

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Tuesday, September 14, 1971

Present: George R. Aud, President
J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner
J. S. Guy, Jr., Commissioner
Robert Wigginton, County Attorney
Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer
Judy Bowles, Secretary (Recording)
Jack Kershaw, Enterprise
Rick Thompson, Beacon
Roger Blunt, Beacon
Dick Myers, WKIK
Patty Muchow, WPTX

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 A.M.

Proclamation and Resolutions Signed

The proclamation designating Saturday, October 2, 1971 as the Oyster Festival was signed by the County Commissioners.

Resolutions on the subject of the St. Mary's County Housing Authority were signed, they are as follows: Resolution 71-25, Declaration of the Need for the St. Mary's Housing Authority; Resolution 71-26, Approving Application of the Provisions of Section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended to Locality; Resolution No. 71-27 Authorization to submit Application to Housing Assistance Administration for a preliminary loan of \$20,000.

Route 235 and the Main Gate to the Naval Air Test Center

Present: Senator Paul Bailey Captain Day
Delegate Manning McKay Mr. Kohl
Mr. Al Tate Cmdr. Yeager
Mr. William Lins
Mr. Gerry Cincibus

Mr. Lins, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Cincibus, representatives of the State Highway Administration, at the suggestion of the Chief Engineer, Mr. Fisher, presented tentative plans to the County Commissioners and the representatives of the Navy what they thought to be the most feasible solution to the traffic congestion now in existence at the Main Gate to the Naval Base at Patuxent and Route 235. Their solution to the foregoing were:

1. a 4' median strip down Rt. 235
2. two through lanes on either side
3. channelization of the intersection
4. parallel parking in lieu of existing head-in parking

Mr. Lins stated that the State Highway Administration would like to have this intersection completed before June of 1972;

however, if everyone was in concurrence with the plans as they were submitted, this work could perhaps be completed before the end of this year.

Mr. Aud: "Would it help of the traffic were one-way? Mr. Millison stated that if we had some way to show tenants in the area the plans and if they were in agreement he, Mr. Millison, would consider it?"

Mr. Lins: "This is what we feel should be done. The head-in parking is very dangerous and we would like to eliminate this even though we will be taking away some parking."

Senator Bailey: "Whate percentage would be taken away for parking?"

Mr. Lins: "At least 50%."

Senator Bailey: "Is there any other area where parking is available?"

Mr. Bowles: "There is a parking lot behind this area."

Senator Bailey: "Then there is another area available for parking?"

Mr. Aud: "How much land are you taking away from the Navy?"

Mr. Lins: "I do not know."

Mr. Tate: "We are not taking away any, and if so, very little."

Captain Day: "The Navy is not receptive to giving away land."

Mr. Aud: "Can the State Highway Administration purchase this corner?"

Mr. Tate: "What would we use it for? How many businesses are in this area?"

Mr. Aud: "Approximately 5 or 6 businesses."

Del. McKay: "I feel that a little parking area would be good."

Mr. Aud: "I have an idea to solve the problem. Just move the gate up the road. Move it up the north end of the property near Pegs Road."

Senator Bailey: "This would be a good solution."

Capt. Day: "The Navy has this in their Master Plan; however, they do not have the money to put this road there."

Senator Bailey: "Perhaps this could be done with Federal funds."

Captain Day: "This is inside the Base."

Mr. Tate: "This is feasible. Doesn't the Navy have plans for a bridge there?"

Senator Bailey: "How much money is needed for this project?"

Mr. Lins: "\$200,000."

Senator Bailey: "Due to the considerable amount involved in this project, don't you think we should check into this other plan?"

Captain Day: "I don't particularly like islands."

Mr. Lins: "The islands were placed there so that people will channelize."

Captain Day: "Not all the land is ours, some of the land is on lease to the bank."

Mr. Kohl: "The three feet outside of the fence does not belong to us."

Mr. Tate: "The main problem is congestion."

Mr. Guy: "Head-in parking does not help the problem."

