

Board of County Commissioners' Meeting

Tuesday, February 1, 1972

Present: George R. Aud, President  
 J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner  
 J. S. Guy, Jr., Commissioner  
 Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney  
 Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer  
 Judith D. Bowles (Mrs.), Secretary to the Commissioners  
 Jack Kershaw, The Enterprise  
 Billie Gould, The Enterprise

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

Confiscated Cars - Sheriff's Department

Present: Sheriff Lawrence Williams  
 Deputy Charles Kerr  
 Deputy Ronald Clark

Sheriff Williams stated that the Sheriff's Department is presently renting, through the County, two automobiles. One of these cars is an Ambassador and the other is a Mercury. Sheriff Williams felt that this was a handicap to his Department (insofar as the drug problem was concerned), in that they were easily recognizable due to the fact that they are larger cars and easy to spot. It would be easier for the Sheriff's Department to use smaller cars, i.e., Pintos, Vegas, etc.

He added that his department has confiscated smaller cars, but the County Commissioners had not seen fit to give them to the Sheriff's Department. He remarked that the Charles County Sheriff's Department had requested that the Sheriff's Department here in Leonardtown lend them one of these confiscated cars for undercover drug work, and Sheriff Williams had to turn them down because he did not have them. Sheriff Williams felt that by having these confiscated cars to lend Charles County, it would improve the relationship between the Counties, in that drug traffic to St. Mary's County had to go through Charles County first. Sheriff Williams stated that if he could get some small cars, his Department could move around inconspicuously.

Commissioner Aud then asked Sheriff Williams why he did not specify smaller cars when the bids were placed in the newspaper for the two larger cars for the Sheriff's Department. He added that he was willing to do anything to help out the Sheriff's Department, and had he known that the Sheriff wanted two smaller cars, he would have been glad to have specifications written for them. Sheriff Williams stated that he saw Mr. Aud's point.

Mr. Aud further stated that the County people were bitterly opposed to the County's use of confiscated cars. He went on to say that these cars were marked, and he would not want to be responsible for the consequences should anyone decide to shoot at one, burn one, etc. Those persons involved with drugs would know these cars. Sheriff Williams stated that they could be painted.

Commissioner Guy stated that he felt it was not right to take the cars away from these people for drugs and they use the same cars for drug work. Mr. Aud stated that we were trying the children instead of the parents, and it is the parents that are suffering the hardships. Mr. Aud further stated that in Baltimore County they can obtain an affidavit from the parent stating that they had no knowledge of their children's participation in drugs, and that the cars are returned. Deputy Clark stated that the drug dealers would just put their cars in their Grandmother's name. Traffic is the biggest problem, and the transportation of these drugs had to be stopped.

Mr. Aud asked if the Sheriff's Department was requesting that the County give them these confiscated cars or smaller cars. The other County Commissioners agreed with Mr. Aud. Sheriff Williams stated that he was only interested in keeping the budget down by using these confiscated cars.

Mr. Bowles asked Sheriff Williams if he was requesting the use of these confiscated cars. Deputy Clark stated that he was mainly interested in the Volkswagen bus they had confiscated, due to the fact that he had quite a lot of equipment they took around to the schools in the County for talks, and at the present time he was using his personal car, a station wagon. He stated that the Sheriff's Department needed this vehicle badly. Mr. Aud stated that the Commissioners would review his request and let him know.

Commissioner Guy asked Sheriff Williams if they get money from the County to purchase drugs for their undercover work. Sheriff Williams stated that they did. Mr. Guy then asked if an arrest is made and there were drugs and money confiscated, did the Sheriff's Department give the money back to the County. Sheriff Williams stated that it was as soon as the appeal time had run out on the cases and the Judge awarded the money back to the County.

Mr. Wigginton asked Deputy Clark what a small matchbox of marijuana was worth. Deputy Clark replied that it was worth \$20.

Sheriff Williams, Deputies Clark and Kerr left the Commissioners' Conference Room with the understanding that the Commissioners would let them know about the Volkswagen bus.

Love Your County

Present: Mrs. Betsy Barley  
 Mrs. Erva McKinney  
 Mrs. Barbara Baxter, AAUW & So. Md. Audobon Society  
 Mrs. Kay Daugherty, Maryland Environmental Trust  
 Mrs. Kim Spencer, Town Creek Garden Club  
 Mrs. Beth Holtzclaw, Cedar Point Officers' Club  
 Greg Wiles, Great Mills Science Club  
 Dudley Lindsley, County Council, PTA

MRS. MCKINNEY: Last May after our campaign was over, we made our report and recommendations to the County Commissioners, and some of the things you have done have been very helpful. We are very pleased with Clements Landfill, as well as St. Andrews. We are also thankful for the dumpsters.

Our group is composed of people representing many various organizations, and our main reason for meeting with you is that we would very much appreciate your approval and public endorsement.

