

Board of County Commissioners' Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 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 9:40 A.M.

Board of Education Budget

Present: Dr. Robert E. King, Jr., Supt. of Schools
 Mr. Theodore Hewitt, Member
 Mr. Harry Ocker, Pres. of Board of Education
 Mr. B. Kennedy Abell, Member
 Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance
 Mr. John Little, David M. Gruber & Co.

Mr. Ocker stated he was not particularly happy about the way the meeting turned out the other night (Budget Hearing), and hope that the County Commissioners will not hold it against them. There is a feeling in the County that education needs to be supported, and that the Commissioners will find some way of supporting them; in some way other than the way it looks right now. Education is costly.

Dr. King stated that we all would hope that this year coming up will be the worse year that we will ever face. From what he hears, Governor Mandel will come up with a new formula or some type of relief. It seems the public in voting on the school construction bond issue knew that it would mean a tax raise, and if they were told now that it would mean a tax raise for just a year, do you think it would tear down everything in the County?

Mr. Aud stated that he had talked with a lot of people this week and some are on the verge of retiring, or have retired, and they say they are just making it now. If we do this to them we would be just loaded with tax bills. They just can't afford it now. We have about 1,200 people everyday who go out of the County to go to work. You can hardly get a job in the County now. The expense of driving for these people is terrific.

The discussion led to a comparison of per pupil costs for other Counties, and it was found that St. Mary's County could match anything in the State as far as facilities.

Mr. Aud informed them that he had heard that books were laying around.

Mr. Ocker stated he had run down these complaints and found some of them are not justified.

Mr. Abell stated that it appeared that the County Commissioners wanted to sit down and negotiate with the Board of Education. When he got the word of the \$400,000 he thought that was good, but when he found there were some stipulations, he felt there was no need to quit.

Mr. Little stated that after the hearing, he requested the County Commissioners to meet the next day in order to try to come up with some answers. He suggested the Commissioners meet and determine the maximum number of dollars that could be given to the Board of Education. In reviewing the entire budget, with the cuts, and the \$200,000 that they can put in, and determining how much more they can put in, it should be determined where these dollars should be placed. Once the total funds were available, and he had the Federal guidelines, then meet and determine where would be the best place to put the money that you did have. After his comments, they would then make the decision. It would indicate no cuts in kindergarten and no cuts in instructional matters. The Commissioners have gone through this process of determining how much money is available.

Mr. Ocker stated that the only thing they could do was to ask the County Commissioners to find them more money.

Mr. Guy informed them that the Budget figure now is it, and everyone should establish some relationship as to where this Budget cut can work.

Dr. King stated that it was not that simple, due to the teachers' salaries and the two-year contract with the State.

Mr. Ocker agreed there would be no cuts in the kindergarten program.

Mr. Bowles felt it would be best for the two agencies to have an understanding just where the cuts would be.

Mr. Ocker stated they would work with Mr. Little on the figures received Friday.

Mr. Little said he would work with them and then bring it back to the County Commissioners.

Council of PTA

Present: Captain George Haliscak, PTA
 Mr. Charles K. Purcell, Md. Education Assn.
 Mr. John Cross, Teachers Assn. of St. Mary's Co.
 Mr. John Little, David M. Gruber & Co.

Captain Haliscak stated he was concerned because he heard about the cut. Initially it was \$1,560,000 and he understood

Saturday morning it was down to \$1,200,000.

Mr. Aud stated they added on where the State and Federal Governments had decreased. He further stated he didn't appreciate the Navy's attitude toward the County regarding the cuts. They didn't write to their Congressmen to increase the P.L. 874 Funds.

Captain Haliscak said he was not representing the Navy or the Federal Government, but was representing the County PTA. The thing he is concerned about is the overall school system. He felt they did not have in the County the opportunity that should be provided to all the children of the County when you talk about a budget of \$10,000,000 plus and the recommended appropriation by the County is for \$2,400,000 out of \$10,000,000.

Mr. Bowles informed him that the County contributed \$2,483,000 to the Board of Education last year. The local fund request for this year was \$4,237,173.00.

Mr. Aud stated they have generally decided what they can afford. They don't have the money and don't know where it is coming from. There are a lot of retired people in the County who cannot afford an increased tax rate.

The Commissioners explained that local costs of education must be related to something, and that is the assessable base. If taxes are to be increased, that is the only place. There are about 13,000 persons paying taxes, and they are bearing the burden. Some of them own more than one piece of property, so you can figure on 12,500 people paying all of the real estate taxes.