Captain Day: "I do not see the elimination of congestion, just a \$200,000 project to eliminate danger."

Mr. Aud: "Yes it will help to eliminate congestion because the road is to be widened. How long would it take to introduce this plan?"

Captain Day: "1974, the Navy is always two years in arrears."

Mr. Bowles: "Do you have emergency funds available for relocation of the main entrance?"

Captain Day: "No, the only emergency funding we would have available would have to pertain to the National Defense of the Country."

Senator Bailey: "Would you still use the present main gate?"

Captain Day: "We would use the proposed new one and the present one."

Mr. Aud: "It would be a shame to spend money over again, if the Navy approves a future plan."

Mr. McKay: "I feel that you would be doing irreparable damage to this area by eliminating 15 parking spaces. I feel that the State of Maryland should purchase this corner for a park."

Mr. Lins: "I am in no position to do this, the engineer would have to be seen before this could be done."

Mr. McKay: "I feel that this is basically a very good plan."

Senator Bailey: "Do you have any accidents at this intersection?"

Mr. Aud: "Definitely, we have put up several stop signs. I would say that on the average two accidents occur there each week."

Mr. Bowles: "I feel a very dangerous situation exists here, you go from two lanes to four lane and then back to two lanes."

Mr. Aud: "I do not see how we can give an answer to this plan today. Please leave a copy of this plan here."

Mr. Lins: "We will leave this copy of the plan here and make another one for Captain Day."

Senator Bailey: "The community should have something to say."

Mr. Aud: "Are you in favor of a public hearing?"

Captain Day: "We would appreciate a closer look at it."

Mr. Aud: "Mr. Tate is there any time limit on our decision?"

Mr. Tate: "No."

Senator Bailey : "I would like to get this situation cleared up as soon as possible."

After the questions and answers session, Mr. Aud read to everyone present a report received by the County Commissioners office from the State Highway Administration on the status of Rt. 235.

North of Hollywood to St. Andrew's Church Road: Draft and environmental study will go out in 8 to 10 days. Will have to wait 45 days for the receipt of comments at which time it will be submitted back to the State Highway Administration. They will wait 30 days, if no response or comments, they can go ahead with survey.

Laurel Grove to Hillsville: Draft has been completed. 45 days has elapsed, they are waiting for the thirty days and they will begin surveys and plans.

Hollywood and Sandy Bottom: Have not yet made decision, but they are leaning toward not separating the two lanes. They are waiting for the environmental study, this study includes, pollution, drainage, traffic impact, sediment control, the number of houses to be taken, etc.

Section from St. Andrew's Church Road to Rue's purchase: Will be advertised today. Bids will be received in about one month's time. One mile was deleted because of the dualization near Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. One piece in Lexington Park proper about 1/10 of a mile long has not been advertised, they want to review it first with the County Commissioners.

There was great concern concerning the last mile below Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. This section was deleted so as not to delay the whole section. However, all approvals have been received except for the environmental statement, which will be an additional 75-80 days. They have agreed to extend the dualization one-half mile south, then it goes to a 60 foot street section - two lanes in each direction, with a painted median this would then connect with the section below the railroad track.

Great Mills High School

Present: John Baggett, Director, Recreation and Parks
Harris, Director of Finance

The main objective of this meeting in reference to Great Mills High School was to obtain approval from the County Commissioners for the repair of the tennis courts and baseball diamond, for an approximate cost of \$4100. Mr. Baggett stated that he was willing to take this money out of his budget. He said that he hated to do this, but if the work was not done we would lose the tennis court and he would like to have the baseball diamond seeded before the cold weather.

The County Commissioners unanimously approved Mr. Baggett's request for \$4100 for the repair of these areas at Great Mills High School.

Mr. Baggett requested that it be placed in the minutes that the backstop presently existing at Great Mills High School was not suitable. He would like to have it in the records as the backstops were installed prior to his hiring as Director of Recreation and Parks. He did not want anyone to reproach him in about two or three years as to his being responsible for their installation.

