailer park in this area, he made no provision for drainage ditches.

Mr. Tate stated the State Roads Commission is obligated to keep roadways cleared of water. He advised the gentlemen to write to his supervisor, Mr. David Fisher, and he would be glad to do whatever Mr. Fisher advises him.

Appointment to Tri-County Community Action Committee

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Mr. William A. Welch, Director of the Tri-County Community Action Committee, regarding an appointment that was needed from St. Mary's County to the Community Action Committee. It was recommended that Mr. Melvin Holland, whose term as

Board of Directors member, expires soon, be reappointed. A letter will be sent to Mr. Welch and to Mr. Holland to this affect.

Bid Opening Dukehart Creek Dredging

The bid opening for the dredging of Dukehart Creek located in the Seventh Election District of St. Mary's County was held. There was one bid submitted from Southern Maryland Dredging Company in the amount of \$62,062 with a certified check in the amount of \$200. There was a notation on the bid that since this company was currently involved in doing several projects for both State and Federal Government, they would not be able to begin work at Dukehart Creek until December, 1971.

The Commissioners reviewed the amount of money that they have been allocated for this project and found that they could possibly begin work any sooner than December.

Chesapeake Estates Mobile Home Park-Proposed

Present: Mr. John Slade and Mr. and Mrs. Martin, Mr. Red Focer, and Ben Burroughs, Jr.

Mr. John Slade explained that his clients Mr. and Mrs. Martin were appearing before the Commissioners to obtain approval on a proposed trailer park entitled Chesapeake Estates Mobile Home Park located on the Baptist Church Road above the Half Way House in the Fifth Election District.

The Martins have proposed this trailer park last year and the Metropolitan Commission had approved it in September, 1970. Mr. Martin became ill and the plat has since been held up. The park provides for driveways, parking spaces, patios and water and sanitary facilities. The main lot size as shown on the plat consisted of 50,000 square feet. With the Commissioners approval they plan to install a Community Water and Sewer System but would be willing to put individual septic systems on each lot. Any lot that will not pass percolation tests will not be used and will be noted on the final plat.

They plan to reserve 20 to 25 acres of land for recreational purposes as required by Planning and Zoning. The Martins will live in the park themselves and will personally operate and inspect the park. They currently own a trailer park in Anne Arrundel County and have operated this one for the last fifteen years. All electrical and oil lines will be underground. Mr. Slade stated that at present the County receives an income of \$400 a year from the taxes on the property but if the park were developed they would obtain some \$20,000. If the park is developed Mr.

Martin will maintain all streets and sewer and water facilities but should the County ever want to put the sewer and water system into a County system, they would convey the same for \$1. Mr. Slade stated he felt this was a perfect location for a trailer park since it is off the main highway. The park would afford an opportunity for improved leasing and housing for the community.

Mr. Martin stated that if this park is developed, he would see that it was not only a credit to himself but also the community. The Commissioners informed Mr. and Mrs. Martin that they would meet with their County Engineer and review the proposed plat. They would contact them within the next few weeks.

Amusement Tax Resolutions 66-6 and 71-10

Discussion was had regarding the recently signed resolution levying an amusement tax on St. Mary's County. Mr. Guy made a motion that this resolution be rescinded. Mr. Aud seconded the motion. Mr. Aud stated that he felt this was a nuisance tax. He stated that the expansion of tourism and recreation in the County were important and he felt that the elimination of this tax is a step in that direction. Notification will be sent to the State Comptroller's Office after the new resolution rescinding the tax is signed.

Bills Approved

David M. Gruber and Company, in the amount of \$750, for June Special Study.

Lorenzi, Dodds and Gunnill, in the amount of \$2,041 for work on the Mechanicsville to Chaptico Road, and in the amount of \$2,634, for work done on the McLeod property.

Barton-Aschman Proposal

The Commissioners agreed to accept the proposal submitted by Barton-Aschman Associates in the amount of \$4,300 for selected revisions and additions to the St. Mary's County Proposed Zoning Ordinance. The secretary was requested to write to Barton-Aschman notifying them of the authorization to begin work on this project. Mr. Wiles had stated previously by telephone that upon authorization to begin the project, his firm would furnish the draft of this ordinance within 30 days. The secretary will request Mr. Wiles to confirm this time element in writing.

St. Mary's County Detention Officer for Jail

Mr. Sterling, Director of Finance, reported that he had not heard any word from the Commissioners regarding the employment of a Detention Officer for the County Jail. He stated that he would like to get the job set up through the Merit System. The Commissioners instructed Mr. Sterling to draw up the necessary job description and pertinent information.

Joseph Paul Jones, Sr.-Maintenance Man

Mr. Sterling stated that three months ago, the Commissioners had agreed to hire Mr. Joseph Paul Jones, Sr., as a maintenance woker for the County, for a period of three months. Mr. Sterling reported that the three months were now up. The Commissioners stated that they were very pleased with the work Mr. Jones was doing and recommended that he be employed for an additional three months. In the meantime, they would like to work on the possibility of incorporating his job into the County Merit System.

County Engineer

Mr. Sterling reported that he had only received one application for County Engineer and that he planned to readvertise to obtain more applicants before setting up the test.

Request for Typewriter

Mr. Sterling requested that an electric typewriter be purchased for his office since they would soon put the new check system into affect and would be typing multiple forms requiring an electric typewriter. The Commissioners approved his request and instructed Mr. Paul Raley, Administrative Officer, to order same.

Commercial Haulers Compton Dump

The Commissioners requested Mr. Paul Raley, Administrative Officer, to contact the commercial trash haulers notifying them that after the first of July they will no longer be able to use the Compton Dump. This dump will be made available to household users only.

Vouchers Signed

Commissioner Aud signed Vouchers # 39714 to 39839.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

Approved,

George R. Aud

George R. Aud
President

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