

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 1973 and Wednesday February 14, 1973

Tuesday, February 13, 1973

Present: Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles, President
Commissioner George R. Aud
Commissioner J. S. Guy, Jr.
Paul Raley, Administrative Officer
Judith A. Mullins, Recording Secretary

Also present were Jack Kershaw, Enterprise; Dave Fox, WPTX; Dick Myers, WKIK; Patty Muchow, Beacon.

READING OF MINUTES

The draft of the minutes of January 23 were read and corrections made.

WATERSHED PROJECT - SITE 1

Present: Mr. Joseph Weiner, County Attorney

Commissioner Aud made a motion to give approval to Mr. Weiner, County Attorney, to file condemnation suit against the heirs of Thomas Jones, who are Ethel Dorsey of Randallstown, Maryland and Mary S. Jones, address unknown. Commissioner Guy seconded the motion. Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

Commissioner Bowles stated he went with John Hall from Soil Conservation Service on Monday, February 12 to Mr. Allen Owens property and walked the property as had been staked out by the Soil Conservation Service. Commissioner Bowles stated Mr. Owens discussed with them the loss of the natural water for his livestock, loss of tillable land, gravel pit on the westerly side of the property and the need to relocate his fencing. Mr. Owens is very unhappy that the Soil Conservation Service agreed to a small piece of land and now they want more land. Mr. Owens does not wish to sell his property at any price, but he would give the request every consideration and will give the Commissioners an answer this week. Mr. Edward Swecker from the County Extension Office, who works with farmers, is to meet with Mr. Owens and see if he could assist him in any way to find means for him to provide water for his livestock since that area is within the take line and he would no longer have the use of the water area.

Commissioner Bowles stated that he had explained to Mr. Owens that there is a deadline for this project which is the end of February, and that his refusal could jeopardize this project.

Commissioner Bowles requested Mr. Weiner to develop the deed as soon as the description is available and make settlement with Mr. Owens.

HARRY LUNDEBERG SCHOOL OF SEAMANSHIP

Present: Mr. Joseph D. Weiner, County Attorney

Mr. Weiner stated that he has not received a reply from the Attorney General concerning the back personal property taxes from the Harry Lundeborg School. Mr. Ward, Director of the State Department of Assessments is of the opinion that suit for the 1968 personal property taxes should have been filed in 1972. Mr. Robert Wigginton, County Attorney at the time, did not file suit. Mr. Weiner stated that the Certificate did not come until 1969 and he questioned whether the Statute of Limitations started from 1968 or from 1969.

Mr. Weiner was of the opinion that suit should be filed. Commissioner Guy inquired as to the cost of filing suit. Mr. Weiner stated that the cost would be around \$200 but if the suit is in our favor and an appeal is requested and we lose the appeal, the cost would be approximately \$2,000.

Commissioner Bowles stated everything should be done to collect the money for the County.

Commissioner Guy made the motion for Mr. Weiner to file suit against Harry Lundeborg School for the collection of the 1968-1969 personal property taxes. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Commissioner Aud made it unanimous.

ASSESSMENT APPEAL REQUEST - RUDOLPH J. BALIKO

Mr. Rudolph Baliko submitted his application for an assessment appeal hearing. The hearing was set for February 21, 1973 at 3:30 p.m.

ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Present: Mr. William F. Herbert, Supervisor of Assessments
Mr. William Lawrence, Assessor

Commissioner Bowles asked Mr. Herbert what type of notice is sent to the property owners concerning assessment appeals. Mr. Herbert stated that when the final notice is sent, the taxpayer is given 30 days to appeal their assessment to the County Commissioners. However, this 30 day time limit is on the assessment appeal application which the person desiring a hearing does not receive until he requests a hearing from the Commissioners. To avoid any misunderstanding in the future as to the time limit it was decided that the Assessment Office would state on the final notice of assessment, the application forms are available in the County Commissioners Office.