Mr. Bowles asked what is the present surface of the tennis courts. Mr. Baggett stated that they were asphalt and that what he was proposing be done was to featheredge the tennis court and place a product called Plex-A-Pave on the courts. This acrylic product which 1. protects against the weather; 2. does not absorb heat and 3. gives better resiliency to the ball. Mr. Aud then asked who was qualified to do this in the county. Mr. Baggett stated that Mr. David Jarboe had done this and felt that he was qualified, and suggested that perhaps Walter Wise or Dean & Beavers could do the same type of work. Acrylic was easy to put down on asphalt. The approximate cost of this is \$2000. He stated that the seeding would run in the neighborhood of approximately \$2100.

Mr. Bowles asked how Mr. Baggett was planning to handle this. Mr. Baggett answered him by saying that he would place this on a bid basis. Mr. Guy asked who would draw up the specifications, at this point Mr. Baggett stated he would.

Recreation and Parks - Old School near Firehouse in Ridge -
Purchase \$11,000

Mr. Baggett stated that there was a piece of property for sale located in Ridge, consisting of one acre of land with a building. The building was part frame and aluminum siding. Half of the roof is asphalt and the other is tin. The house has a large kitchen with stove and refrigerator.

Mr. Baggett suggested that this would be ideal for teen "gettogethers" and more importantly for storage. He stated that storage will be a very important factor in the near future, if not critical at the present. For example, he stated that at the present time the schools are storing approximately 150 pairs of roller skates as well as football outfits, which take up a considerable amount of room. The schools' services are not guaranteed and Mr. Baggett stated that he felt that the purchase of this building and land would be of benefit to Recreation and Parks. The cost of the land and building is \$11,000 and Recreation and Parks would take over the mortgage payments.

Mr. Aud then interjected that the old St. Michaels High School was for sale and that he would like him to check into this matter before any decision was made. Mr. Aud then asked about the financial aspect of the recent play called "Gypsy". Mr. Baggett stated that Recreation and Parks took in \$1538, and that the production only cost the county \$350.

Recreation and Parks - Rotation of Funds

Mr. Sterling and Mr. Baggett approached the County Commissioners with a suggestion that Mr. Baggett be permitted to rotate funds within his budget to accommodate such expenses as Gypsy, etc.

Mr. Guy stated that he absolutely would not approve of

such action. He felt that matters such as these should come before the County Commissioners so that the Board would at all times know where the monies were being spent should any questions arise. Mr. Sterling then added that the County Commissioners would be kept advised by himself in a memo to the County Commissioners which would be presented at the regular meetings for approval.

No absolute decision was made relating to this, but it was generally felt that this method would not be allowed.

St. Andrews Church Road - State Aid Construction Money

The County Commissioners have agreed and instructed Mr. Harris Sterling, the Director of Finance, to program all state aid money for road construction to date and for 1972 fiscal year to St. Andrews Church Road project. The County Commissioners also instructed Mr. Sterling to advise the County Commissioners for any additional forms, etc. to expedite the same.

BILLS APPROVED

Delahay Pile Driving	
completion of lots 47 & 5	\$ 1,850.00
Alban Tractor for new	
Caterpillar	44,472.00
Board of Zoning Appeals	
James Dobry Appeal	200.00
Thomas I. Garner Appeal	100.00

Open Space Program

Mr. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance, stated that the last two years allotment for 1970 and 1971 must be filed for or we lose it. This would amount to a loss of at least \$223,000 for these two years. He stated that we would lose \$88,000 by December 1, 1971 and reiterated that the law stated unless this money is filed for we would automatically lose it.

Mr. Bowles stated that he did not think the open space program was fair in their practices of matching (25-25-50). He stated that this was our money and he felt that we should not have to match our own funds in order to get it back.

Mr. Baggett stated if the County Commissioners would let Recreation and Parks get some of next year's expenditures, it would be a good idea to save as much of the \$88,000 as possible and then worry about next year's \$110,000.

Mr. Bowles asked Mr. Baggett if he had spoken to the

legislative committee. Mr. Baggett that he had and he was attempting to reach a matching percentage of 15%.

