

Board of County Commissioners' MeetingTuesday, February 22, 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  
Viola M. Gardner (Mrs.), Admin. Asst. (Recording)  
Jack Kershaw, The Enterprise  
Christy Selph, The St. Mary's Beacon

The meeting came to order at 10:05 A.M.

Minutes of the meeting of February 15, 1972 were read and corrected.

Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department

Present: Mr. William B. Groome  
Deputy Sheriff Stanley Williams

Mr. William B. Groome and Deputy Sheriff Stanley Williams appeared before the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department. The Department is considering buying a piece of property on which to build a new fire house, and presented an aerial photograph of the property in question. The land is presently owned by Mr. Henry Fowler, and was originally purchased by the Immaculate Conception Church for the purpose of a graveyard. There is a cross-over road here, which the Fire Department is desirous of having the County reconstruct in order that they may have proper ingress and egress. Deputy Williams, who is the President of the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, stated he had approached Mr. Sam Burch and Mr. Bill Chesley to secure a right-of-way and they are willing to grant this easement. They wanted to know if the County Commissioners would agree to taking over the road prior to their making final arrangements to purchase the property. Mr. Aud reminded them that the right-of-way would have to be 50'. Deputy Williams informed the Commissioners that he was of the opinion that the County still owned the roadbed and perhaps they had abandoned it.

Commissioner Guy inquired if this was the only suitable piece of land available. Mr. Groome stated that it was not, but the prices were prohibitive. The Board of County Commissioners agreed to take over the road if the Fire Department can purchase the land. Mr. Groome stated they hoped to purchase eight (8) acres. He also stated that he felt that

they might be able to get another piece of land close to the carnival grounds.

Proposal for Bulkheading - Tall Timbers Erosion District

Mr. Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer presented two (2) proposals from Delahay's Pile Driving Service for digging out behind bulkhead, replacing broken whaler and strengthening with tie backs. To perform the necessary work in this manner a proposal was submitted in the amount of \$3,350.00. The other proposal involved digging out behind the bulkhead, tearing out existing broken bulkhead, hauling away old material and rebuilding with new material. For the work to be performed in this manner, the proposal submitted was in the amount of \$20,600.00. The Board of County Commissioners suggested that Mr. Wigginton, County Attorney look over these proposals and have recommendations ready for the Commissioners at their next meeting.

Removal of Railroad Ties

Mr. Aud inquired as to whether consent had been received from GSA with reference to retaining the check for \$3,800.00 received from the sale of the railroad ties. Mr. Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer informed the Commissioners that GSA had been told that the money would be used for the repair of the roadbed and all crossovers where ties had been removed, but had not received a reply. The Commissioners requested Mr. Raley, together with Mr. Wigginton, County Attorney to look into this matter.

Bills Approved

Legislative Meeting at Annapolis for: Election Board Officials - Accommodations Holiday Inn	\$ 130.52
Election Board Officials - Registration and Food Expense	\$ 213.50
Vouchers #1458-\$1483 approved and signed by Mr. Aud.	

Contract for Assistant County Engineer - Mr. John B. Norris, Jr.

The contract for the position of Assistant County Engineer, for which Mr. John B. Norris, Jr., is applicant, was submitted to the County Commissioners by Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance and Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney; said contract was read and unanimously approved by the Board of County Commissioners, and signed by Commissioner George R. Aud, President. The Commissioners also noticed two letters received by them from the Department of Economic and Community Development with regard to legislation passed by the 1971 General Assembly pertaining to industrialized housing, mobile homes and a State model performance code. Training programs are scheduled at George Washington University on March 29 and 30, 1972. The Commissioners requested that Mr. Norris receive copies of these letters and be requested to attend. Expenses for attendance are being paid by the State of Maryland.

### County License Tags for the Commissioners

Mr. Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer, presented information to the Commissioners from the Board of Charles County Commissioners expressing their desire for the Commissioners to get County Tags similar to the tags that the Delegates have. He inquired as to whether the Commissioners would be interested in having these tags through Tri-County or State-wide. The tags would be of no cost to the County. The Commissioners agreed to back legislation to be presented by Charles County for State-wide tags.

### Mark Pratt Trailer Park

Discussion was held on the money owed by the Mark Pratt Trailer Park before it was sold to Mr. Miedzinski. Attorney Wigginton stated that Mr. Pratt had declared bankruptcy and any money he had was divided among the other creditors. He had checked with the Clerk of the Court and found there was no money available to pay the trailer park fees owed by him. Mr. Wigginton said he would make another check to see what could be done.

### Classified Service Legislation

Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance, was requested to come into the meeting at this time. He discussed with the Commissioners the recent legislation regarding the Classified Service, which had been sent to the St. Mary's County legislative delegation. He explained the impact of such legislation on the County employees; also the reasons for including certain items in the Code of Public Laws for St. Mary's County. After a brief discussion, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted to rescind the list of items under Article 19, Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, which had been sent to the delegation under date of February 16, 1972.

### Legislation for the Appointment of a Director for EDC

The County Commissioners discussed the letter sent to them under date of February 14, 1972 from Delegate John Hanson Briscoe in which he stated it was his understanding that the Director for EDC would be selected from the membership of the Commission. Reference was made to the letter of February 8, 1972 from the County Commissioners to Delegate Briscoe in which it was stated that the County Commissioners be empowered to appoint the Director for EDC. It was at this point that the Commissioners decided to visit the St. Mary's County delegation and other key persons in Annapolis instead of holding a regular Tuesday meeting on February 29, 1972, since it was the fifth Tuesday.

Budget for Commission on Human Relations

The Chairman of the Commission on Human Relations, Mr. William H. Greene submitted to the County Commissioners his budget for the Fiscal Year 1972-73, in the amount of \$2,037.00. The Commissioners stated that at a previous meeting they had decided to ask for legislation authorizing them to budget for this Commission.