They further explained that St. Mary's County, by law, must establish their budget by May 1st. Then the other Counties increase their budgets about \$200 more than St. Mary's. Also, Charles and Calvert Counties have a greater tax base than St. Mary's County. It is an economic problem with the entire County.

Mr. Aud informed them that Mr. John Little of David M. Gruber & Company is working with the Board of Education and they would like him to work with the Teachers' Association also.

Mr. Purcell inquired if the Commissioners had made any specific recommendations themselves. They stated they had, but were affording the Board of Education the opportunity to make recommendations.

Mr. Purcell stated that the Board of Education has an obligation to the Teachers' Association, which affects the County Commissioners, also.

Youth Service Bureau Programs

Present: Mr. Frank D. Mudd, Director
 Dr. Robert M. Friedman, Dir., Clinical Services

Mr. Mudd and Dr. Friedman appeared before the County Commissioners to present an overview of the organizations' programs as of February 1, 1972.

A copy of the report is on file, which includes a list of regular paid staff, volunteer staff, Evaluation & Counseling Service, Field Office Operations, Big Brother Program, Correctional Camp Counseling Program and G.E.D. Program.

Mr. Mudd stated that they would like to initiate a grant for a new program, which is a Group Home. This type of a living situation is also explained in a report which is on file. In short, it is a residence in which a group of young people, having the same problems will live in a family type setting. There would be house parents to render supervision and guidance. He requested the support of the County Commissioners for this new program, and that it be placed in their budget for next year.

Mr. Aud asked to be kept informed, as he was on the Governor's Committee for Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice.

Mr. Guy inquired if they were effective now. Dr. Friedman explained that the Group Homes were too new, and they just do not have the statistics, but the Group Homes on the Eastern Shore have tremendous support.

Mr. Mudd and Dr. Friedman thanked the Commissioners for permitting them to present their program.

Transportation for Leonard Hall Students

Present: Mr. Hugh Allston

Mr. Allston, who is on the Bus Transportation Committee for Leonard Hall School, appeared before the County Commissioners to request transportation for the children attending the school. He asked if it would be possible for them to ride the school buses that belong to St. Mary's County.

Inquiry was made if they would all be from St. Mary's County. Mr. Allston stated some may come from Charles County. He further stated the law says private school children can ride public school buses.

The Commissioners were of the opinion that a letter should be directed to Mr. Schrader at the Board of Education, stating the law and specifically mentioning Leonard Hall School students.

Mr. Aud assured Mr. Allston that the Commissioners would do their part.

Bills Approved

David M. Gruber & Co. - 3rd Qtr.		\$2,250.00
Delahay's Pile Driving Service:		
Tall Timbers Erosion District		
Work Completed	\$1,364.00	
" "	<u>1,620.00</u>	\$2,984.00
Thomas E. Down, Inc. - Labor &		
Material on brick wall around		
Jail		\$6,075.00

Assessors Aide Position

The Commissioners requested the names of persons sent to the State Assessors Office. It was felt that the position should have been advertised and applications accepted and a test administered.

Mr. Herbert was requested to come into the meeting. He explained they had complied with the law. They are required to send three to five names to the State Assessors Office. In turn, the State Office notifies the applicants when and where to appear for an interview. They are rated and the names and grades are sent to the County Commissioners for selection. The position is under the Merit System as far as the Assessors Office is under it, and the position will be the same grade as other Assessors Aides.

Mr. Bowles stated that they would be in violation of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act if they did not advertise the position.

Mr. Herbert stated the law, as far as the Assessors are concerned, has not been changed.

The Commissioners requested that Mr. Riley be notified that the interviews will not be held on May 8th, and the position would be advertised.

Tall Timbers Erosion Tax

Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance, informed the Commissioners that the Tall Timbers Assessment at \$1.25 would bring in \$4,565.00, at \$2.00, \$7,305.00 and at \$2.50, \$9,131.00. The Commissioners agreed on the \$2.00 Tax Rate. There are 39 taxpayers at Tall Timbers.

Mr. Bowles made inquiry about the Erosion Project where you can borrow money up to \$20,000, interest free. Mr. Louis

Phipps had suggested the Commissioners apply for it.

Mr. Aud requested Mr. Sterling to talk with Mr. Phipps to see what can be done.

Board of Education Budget

Mr. John Little reported back to the Commissioners on his meeting with the Board of Education. They have a problem as to where these cuts should be. Mr. Little stated he would make up a general outline as to what his report would be to the Commissioners and this would give both groups an opportunity to comment.