In regards to the possible loss of \$88,000, Mr. Guy stated that the Recreation and Parks Board should recommend to the County Commissioners what course of action was to be taken.

Chaptico Wharf

Mr. Guy asked Mr. Baggett on the status of the purchase of land at Chaptico Wharf. Mr. Baggett stated that Recreation and Parks was in the process of writing up a 120 day purchase option.

Contingency Fund - Rcreation and Parks

Mr. Baggett stated that we are buying property (Site #1 of the Watershed Project) to furtherbe developed by Fish and Wildlife. We put up \$100,000 for the purchase of this land. Since that time Mr. Baggett stated that the State had said that we were eligible for reimbursement in the amount of \$19,956.80 and that we should also be getting back an additional \$100,000 on the same project. Mr. Baggett asked the County Commissioners if these monies could be put in a contingency fund for purchse of special land such as, matching, Chaptico Wharf, etc., as this was extra money. Mr. Sterling stated that he was not in favor of this die to the fact that the Watershed project was so vast and new. Mr. Bowles suggested that we place these monies in an interest bearing account. He also stated that he understood Mr. Baggett, in that he was trying to preserve this money and not necessarily spend it.

Mr. Aud suggested that we do not touch this money until we find out that it is in fact our money.

Haunted House

Mr. Baggett stated that the Bay District Council was interested in renting and decorating an old house for the purpose of a "Haunted House" at Holloween. He felt that this would be a good idea in that it would be a good idea in that it would get the teenagers involved in something productive. It would also be another source of revenue in that it may bring in as much as \$3000 a year.

Mr. Baggett then stated that the purpose of his bringing this matter up before the Board of Commissioners is that we may need insurance coverage to protect the county. Mr. Aud then asked Mr. Bob Wigginton to check into this matter. Mr. Guy then stated that he would like to have it understood that no county money is involved in the Haunted House project proposed by Recreation and Parks.

ROADS MEETING:

Present: Mr. Gus Wagener, County Engineer
Mr. Douglas Bond, State Roads Commission

Rt. 235 - Dameron

Mr. Aud stated that school buses are turning around in Buckner's front yard; therefore Mr. Bunker has big holes in his front yard. Mr. Aud requested Mr. Bond to go and fill up these holes.

Surface Treatment Schedule

Mr. Aud asked Mr. Bond how the surface treatment schedule looked. Mr. Bond stated that it looked rather rough, that he would have to patch as much as he could until next May. Mr. Bowles asked Mr. Bond if they had told him the surface treatment schedule and why is St. Mary's County always last? Mr. Bond stated that at the present time he did not know.

Essex South - Mr. Bill Chapman

Mr. Bill Chapman stated that approximately a year and half ago Essex South was graveled by Walter Wise and was surface treated with two coats of asphalt by Mr. Douglas Bond. At that time Mr. Bond said it was acceptable and could be taken into the County System; which, Mr. Chapman stated, he thought had been done. However, since this time someone called Mr. Paul Raley as to the condition of the road and Mr. Raley stated it could not be taken into the county system because it had pot-holes in it.

Mr. Douglas Bond stated that he had never received a letter stating that the road was to be put in the system. Mr. Chapman then stated that he had the road built as to county requirements and now he finds out it was never accepted to the system. Mr. Chapman stated that he had received a letter from the Veterans Administration stating that something had to be done to the road within fifteen days.

Mr. Raley then read a letter written by Gus Wagener to this office dated June 24, 1971 as to the condition of Lynn Drive, Bryan Road, Williams Drive, and Thomas Drive located in Essex South. Mr. Raley also stated that the road is allright, but the drainage was bad. Mr. Bowles interjected that the road could not be put into the system unless we had a deed for it. Mr. Raley then answered by stating that it had come into our office in January. It was then requested that Mr. Wagener and Mr. Bond inspect the road.