BLUE RIBBON TRAILER COMMITTEE

Present: Joseph D. Weiner, County Attorney

Commissioner Bowles explained to Mr. Weiner that the Blue Ribbon Trailer Committee had met with the County Commissioners and the Committee gave their report. The Committee would like to meet with the Planning Commission and the legislative delegation concerning this report. A letter was received from Daniel Donnelly of Cooperative Extension Service asking what legislation is necessary in order to implement some of their recommendations. Commissioner Bowles requested Mr. Weiner to review the letter for that purpose to see what legal authority is needed.

SHOTGUN OWNED BY DEPUTY JOHN CHANCE

Paul Raley showed the shotgun owned by Deputy John Chance used during the shooting between himself and Bruce Henderson Shreeves on Saturday, January 27 in which the shotgun was damaged and according to Burl's Gun Shop, it cannot be repaired. Paul Raley stated that Deputy Chance requested reimbursement for the shotgun which is his own personal gun in the amount of \$80. His 357 magnum which he also personally owns was damaged, specifically the sights, at a cost of \$15 to have repaired. Deputy Chance had told Paul Raley that he has not been issued firearms from the Sheriff's Department. Paul Raley said a statement should be received from Burl's Gun Shop that the shotgun cannot be repaired.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Present: Harris Sterling

Commissioner Bowles requested Harris Sterling to determine how much was appropriated for the Sheriff's Department and to itemize in categories the use of money in the budget and the balances remaining as of approximately this date.

SALE OF RAILROAD TRACKS

Paul Raley stated that he wrote a letter to General Services Administration requesting approval for the removal of the rest of the railroad tracks and ties. Mr. Raley said he spoke with Mr. Lazer of GSA, and GSA would not answer this request unless he knew how much money would be received and what it would be used for. Mr. Raley said he explained to Mr. Lazer that this was not known because the tracks and ties would have to be put out on bids. As to how this money would be used, Mr. Raley explained to him that it would be for the maintenance and improvement of the railroad right-of-way. Mr. Lazer thought the money received from the sale would be more than enough for maintenance and improvement. Commissioner Guy asked Paul Raley how many miles of track remained to be taken up. Mr. Raley thought about 30 miles. Commissioner Guy suggested that Paul Raley develop information for GSA explaining our intended use for the money received. Commissioner Bowles stated the maintenance and improvement would be also for many years to come. We must give GSA a guarantee that the money would be used for this purpose only.

VACANCIES ON BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Commissioner Bowles stated a letter was received from the Department of Employment and Social Services approving names for submission to the County Commissioners for the two vacancies on the St. Mary's County Board of Social Services. Commissioner Bowles made a motion to appoint Rev. Daniel Stone of Lexington Park and M's Mary Helen Woodland of Mechanicsville to the Board of Social Services. Commissioner Guy seconded the motion, and Commissioner Aud made it unanimous. Paul Raley is to notify Joseph D. Carter, Director of St. Mary's County Department of Social Services of said appointments.

CORRESPONDENCE PRESENTED BY PAUL RALEY, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Letter of February 2 from George B. Reeves, Chairman of Sediment Control Task Force enclosing minutes of their meeting of January 23 in which they wished to recommend to the County Commissioners that the Committee reconvene next year to give the program a final evaluation. Commissioner Bowles stated a letter should be written to Planning Commission calling their attention to the Committee's recommendations and attaching a copy of the minutes to said letter. John Norris, Assistant County Engineer, entered the meeting at this time and Commissioner Bowles asked him if this was a final report of the Committee and if they complied with the law. Mr. Norris said he would reply at a later date.

2. Letter from Carl M. Franklin, Director of Morgan State College, Minority Business Enterprise Project stating the Minority Business Enterprise Project was organized for the purpose of increasing minority ownership of business enterprises. Mr. Franklin requested the Commissioners to advise small business people in the community who might benefit from these services to contact MBEP. Commissioner Guy stated that William C. Welch of Tri-County Community Action Committee had a list of eligibles. Commissioner Bowles advised Paul Raley to write to Morgan State College stating a list is available from TCCAC and to send a copy of said letter to Mr. Welch.

3. A Summons for the County Commissioners was received in connection with the Assessment Appeal Hearing to Maryland Tax Court of Fay Rathbone.

