

Board of County Commissioners' Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 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)

Meeting Came to Order at 10:15 A.M.

Communication from County Engineer

The County Commissioners considered the letter received from Mr. August H. Wagener, County Engineer, with regard to his continuance on duty to August 1. After August 1, 1972 he requested a one-year contract, renewable within Sixty (60) days before expiration. The work week would consist of two (2) days per week at a salary of \$10,000 per annum, plus mileage at 12¢ per mile, to and from his home at Cape St. Claire in Anne Arundel County, plus motel bills for overnight stays and necessary incidentals and expenses for business trips to Baltimore City, Annapolis or other localities necessary for St. Mary's County business.

The County Commissioners requested that he be notified that he will be continued in employment until August 1, 1972. No action on the other matter of requested employment was taken.

Maypole Road

The County Commissioners discussed the condition of Maypole Road. During this discussion it was determined that it was just necessary to have a center-line survey made, which is in accordance with the letter submitted by Mr. August H. Wagener, County Engineer.

Salaries for Uncompensated Members
 of Metropolitan Commission

Present: Admiral Thurston B. Clark
 Mr. Lewis C. Merchant

The Board of County Commissioners received communications from the Metropolitan Commission, including a Resolution adopted by said Commission requesting approval of payment to all uncompensated members of the Commission serving from November 12, 1965 to July 1, 1969. The request for this payment was based on the Code of Public Local Laws for St. Mary's County, Article 157, Section (c).

There was a lengthy discussion on this matter between the County Commissioners, Admiral Thurston B. Clark and Mr. Lewis C. Merchant of the Metropolitan Commission. The County Commissioners suggested to them that the request should be revised to include the years 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73, which they consented to do. The above referred to compensation was to be made from funds of the Metropolitan Commission and not County funds.

Bills Approved

Vouchers #1878-#1911 were approved and signed by Mr. George R. Aud.

St. Andrews Landfill Vacancy

Mr. Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer, submitted the names of the persons eligible for employment at the St. Andrews Landfill. These persons were interviewed and recommended by Mr. J. Dennis Raley. The names and ratings are as follows:

Mr. Aubrey Knott	90%
Mr. Charles S. Bowles	75%
Mr. Robert Mattingly	90%

Mr. Raley reported that in interviewing the applicants, it was determined that Mr. Charles Bowles does not have a great deal of experience on equipment. Mr. Robert Mattingly is an Equipment Operator, now making \$5.50 an hour. Mr. Aubrey Knott is now working for Mr. Walter Wise.

Mr. J. Dennis Raley, Jr., recommended either Mr. Mattingly or Mr. Knott, but felt that Mr. Mattingly would not drop down to the salary paid by the County. The County Commissioners, therefore, recommended hiring Mr. Knott.

Vacancy in Sheriff's Department

Mr. Paul Raley notified the County Commissioners that there would be a vacancy in the Sheriff's Department as of May 1, 1972 for a stenographer as Mrs. Donna Norris would be leaving. There is one applicant on the register, Mrs. Katherine Guy Mattingly. She was interviewed and rated high on the list. Sheriff Williams recommended that she be hired. The Commissioners approved the recommendation.

Bond Issue for Metropolitan Commission

Present: Admiral Thurston B. Clark, Director
Mr. Lewis C. Merchant, Chairman

Admiral Clark and Mr. Merchant met with the County Commissioners with reference to a small bond issue. Mr. Merchant read a letter pertaining to this request and stated that they have received both of their grants from the State and Federal Governments. Some of the bond issue is specifically ear-marked for sewer and sewerage treatment. In purchasing the Water

Company there were no monies left for adding on other facilities, except out of operating funds. The water system is more deplorable than the sewerage situation. Over a period of time the Commissioners have heard of lack of pressure in the lines. The water is dreadful as far as supply is concerned. They cannot do a short distance to supply a customer as they do not have the money to extend the lines.