Mr. Little stated the Commissioners have fifteen (15) days after the adoption of the budget to say where the cuts will be. If it was not needed to decide the budget until Monday, he would be back and call Mr. Purcell and meet with him. If it gets to the point of not wanting to agree to certain specific cuts, then the money will be put into the Contingency Fund. They have to give notice to the teachers by Monday, May 1, 1972.

St. Mary's Nursing Home Addition

Present: Mrs. Virginia B. Thomas, Administrator
Mr. Adrian, Architect
Mrs. Nancy Burch
Mr. G. I. Rupert Lore, Board Member

Mrs. Thomas informed the County Commissioners that the purpose of the meeting was to get the clarification of the form being used by the Architect.

Mr. Lore reported that with the help of everybody, it looks like they will be able to get an addition to the Nursing Home. Dr. Weiser, the Medical Director could not be present.

Copies of the Architect's Contract were distributed.

Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney, inquired if there were certain items that might mean increased costs, and that everybody should be aware of what is going on. He further inquired if there was anything that might have to be done that will call for compensation outside of the basic fees.

Mr. Adrian replied there were none that he knew of unless it would be the four (4) items at the bottom of the page that he felt would cause any expense. The first two are necessary, the third is not, and the fourth is inevitable. It can amount to \$400 or \$500. For Calvert Nursing Home they had eight (8) or maybe ten (10) bidders. This is strictly a cost item and has nothing to do with his fee. The bill from the Blue Printer he turns over to the County Commissioners. He will provide as many as the Board would like to view at each stage of the drawing. At the completion of the plans and specifications, he

would provide three (3) or four (4) sets to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Bowles inquired if these three (3) or four (4) sets would be included in his fee, or whether they would be extra.

Mr. Adrian suggested they read paragraph 3.5, or Article 5. Two (2) sets come with the package. A bidder would like at least three (3).

Mr. Wigginton asked if it didn't require a deposit, and Mr. Bowles inquired as to cost.

Mr. Adrian replied \$12.00 a set and the costs would be about \$250 to cover the product. You could take a deposit. The successful bidder might want a number of sets for his contractors. The deposit is returned to the successful bidder. You may return the deposit to the others if sets are returned in proper order. If sets are returned, then there will not be any money to turn over to the Commissioners. Article I, Section 1.31 "More General Conditions of the Contract".

Mr. Adrian suggested that the successful bidder buy sets. The cost per set depends upon the number of pages. It runs between \$12 and \$15 for a set of prints and specifications. The cost per set will not be refundable.

Article 13 is to be changed to read "Maryland".

The Contract was then gone over very carefully, Article for Article. Pertinent questions were asked at various stages. The Architect was asked if he approved bills before they were paid. He stated he does not certify for payment unless the work is up to standard. The architect has no power over the builder.

Attorney Wigginton asked if he put a penalty clause in his Contract, to which he replied, the Owner puts one in. He stated he would be submitting to them the Standard AIA Contract between the Owners and the Builder. He is on hand for inspection and makes known to the owners if the builder is not working according to plans and specifications. Most contractors are at the mercy of their sub-contractors.

He stated his practice is to hold 10% on each payroll. If everybody is happy, he cuts down to 5%. Holds nothing after one-half fulfillment of contract. AIA contracts have changed. They used to supervise. They do not any more. They observe. What he has done he must supervise. It varies with the job. Throughout construction there is not only many inspections, but the builder has to submit samples and affidavits to the owner that things are in accordance with plans and specifications.

In answer to cost, he stated he had done nothing on it. For Calvert and a Nursing Home in Virginia, he gave a cost price of \$350,000. Calvert's is in operation now. He requires a Bid Bond and a Completion Bond.

If more representation is required than that in the contract the owners will have to hire a Project Representative. Mr. Bowles stated that for the schools the Board of Education has a man to do it, but for this project the County would be required to employ someone for this, which would require additional expense.

Mr. Adrian stated there is a difference in an Architect's observation on the job and the full-time representation on this job. If the owners wanted 8-4 observation, then they would have to hire a man.

The question was asked of Mr. Adrian if they have to rebid, are they subject to the \$25.00 a day. Mr. Adrian replied in the affirmative.

In the final discussion of Architect fees and percentages, Mr. Adrian informed them that if they were building a new Nursing Home the fee would come down.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.



George R. Aud
President