BILL FROM COLVIN, BURROUGHS AND COOKE

Commissioner Guy made a motion to approve the bill from Colvin, Burroughs and Cooke in the amount of \$280 for audit in the Case of State vs. Travis. Commissioner Aud seconded the motion. Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

ST. ANDREWS ESTATES PLAYGROUND

Paul Raley stated the Deed had been approved for the property the St. Andrews Estates Citizens Association deeded to the County Commissioners. There are taxes due in the amount of \$115.97. Commissioner Bowles said the tax is the obligation of the seller. Commissioner Guy stated that John Baggett, Director of Recreation and Parks has to submit the application to the Federal Government before recording. Commissioner Bowles stated the taxes and title have to be brought up to date as of date of recording.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL ACT

Paul Raley stated Mr. Weiner had reviewed the application regarding a classified employees system and it seemed in order. Commissioner Bowles requested Paul Raley to review the application with Harris Sterling, Finance Director to determine there would be no cost or other obligation to St. Mary's County.

RIGHT OF WAYS FOR ST. ANDREWS CHURCH ROAD

Present: John Norris, Assistant County Engineer

Mr. Norris stated he had met with the vestry of the St. Andrews Church concerning the property needed for the right of way on St. Andrews Church Road. The plan presented to the Church would cut the amount of land taken from them in half, reducing it approximately 6,000 feet. By decreasing the amount of property taken from the Church, this would have some effect on other property owners in the area; namely, Claude A. Johnson, William H. Patrick, Harry B. Abell, James W. Mattingly and James J. Hastings. Mr. Norris stated the Church would still not accept this offer. Mr. Norris stated a survey was being made to make a last attempt to relocate the right of way so it would minimize the effect on the Church property and then see if Mr. Al Tate, District Engineer, would approve it. This would mean taking considerable more land from Mr. Claude A. Johnson.

Commissioner Guy stated the Church may have been declared a National Historical site and, therefore, we might not have any condemnation rights to the property.

Mr. Charles H. Clements will not agree to selling his property unless the Church does likewise.

Commissioner Bowles asked Mr. Norris about a two-section contract instead of a one-section contract taking the area from St. Andrews Church to Route 235 and St. Andrews Church Road to the point of beginning of the portion of the road that was reconstructed a couple of years ago. Commissioner Bowles said this would give us time to work out a solution for this problem. Mr. Norris said he would get an answer by tomorrow on this.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - LEXINGTON PARK

Present: John Norris, Assistant County Engineer

Mr. Norris requested approval of spending \$135 to have the National Home Inspection Service make a written evaluation report on the Health Department building located in Lexington Park. This evaluation would be on construction, electricity, heating, etc. Commissioner Guy made a motion that we authorize John Norris to expend this money for this purpose. Commissioner Aud seconded the motion and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BOARD

Present: John Norris, Assistant County Engineer

Mr. Norris asked the Commissioners to relocate the Alcoholic Beverage Board and its secretary from the Engineer's Office to the outer office of the Register of Wills. Commissioner Guy stated that some of the records of the Alcoholic Beverage Board are confidential and the Register of Wills Office would not be the best location. Commissioner Guy stated it was time the County started renting office space outside the Courthouse.

DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS

Commissioner Bowles said a letter was received from the Department of Health regarding the disposal of dead animals of all sizes. The Health Department wishes to know if there is an available method the County or State Roads Administration uses for the handling of this problem. Paul Raley stated that dead dogs are handled by the State Roads but he will get in touch with the State Health Department and other counties to see what can be done about this problem.

TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Guy stated he talked with Mr. William Welch of Tri-County Community Action Committee. Mr. Welch was concerned about the loss of funding this year and the Committee will be making a presentation to the Commissioners of the three counties. The estimated loss of funding will be \$127,000. The Committee anticipates requesting \$40,000 to \$50,000 of revenue sharing funds from St. Mary's County.