Mr. Aud asked Mr. Chapman when he requested that the road be taken into the system. Mr. Chapman said he requested it when

the road was completed. Mr. Bowles asked Mr. Chapman if he wrote a letter requesting that it be put in the system. Mr. Chapman stated that he did not because he felt it was built and inspected and therefore it was automatically put in the system.

Mr. Aud asked what happens when someone builds a road as per requirements to be taken into the system and it is not done until a year later, what do we do? Mr. Bond stated that he could not touch it until Baltimore accepts it. Mr. Aud stated that if we do not take the road into the system, we should not let school buses run over them. Mr. Bowles asked Mr. Wagener what the cost was at the time he made the inspection to meet specifications. Mr. Wagener stated that the patching could be done in a half a day, clean the ditches and pipes for a total cost of approximately \$400 to \$500 dollars. Mr. Wigginton said that it looked as if Mr. Chapman just skipped one step in that he did not send a written request to the County to accept the road into their system.

Mr. Aud stated that the County Commissioners would go down and look at the road and give Mr. Chapman their decision.

Boaz Street- Town Creek

Mr. Paul Raley read a letter submitted to our office by Mr. Gus Wagener, County Engineer, stating work needed on slopes prior to County taking over streets. No work has been done to date, yet in March, 1971, he recommended that we take the streets into the system, which we did. Mr. John Hall, with Soil Conservation, wants to know who is going to do the sodding now that it is in the system? Is the subdivider still liable for the work that was requested before we were supposed to take them into the system.

No decision was reached at this time, pending inspection of the street and checking into the matter to see who is responsible to have this work done.

Rapid Transit System - Mr. Red Focer

Mr. Focer stated that distance x traffic = non residents, and based on this theory, Mr. Focer presented a proposal to the County Commissioners for a Rapid Transit System in St. Mary's County. He then presented the Commissioners with a Rapid Transit System Report of a study done in Pennsylvania for a Rapid Transit System. He stated that a 3.1 billion subsidy bill has been passed by Congress (2/3 of the funding would be Federal, 1/6 County and 1/6 State) and in St. Mary's County we already own a 60' right of way from St. Mary's County into Brandywine. Most of the cost has been for the acquisition of land, which we already own, which he added would most likely pay for the entire share of the county expenditure.

Mr. Focer stated that the system used as 16' right of way, which would be underground, on ground or overhead. The system

is highly automated, cannot be derailed, involves no pollution and would guarantee revenue into the County. He also stated that it would not take more than half hour to forty-five minutes to get to Washington. He added that the proposed system for St. Mary's County would tie into the transit system under development in Washington.

Mr. Focer requested that the County Commissioners give him permission to contact the parties with the Rapid Transit System to come down and make a formal presentation to the Board of County Commissioners. The County Commissioners unanimously agreed to this.

Tippett's Road and Millstone Landing Road - School Sites

The County Commissioners unanimously approved the purchase of Tippett's Road and Millstone Landing Road by the Board of Education for the purpose of school sites.

Bushwood Wharf

Stone rip-rap in lieu of bulkheading: Mr. Aud stated that this would have to be checked into before a decision is reached.

St. Inigoes, Squires Island and Queentree Projects

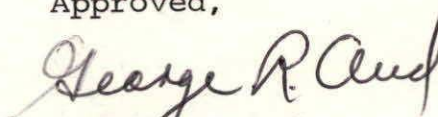
Mr. George Aud and Mr. Robert Wigginton, the County Attorney, talked about scheduling hearings for the following locations:

- Ridge Elelementary School - St. Inigoes Project
- Mechanicsville School - Queentree Project
- Leonardtwn School - Squires Island

St. Jerome's Creek - Dredging

Mr. Paul Raley read a letter received in our office from Mr. Edwin L Reid, a property owner, as to her dissatisfaction with the dredging of St. Jerome's Creek in relation to the Southern Prong, in that she would like to see the Southern prong of St. Jerome's Creek dredged. Mr. Aud asked Mr. Paul Raley to get in touch with Chesapeake Bay Affairs concerning dredging further into the southern prong to a water depth of 51.

Approved,



George R. Aud
President