At this point Mrs. Betsy Barley asked the County Commissioners to review the Bowie file that was presented to each of the Commissioners. She went on to say that they (Bowie) had done a beautiful job. They started with five people appointed by the City Council. They have won the National Clean Up Award and they were the first community to ban the use of non-returnable containers. If you, the County Commissioners, will give us this recognition, it will be helpful to us as well as yourselves.

Our clean up group has really started on its own. There are ten groups involved. The community is concerned and aware of these problems. We all have to realize these problems exist and the community has to be educated. They have to be taught we cannot ravish the resources that support us.

MR. AUD: We are very much in favor of a project of this type and I am sure the other Commissioners feel as I do.

MRS. BARLEY: We want you Commissioners to listen to us and we will listen to you. I also want to thank the newspapers for their help.

MR. BOWLES: These problems have existed here in the County for sometime, and we thank you for your help.

MRS. BARLEY: I feel that the hours at the dumps should be more suitable - perhaps open on Sundays. Also, the State Highway Administration is not keeping the trash out of the ditches.

MR. AUD: The reason for this is the lack of personnel at the State Highway Administration, and I suggest that perhaps you should write a letter to Mr. Allen Tate with a copy to Mr. Fisher.

Mr. William Greene, Chairman, Human Relations Commission

Mr. Greene introduced himself to the County Commissioners as the new Chairman of the Human Relations Commission. He stated that he was appointed Chairman in October.

What he wanted to know was who he should contact in our office in order to establish the necessary equipment with which to work. He felt that the County established the Commission and that it should be an effective one.

He went on to say that there were bills before the Legislators pertaining to Civil Rights, and he needed to increase his knowledge in order to be kept up to date. He added that it all boils down to money. He stated that it may be necessary to work with someone to work up an effective outline. Mr. Greene told the Commissioners that he would like to submit an itemized report to the Commissioners on operating necessities.

Mr. Aud asked Mr. Greene to have his report to them by March 1, 1972. Mr. Bowles added that Mr. Paul R. Raley would be Mr. Greene's contact man here in our offices. Mr. Raley stated that the Human Relations Commission was approved for an appropriation in the amount of \$200.00 in last year's budget. Mr. Aud asked Mr. Greene how often the Commission met. Mr. Greene replied that they met once a month. He stated he would like to be able to pay a Secretary at least \$25-\$30 for a day's work. He would also like to have the Code changed in reference to Human Relations. Only two paragraphs are devoted to Human Relations, and they really have no legal power whatsoever.

Mr. Guy remarked that under the law, the Commissioners were only allowed to appropriate \$200.00 per year to the Human Relations Commission. Mr. Aud asked Mr. Greene how much money he thought they would need. Mr. Greene replied that it would be hard to say, but that \$200.00 a year was simply not sufficient. He added that there would be telephone charges, mailing expenses, news releases and publications, transportation, conferences to be attended, etc.

Mr. Greene remarked that Mrs. Somerville resigned as Secretary to the Commission as of November 1, 1971, and that Mrs. Pittman was the new Secretary and had not been paid for her services since November. Mr. Aud remarked that there was \$80.00 left in last year's budget for the Human Relations Commission and added that Mr. Greene could pay Mrs. Pittman for her services from November on, and asked Mr. Greene to forward a letter

to this effect to Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance. Mr. Guy also requested Mr. Greene to refer his other bills to them. Mr. Bowles asked Mr. Paul R. Raley to have some stationery made up for Mr. Greene. Mr. Aud also asked Mr. Greene to submit his proposed budget; however, we can do nothing about legislation at this time, but stated that the Commissioners would see what they could do to change the Code next year. Mr. Guy requested Mr. Greene to send copies of the minutes of their meeting.

Bill Approved

St. Mary's Soil Conservation (request for money that was appropriated to them)	\$1,050.00
Hall of Records - one reel of negative microfilm re: Restoration of Newtown Neck	\$ 15.00
Delahay's Pile Driving - Tall Timbers Erosion District	\$1,500.00

55th Wedding Anniversary Proclamation

The County Commissioners signed a proclamation honoring Mr. and Mrs. George L. Hayden on their 55th Wedding Anniversary on February 3, 1972.

Appointment of Supervisor for St. Mary's County Soil Conservation District

The County Commissioners unanimously approved of the re-appointment of R. John Dixon to the Soil Conservation District as a Supervisor.

Mr. Otis Wood - Control Center Annual Report

Mr. Otis Wood, Acting Director of the Control Center, presented the County Commissioners with his Annual Report. He and the Commissioners went over the report in some detail.

Flashing Light - Route 5 and Cedar Lane

Mr. Paul R. Raley read a letter from Mr. Loomis of the State Highway Administration in which the County is to assume the electrical cost for the flashing light placed at Route 5 and Cedar Lane.

The Commissioners advised Mr. Raley to write a letter to the State Highway Administration advising Mr. Loomis that the County never intended to pay for the electrical costs for the

operation of this light. The only agreement made was that the County would share half of the cost of the light with the State.

Vouchers signed

Vouchers from #1364 to #1401 were approved and signed by Commissioner Aud.

The minutes of January 25, 1972 were read and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George R. Aud". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

George R. Aud  
President