CONFISCATED CARS

Present: Harris Sterling, Finance Director

Paul Raley stated he had sent applications for title to the Motor Vehicle Administration on the three following vehicles: 1972 Dodge Van (owned by Jessmore), 1967 Ford Club Wagon (owned by Lester Kraft), 1967 Volkswagon (owned by Maruca). As of this date no titles have been received. Mr. Raley said he wrote to the MVA and they ran a check and on

Friday Mr. Raley received a call stating the applications were never received. Commissioner Bowles said it would be worth a trip to Glen Burnie to find out what had happened to the applications. Commissioner Guy said for Paul Raley to verify by telephone if they were received and Mr. Raley is to check to see if the cancelled check had been returned.

Mr. Sterling stated that during the period of July 1, 1971 to January 31, 1973 \$1100.63 had been spent on confiscated cars which would include advertisements, in pection fees and titles. \$170 was taken in as of January 31, 1973.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Present: Harris Sterling, Finance Director

Mr. Sterling presented the information concerning the Sheriff's Department Budget requested by Commissioner Bowles earlier in the day.

<u>SALARIES</u>		<u>OTHER EXPENSES</u>		<u>AUTO EXPENSES</u>	
Budgeted	\$150,399.00	Budgeted	\$7,300.00	Budgeted	\$53,200.00
Expended	<u>98,759.74</u>	Expended	<u>6,706.97</u>	Expended	<u>40,355.90</u>
Balance	\$ 51,639.26	Balance	\$ 593.03	Balance	\$12,844.10

LETTER FROM JOURNALIST ASSOCIATION

Paul Raley stated a letter from the Journalist Association was received. Commissioner Bowles stated the Commissioners would reply to the letter.

PLANNER FOR ENGINEER'S OFFICE AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Commissioner Bowles recommended to the other Commissioners that the Personnel Officer, Harris Sterling, be authorized to develop job specifications for a planner with minimum and maximum salaries and that the Commissioners immediately proceed to attract a person that would meet the qualities which would meet their approval. This person would coordinate the planning effort of the updating of the land use plan for St. Mary's County and also be the professional land use planner for the Planning Commission. Commissioner Aud seconded the motion. Commissioner Guy said he did not see the necessity to employ this person until the next budget year. Commissioner Bowles said because of the land use plan, he felt this would be an exception.

RECREATION AND PARKS

Present: John Baggett

LAUREL GROVE - Mr. Baggett stated he would like clarification on what took place at the January 23 meeting with the Commissioners concerning the Laurel Grove property. He understood that the property would be taken off the market for 60 days in order for

appraisals to be made and he was to buy the property at \$1,000 an acre or the appraised value which ever is the lesser. He stated that they would not pay over \$1,000 or would not pay over the appraised price. He said the owners would be forced to sell at whatever the appraised value would be. Commissioner Bowles said that whenever there is a price per acre or appraised value which ever is the lesser of the two, either party has the right to refuse to sell or buy whenever the price per acre or appraised value are not the same.

MAINTENANCE MAN - Mr. Baggett stated that he would like to propose the changing of the job description of the maintenance man for Recreation and Parks. He felt the full time maintenance man should receive an annual salary of \$7,200 instead of \$5,700 and a seasonal maintenance man at \$85 a week. The full time man's duties would be broad and should include carpentry and working with concrete and small plumbing jobs. Mr. Baggett said the money is in the budget for this and he would like to have a man by April 1. Mr. Sterling is to verify that money is in the budget for this, after which time the Commissioners will give Mr. Baggett an answer to his request.

COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION AND PARKS PLAN - Mr. Baggett said there were contracts signed between Tri-County Council and the All n Organization. One was to do 50% of the work and one was for the other 50% of the work. The Allen Organization wrote a letter of November 10 listing the 20 items accomplished and asked for payment. Mr. Baggett said he wrote a letter to Tri-County Council stating he knew that Item No. 20 had been accomplished and that the other 19 may have been completed in the All n Organization office. Mr. Baggett said the work that had been done was background work and Mr. All n will be in the County and would like to meet with the Recreation and Parks Board and the County Commissioners.