Part of the Metropolitan Commission suit has been decided by the Court of Appeals and their counsel says they hope to have the Judge take out that part of the suit relating to Center Gardens since a decision has been made on same. They have approached Mr. Edward Clarke about a bond issue that cannot be placed locally.

Admiral Clark stated that Mr. John Little of the David M. Gruber & Company and Mr. Edward Clarke told them that issuance of a bond was the only way they could do it legally. It would be a bond anticipation note and they would have to have the endorsement of the County Commissioners. They cannot ask Mr. Clarke to render his opinion until the County Commissioners approve it. The amount is \$150,000. The \$150,000 can be authorized and issued as needed. It is up to the Metropolitan Commission to find the people who will take it. This would be a five-year note, but it would be redeemable at such time as the suit would be cleared and revenue bonds could be sold.

They have to attempt to sell bonds in order to get the loan from HUD, but as long as the suit is pending, they cannot get the money from HUD, which is \$350,000. HUD came back with a rather impossible stipulation from the General Counsel. If they could certify that the suit was without merit, they would lend them the money. As soon as the suit is cleared up, they would anticipate getting the loan and the bond issue could be paid off.

Admiral Clark further stated that they are now in a position where they cannot stand still. They cannot talk to people unless they have some money. The water is really the more important of the two utilities.

It was moved by Mr. Aud and seconded by Mr. Guy that they authorize the bond issue. Mr. Bowles disqualified himself.

Mr. Aud then asked about the request for approval for payment of salaries to uncompensated members.

Admiral Clark stated he had been paying the salaries until one day one of the Commissioners of the Metropolitan Commission, questioned the payment. He asked for the authority to pay the salaries. Admiral Clark further stated he had assumed that the County Commissioners had authorized the payment of salaries. This was the first time he had any money, and now he needs the approval of the payment of the salaries for 1969-70 and from then on.

Mr. Lewis C. Merchant gave an explanation of the salaries for the Commissioners of the Metropolitan Commission. When Mr. Burch gave them the authority there were no funds to pay the Commissioners. Mr. Burch told them when they have funds you are authorized to pay.

Mr. Bowles explained that the letter submitted by them does not cover the ensuing years, only the years 1969-70. They will have to send a letter requesting authority to pay salaries and also a letter for payment of back salaries.

The request was complied with by submitting an additional letter for payment of salaries for the years 1969-70 and to be continued thereafter.

The Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the requests and the letters were signed by Mr. George R. Aud.

The period from 1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. was devoted to working on the Proposed Budget.

Educational Association of St. Mary's County

Present: Mr. Charles K. Purcell, Md. Education Association
 Mr. John Cross, Pres., Educ. Assn. of St. Mary's Co.
 Mr. William Glatzbach
 Mr. Edward Fitzgerald
 Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance
 Mr. William Donaldson, Consultant
 Mr. John Little, David M. Gruber & Co.

Mr. Charles K. Purcell was the spokesman for the group. He stated they wanted to come in and talk with the County Commissioners.

They are interested in education and in the boys and girls. They want to hear from the Commissioners what is happening, and it may be they can come up with some assistance.

They are not financial experts, but will try to give enough to at least be able to talk and get a picture of how the budget looks. Right now there is only talk of what can or cannot be cut until the County Commissioners have made some decision.

He stated that they have programs now to the point where the children can get into West Point and the other good schools. Their concern is the system itself, and the kids they are supposed to be educating, and not any battles that are existing otherwise.

Mr. Aud stated he did not know of any information they could give at this point. The purpose of the Public Hearings is to see what recommendations they may come up with.

Mr. Purcell stated that that is what they are doing, attempting to get as many people out as possible.

He further stated that the teachers feel the County Commissioners have a job to do with the budget as far as checking out

figures where other departments are concerned, and they feel that is the thing they should be doing, but on the other hand, they do not feel the Commissioners should penalize education. Mistrust creates problems for all concerned. Their real concern is that they get enough money to operate the system.