Additional Information for Hearing  
on Ban of Individual Trailers

The County Commissioners requested Mr. Wigginton, County Attorney, to write additional information pertaining to the ban on individual trailers, as a news item, in conjunction with the Resolution that had been published. This would enable the public to have a better understanding of just what the hearing was about.

Federal Funds for Erosion Program

Mr. Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer, was requested by the County Commissioners to apply for reimbursement from CBA for any outstanding waterway improvement projects recently completed in the County.

Road Signs

Mr. Aud discussed with Mr. Paul R. Raley, the possibility of securing road signs. He had received many requests for signs. Some of the old wooden signs were very delapidated and others were missing. He requested that a letter be sent to Mrs. Leila Rogers of Planning and Zoning requesting that road signs be included in the bond for roads which developers must post. This same letter is to be sent to Mr. August H. Wagener, County Engineer.

Public Hearing - Zoning Application of Willard B. Long  
and William A. Barnes - 8th Election District

Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the newspapers as required by law. The hearing was held at 2:00 P.M. in the Conference Room of the Board of County Commissioners. No persons appeared to protest the zoning of certain lands to the "Commercial" category. The Commissioners will render their decision at a later date.

Radios for Sheriff's Department

Mr. Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer, reported that he had requested assistance from the Federal Government for the purchase of radios for the Sheriff's Department. This matter had been discussed at the last Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. He stated he had received a very lengthy application form to be completed.

Golden Beach Roads

Present: Mr. John C. Benson, President, Golden Beach Citizens Association, Inc.  
 Mr. Hollis Terry, Member  
 Mr. August H. Wagener, County Engineer  
 Mr. Douglas Bond, County Maintenance Engineer, SHA

Messrs. Benson and Terry appeared before the County Commissioners with regards to the roads in the Golden Beach Subdivision. They presented a letter to the Commissioners from Mrs. Doris M. Hodges, Chairman of the Roads Committee, who usually met with the County Commissioners on these matters.

Mr. Benson, who acted as spokesman, stated that many of the matters could be discussed with Mr. Douglas Bond and Mr. August H. Wagener, rather than take up too much of the Commissioners' time. He stated that they would like to have those roads resurfaced this year that had been on the schedule for 1971, but the work had not been done, which would be Holmes Road, one block of Brown Drive and some of Crosswood Drive. They were desirous of having work done on Hillview Drive, since it is very heavily used by the mail man and school buses. Skyview Drive is another road which had been scheduled for resurfacing in 1970 and was to have been accepted into the system.

Mr. Benson displayed a map showing roads which had been accepted into the system and those which had not, but which were ready to be accepted. His order of priority for surface treatment is as follows:

1. Holmes Road, Brown Drive and a short section of Crosswood Drive. Acceptable construction has been picking up and a large number of families have moved in.

2. Bay Drive is gravelled and ready for surface treatment.

2. Beach Court - The driveway in from Beach Drive is very poor. It has been brought up to specifications by the developer. He stated there is a culvert across the road, which runs under Beach Drive. He brought to the attention of the Commissioners that there are five (5) waterfront properties here, and the owners pay very high taxes. Mr. Bond stated that Beach Court is not in the County System at the present time. Mr. Bond and Mr. Wagener are to look into this.

Mr. Benson inquired as to what authority the County Commissioners have to make certain that the lot holders have roads. The developer was to construct the roads to County specifications and then convey them to the County. He asked if there was any way that the County has the right to make sure that the work is done. Mr. Bowles informed him that the developer is required to post a bond.

Mr. Terry inquired if there was any way for the Commissioners to pressure the developer to improve these roads. The question was asked if the developer owned any lots, and Mr. Terry replied he still owned a few. They were informed that if the developer had not complied with the requirements in 1950, then the Commissioners could take a lien against the property he still owned. Mr. Wigginton told them that it is private property until the County takes over the roadbed.

Mr. Benson requested that Mr. Wagener visit them about some of the surfaced roads that are in very bad condition. He felt they were hazardous for the fire trucks and ambulances to travel over.

Mr. Benson also inquired about resurfacing Golden Beach Road down to Golden Beach, which is about 3-1/2 or 4 miles. Mr. Aud stated that the money they now have has been allocated to high priority roads. Some of the new tax money will be returned to the County, and St. Mary's County will receive a reasonable sum of money. He informed Mr. Benson that the Commissioners will ride over and see what can be done.

In conclusion, Mr. Benson stated he hoped that the Mosquito Control will be automatic as in the past, and also informed the Commissioners that the community was attempting to buy the responsibility to maintain the beaches. They have two bathing beaches and two marinas - "long Point", which has just been assigned to the Community by covenant. Each property owner is assessed \$28.00 per year, which brings in a revenue of \$22,000 to \$28,000, annually. They thanked the Commissioners for the courtesy of having met with them.

#### Rogers and Vaeth, Architects and Planners

Mr. Edward Q. Rogers of the partnership of Rogers & Vaeth, Architects and Planners met with the Board of County Commissioners to introduce his company. He presented each Commissioner with a brochure containing photographs of completed projects in various cities and counties. The firm started in 1958 and it has been built up to the point where they now have fifteen (15) men, which he feels is a good office. There are four (4) registered architects, two with masters degrees.

The firm erected the shower buildings at Point Lookout State Park and also started on the Fine Arts Building at St. Mary's College, St. Mary's City, Maryland.

The Commissioners made inquiries on several technical points including square foot prices and percentages, and buildings for local Boards of Education.

Mr. Rogers stated he hoped he would be able to have the opportunity to do some work for the St. Mary's County.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

*George R. Aud*

George R. Aud  
President