ST. ANDREWS ESTATES PLAYGROUND - Mr. Baggett asked if the Commissioners decided to take title to this property. Commissioner Bowles said it was approved. Before the deed is recorded, the taxes and title must be brought up-to-date. Mr. Baggett stated it could take three or four months to get the property approved. Mr. Baggett asked the Commissioners if they would allow him to have this property appraised at which time, he could file for the 100% grant. He would need two appraisals at \$150 to \$200 each, and he could take the money from the capital improvement budget. Commissioner Bowles told Mr. Baggett that Mr. Sterling will have to verify the money is in the budget for this.

RENTAL OF HOPKINS BUILDING - Mr. Baggett stated that Mr. Weiner, County Attorney had written to Mr. Hopkins requesting 60 days to have contractors enter upon the property for the purpose of making appraisals of work that must be done. Mr. Baggett said he had talked with Mr. Hopkins and that Mr. Hopkins did not agree with the idea of the same rent being paid for a period of ten years. Mr. Baggett had informed Mr. Hopkins that he

should write a letter to the County Attorney that he was willing to accept everything in the original agreement with the exception of the option to rent to the County for ten years. No letter has been received as of this date. Mr. Baggett advised the Commissioners that he had sent a letter to Mr. Jack Daugherty explaining what would have to be done to the Anchor Van Lines Building for a teen center and to date, he has not received a reply.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Present: Sheriff Lawrence Williams
Mr. Joseph Weiner, County Attorney

CONFISCATED CARS - Commissioner Bowles asked Sheriff Williams what would be done about confiscated cars in the future. Sheriff Williams stated there would be fewer confiscated cars due to the fact the law had been changed. A distributable amount of drugs must be found in the car before it can be confiscated. Since the new law had been in effect, only two cars had been confiscated. Commissioner Bowles asked how the Sheriff planned to budget for the cost of confiscated cars. In the past, it was charged to the Commissioners' operating account when it should be in the Sheriff's Account. Sheriff Williams said he would budget for this item in next year's budget.

SHOTGUN OWNED BY DEPUTY JOHN CHANCE - Commissioner Bowles informed Sheriff Williams that the shotgun used by Deputy John Chance during the incident with Bruce Henderson Shreeves was damaged beyond repair. The replacement of the shotgun which is Deputy Chance's personal gun, would cost approximately \$80. Also, to repair Deputy Chance's personal .357 magnum pistol which was also damaged, would cost \$15. Deputy Chance has requested that he be reimbursed for the \$95. Commissioner Bowles questioned the legal authority of reimbursement on personal property. Paul Raley had said that Deputy Chance had informed him that he had not been issued any firearms. Sheriff Williams said he had been issued a .38. Mr. Weiner, County Attorney, said since it was in the line of duty, the County should pay for it.

DEPUTIES REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT

Commissioner Bowles asked Sheriff Williams if he saw the letter with the list of equipment being requested by the deputies last week. Sheriff Williams stated he would not order some of the things on the list. He did feel each car should have a shotgun and that he would order riot helmets. He stated he provided .38 ammunition for the deputies. Sheriff Williams said he would look the list over and select what was needed and add it to next years budget.

CUSTODIAN FOR THE COURTHOUSE

Present: Mr. William Gatton
Mrs. Mary C. Gatton
Mr. Harris Sterling, Personnel Officer

Commissioner Bowles told Mr. Gatton that the Commissioners had received his letter of resignation and they would like to be sure that he understood what his status would be as far as retirement and other benefits would be concerned. Mr. Gatton stated there was no way he could work the schedule he was working, cleaning the courthouse and being jailer and do an efficient job of either. Mr. Sterling explained to Mr. Gatton that whenever duties are reduced, salaries are reduced. Commissioner Aud suggested to Mr. Sterling to determine the salary difference if he were to stay on as jailer or if he were to stay on as custodian. Mr. Gatton stated that if he stayed as custodian, he would like to have some reliable help. He preferred working in the Courthouse as custodian. Commissioner Bowles said Mr. Gatton's job description should be rewritten to include all of his duties. Mr. Sterling said it should be done in a way to protect him. It would be worth a trip to Baltimore to see what has to be done. Commissioner Aud asked Mr. Gatton if he would wait on his resignation while the Commissioners see what can be done about his job re-classification. Action on Mr. Gatton's resignation was deferred until further notice by agreement between Mr. Gatton and the Commissioners and the Personnel Officer.