Mr. Aud stated that the County Commissioners are concerned as to what the tax base can pay. The pertinent thing about this particular budget is the Federal Government tells you what they can do and we cannot afford to make up the decreases.

Mr. Purcell told the Commissioners they never know what the Government is going to do. The Beer Tax will bring a little down this way.

Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance, informed them that this figure had been reduced, even if the Governor signed the bill.

Mr. John Little of David M. Gruber & Co. asked if their main problem was not P.L. 874 funds.

Mr. J. S. Guy, Jr. stated that he was informed that the Navy personnel should contact their Congressmen and Senators from their home states, as they are guaranteed a good education wherever they are sent, for their children.

Mr. Edward Fitzgerald informed the Commissioners that is what they are trying to do with the people on the Base. The power is with the Executive Branch.

Mr. Purcell said there are quite a few Navy wives who work as teachers in the County.

Mr. Guy told them that it is not the County that is not meeting its responsibilities, it is the Federal Government.

Mr. Purcell said they did not feel that the County Commissioners were the responsible persons.

Mr. Guy felt this was untrue, due to the fact that all actions were directed against the County Commissioners.

Mr. Bowles was of the same opinion, remarking that many unkind things had been directed against the County Commissioners. He further stated that the Commissioners have not made a decision as to where the Board of Education should cut their budget, and many things that have been said do not cause one to be in sympathy with anyone. People react in this manner because of some false information or some type of pressure campaign. The County Commissioners have bent over backwards to be good to the Board of Education, and he did not think they deserved this type of treatment.

Mr. Fitzgerald admitted that they were running a telephone campaign and also putting out handbills advising everyone to be careful, but had no intent in putting pressure on the County Commissioners.

Mr. Cross stated that their main concern is when the budget is cut they begin to wonder about going instructional programs. Can the County Commissioners provide the funds for a going instructional program in St. Mary's County.

Mr. Bowles told Mr. Cross in his statement he was asking can the County make up the loss of State and Federal funds.

Mr. Cross felt he could answer in part. The County Commissioners have always made a good commitment towards education, and we must have a realistic figure to run the instructional system. He quoted such avenues of revenue as Contingency Fund, and an under estimation in areas of Alcoholic Beverages and Time Deposits. He emphasized that he was not saying that these monies are coming in, but from an educational point of view the budget of the Board of Education is a realistic one, and is minimal in all areas.

Mr. George R. Aud inquired if Mr. Cross was a Principal, and how much time did he put in in teaching.

Mr. Cross informed him that if he was going to meet his responsibilities, he could not put in very much time. He stated somebody has to teach the teachers, as some do not have the background for teaching - somebody has to supervise them. He asserted that maybe Mr. Aud had a good point, maybe the Principal should be in the classroom.

There was further discussion along this line regarding class sizes and the number of professionals per 1,000 pupils, which averaged out to 53.6

Mr. Purcell stated that we really are not too bad off in our tax rate. We are about 20.5 in the State, and we are not suffering here in St. Mary's County as badly as one may think.

Mr. Sterling brought up the matter of investments, and stated they do have a small amount invested, which is making a little money, and they want to keep it invested.

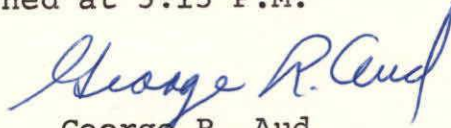
Mr. Bowles informed the group that there are a number of persons who are unable to pay increased taxes. So, rather than raise the tax rate an additional \$1.00, the increased delinquency in tax collections would likely cause the rate to be \$1.25.

Mr. Sterling mentioned the persons who are 65 years of age and older, who are getting a reduction in their taxes, and this figure is increasing every year.

The Commissioners informed them that they should know more about the facts.

The group thanked the Commissioners for having met with them.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

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

George R. Aud
President