Meeting recessed at 5:45 p.m.

Wednesday, February 14, 1973

Present: Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles, President
Commissioner George R. Aud
Commissioner J. S. Guy, Jr.
Paul Raley, Administrative Officer
Judith A. Mullins, Recording Secretary

The meeting of the County Commissioners reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

GOLDEN BEACH CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Present: Mr. Hollis T. Terry, Chairman of Roads Committee
John C. Benson, President, Golden Beach Citizens Assoc.
John Norris, Assistant County Engineer

Mr. Benson presented a letter to the Commissioners a list of road improvements for their community. He also presented a map depicting the status of the different roads. Due to the increased growth of their community, some of the roads have become increasingly dangerous.

Commissioner Bowles asked John Norris if the Planning Commission or Planning Attorney could do anything to impose some of the obligation on the developers. Mr. Norris said he would talk with the Planning Attorney to see if something could be resolved.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY LIBRARY (BUDGET REQUEST)

Present: Mrs. Kitty Hurry, Administrator, Southern Maryland Regional
Library Association
Mr. James Kenney, President of Board of Library Trustees
Harris Sterling, Finance Director

Mrs. Kitty Hurry presented a supplemental budget request for St. Mary's County Library. She stated added expenses were incurred by moving back to Tudor Hall. \$5,850 was requested. It was decided that the funds for furnishings for Tudor Hall could be reduced to \$1,000 from \$2,500, therefore, reducing the funds requested to \$4,350. Mr. Sterling said these funds could be taken from the contingency fund. Commissioner Aud made a motion that this money be taken from the contingency fund for the Library. Commissioner Guy seconded the motion. Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

Mrs. Hurry made a request that the Library receive their budget allotments quarterly rather than semi-annually. The money is put into an account and draws interest. Commissioner Bowles said this could be done provided the interest was carried over into the next year's budget. Mr. Sterling requested Mrs. Hurry to submit a letter requesting this quarterly allotment.

Mrs. Hurry informed the Commissioners that they have a delivery service to the three Counties on a daily basis. The Commissioners were interested and requested Mrs. Hurry to submit a schedule of delivery.

DEPUTY CHANCE'S SHOTGUN

Paul Raley stated he spoke with Mr. Weiner, County Attorney, regarding the legality of the County's replacement of Deputy Chance's shotgun and repair to his .357 pistol. Mr. Weiner said there was no law concerning this and, therefore, because it occurred during the line of duty, he felt the County should replace it. Paul Raley is to ask Deputy Chance to make this request to Sheriff Williams who in turn should request from the Commissioners the approval to spend the funds from the Sheriff's operating expenses.

NEW PERSONNEL

Commissioner Aud made a motion that a Budget Officer be put in the proposed budget to set up procedures for the Budget Department. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Commissioner Guy made it unanimous.

Commissioner Aud made a motion to hire an Executive Administrator to carry out policies of the County Commissioners and coordinate activities of the local government. Commissioner Guy seconded the motion. Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

The above positions will be contractual employees rather than merit system employees and will be subject to Mr. Sterling, Finance Director, developing job specifications and subject to public budget hearings.

FIREBOARD

Present: Otis Wood, Acting Director, Civil Defense
George McWilliams, President, St. Mary's County
Fireboard
Charles Donaldson, Fire Investigator

Mr. McWilliams showed a copy of House Bill No. 305 for Charles County which states it would be illegal to leave a child under the age of 7 in a house unattended and the person in attendance must be 13 years or older. The objective is the fire safety of children being left alone in the home. They would like the Commissioners recommendations to having this bill apply also to St. Mary's County and submitting this recommendation to the legislative delegation. Commissioner Bowles requested the Fireboard to provide a letter recommending this bill after which time we will write a letter to the legislative delegation stating our recommendation.

TRI-COUNTY GROUP HOME

Present: Ed Cox, Executive Secretary, Youth Commission
Harris Sterling, Finance Director

Ed Cox came before the County Commissioners to give a report on the Tri-County Group Home. Mr. Cox stated that most of the current literature on juvenile delinquency reported that institutionalism is not working. Other states are looking for other alternatives such as stricter probation and group homes which have proven effective.

The Tri-County Group Home has formed a Board of Directors of 15 members on which there are two vacancies. The Board has visited different group home situations throughout the State and other states. The consensus at this time is that the Kent House, Kent County, Maryland, would be used as the model for the Group Home. The teaching parents will be given the same training as those at the Kent House. The money must be used for the Home and cannot be used for a detention center. Mr. Cox stated the Group Home is looking for a home in the St. Mary's County area. The Board of Directors has been selected and the contract has to be signed.

Commissioner Bowles stated he would like the Youth Commission to make recommendations for the two vacancies for the Board of Directors.

Mr. Sterling stated it was unclear as to the County's share. Commissioner Aud said the County's share is in-kind. Mr. Sterling said he could not find in-kind services in the contract. Commissioner Bowles asked if in-kind could be added to the contract after local contribution. The contract should state it is in-kind or if money, how much.

Mr. Sterling inquired as to what in-kind service would entail. Mr. Cox said it would be Department of Health, Social Workers, and Counselling services from the Youth Bureau. Commissioner Guy stated that after next year the Youth Services portion of in-kind services will not be available when they are no longer eligible for Federal grants. Commissioner Bowles stated the Commissioners would like to have this information before getting involved in another Federal program. Mr. Sterling stated that if there is any cash outlay, we have nothing in the budget this year.

Mr. Cox stated the agreement states there is a 60 day period before the Group Home would be operational.

ST. MARY'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT BILL

Letter from St. Mary's Soil Conservation District requests \$1,050 which has been appropriated. Commissioner Guy made a motion that the bill be paid, Commissioner Aud seconded the motion and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS BILL

A bill was received in the amount of \$35 for dues for the Maryland Association of Election Officials and a bill in the amount of \$49 for expenses for luncheon meeting of Association of Election Officials. Commissioner Guy made a motion that the bills be paid, Commissioner Aud seconded the motion and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Present: Truman Haskell, Potomac River Association
Oran Wilkerson, Patuxent River Association
Pat O'Donnell, Potomac River Association
Mary Jansson, Potomac River Association
Jack Koegel, Potomac River Association
Edwin E. Linskey, Piney Point Association

Mr. Haskell told the County Commissioners that they are concerned about industrial development of St. Mary's County and with the deep water port idea. He stated there was evidence particularly with the Harry Lundeborg School and Steuart Petroleum that there is a move under way to develop the deep water port. He stated his group would like some understanding with the Commissioners as to their feelings of this at this time, or after the land use plan is developed.

Commissioner Bowles stated there will be citizens advisory committee working with the planning firm and County Commissioners on the land use plan. There will be public hearings within the next couple of months. Mr. Bowles stated he had no information concerning a deep water port.

Commissioner Guy stated he had made reference to a deep water port at a Lions Club meeting in connection with an overall land development in the Lexington Park vicinity. He thought that EDC should study all aspects whether it would be feasible or not. There should be some study done within the County. Commissioner Guy stated he was looking at it from an economy point of view and job opportunity. He stated he did not have any knowledge of any specific group making application for a deep water port.

Mrs. Jansson asked about the Tri-County Council planning committee's meetings. Commissioner Bowles said our land use plan is being coordinated with the Tri-County Council who will be working on the regional plan for the three counties. Mrs. Jansson asked if the Tri-County Council decided on a deep water port, what kind of response can an average citizen have on this. Commissioner Bowles stated there will be public hearings on our plan and the Tri-County Council should have public hearings on the regional plans.

Commissioner Bowles told the group that they should be concerned with the land use plan being developed in Annapolis. If that plan goes through, the State would have veto powers over any plan in the State. He stated people can control land better on a local level.

Mr. Koegel asked if there was any date set for our land use plan. Commissioner Bowles stated we would like to develop it before the end of December 1973. The next step would be a zoning ordinance.

Mr. Wilkerson asked Commissioner Aud if he had any information concerning a deep water port. Commissioner Aud stated he knew nothing about it.

Mr. Wilkerson asked the Commissioners what they had done about the closing of the Patuxent River and Wicomico River. Commissioner Guy stated there is very little the Commissioners can do except express concern of the closing of the waters. Commissioner Bowles stated he had suggested regional policing authority concerning the Patuxent and Wicomico River and its tributaries. This could be more effective with the State agencies than a county could be.

Mrs. Jansson asked if the proposed atomic plant on the Patuxent River in the Dameron area would have to wait for the land use plan. Commissioner Bowles stated that what authority we would have would depend on the action by the legislature in regards to State control over land use plan.

Commissioner Bowles explained to the group that when the planning people are holding their public meetings they should participate. There should be no reason why the plan cannot be developed to best serve the people of this county.

EDUCATION PROBLEMS

Present: Frank Barnett, Principal, Great Mills Elementary
William Sluder, Asst. Principal, Margaret Brent
Robert Hmieleski, Principal, Frank Knox
Ruth Rowe - Principal, Ridge Elementary
Julius A. Levay - Principal, Chopticon
Bernard I. Johnson, Principal, Esperanza Middle School

The group of school officials came before the Commissioners to discuss the problems of education caused by the budget cut last year. Each principal and assistant principal spoke of their individual school problems, specifically the larger class sizes which eliminated individualism for the students. Retention possibilities are higher this year. The children who need extra help are not being helped. Instrumental music classes have been reduced. Music and art classes have been curtailed. The school officials all stated that teacher morale was down in all the schools.

Dr. Levay, Principal of Chopticon, stated he also had overcrowded classrooms and many programs were cut both for the below average child and the above average child. His school has had many dropouts due to the fact there was no personal attention given to them. The teachers planning time was removed and the teachers morale is very poor. Because of the too large classroom, the child at the top of class becomes very bored and the child at the bottom is lost and may possibly become a dropout in the community. The discipline problem has increased because the classes are so large.

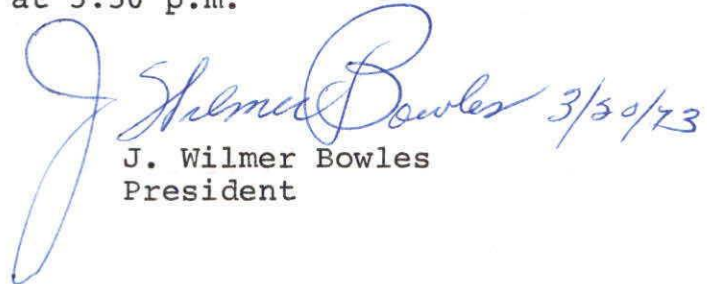
Commissioner Guy stated the Commissioners are very aware of the problems and the Commissioners must look at the situation from a financial point of view. Commissioner Guy said he had commented several times he does not feel there is a united effort made by various groups in the county; namely, PTA, MTA, Taxpayers Association, etc., to exhaust all means of revenue. The County Commissioners are the last resort. All these groups should get together to put pressure on the legislators in Annapolis and demand more money.

Commissioner Bowles stated we had been misled last year by Senator Bailey and the representative from the Governor's Office that if the Commissioners would cooperate with the financing we would be assured of sufficient funding for the coming year. We are going to be faced with a larger problem this year.

Mr. Johnson, Principal of Esperanza Middle School, stated that calling together of the different groups is an excellent idea. He felt the Commissioners should "spearhead" this effort. He felt there could not be a better way to insure unity in the County than to have the County Commissioners take the lead in this.

Commissioner Bowles stated the Commissioners would do everything possible to help and the legislators should be reminded of their promise of last year. Commissioner Bowles told the group that the Commissioners will discuss the situation and get back to them at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

 J. Wilmer Bowles 3/30/73
J. Wilmer Bowles
President