

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, February 28, 1973

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

Also present were: Patty Muchow, Beacon; Dave Fox, WPTX;
Robin Guyther, Enterprise.

The meeting reconvened at 10:00 A.M.

SEAWALL ASSESSMENT - TALL TIMBERS

Present: Mr. William Virnstein
Mr. William F. Herbert, Supervisor of Assessments
Mr. William S. Lawrence, Assessor
Mr. Harris Sterling, Finance Director

Mr. Virnstein stated he needed a request from the County Commissioners for the change in the assessment procedures of the seawall at Tall Timbers from assessment value to front foot basis.

Commissioner Bowles said it was in the legislative package; however, there would be sizeable increases in some people's taxes and decreases in others. The Commissioners did not know whether Mr. Virnstein had so advised the people who signed the petition; therefore, the Commissioners did not take a position.

Commissioner Guy suggested the letter from Tall Timbers Association as a group should be directed to the legislators. Mr. Virnstein said he would have the letter written but would like the Commissioners to look at it first before it is sent.

TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

Present: Mr. William Welch, Executive Director of TCCAC

Mr. William Welch made a presentation to the Commissioners concerning the loss of fund due to the dismantling of OEO. He stated that TCCAC will be requesting assistance from the three counties to enable them to continue services to the low income residents of our counties. They are requesting \$40,000 from St. Mary's County; \$40,000 from Charles County; and \$20,000 from Calvert County.

Mr. Welch discussed the programs of TCCAC, including Head Start, Day Care Centers, Neighborhood Youth Corps, etc., and why they should continue. If they do not receive the funding, they will no longer have administrative capabilities and would lose other federal funding. Commissioner Guy asked if there is anything the Commissioners could do concerning Congress. Mr. Welch said the Commissioners might wish to request Congress to retain OEO.

If St. Mary's County is the only County to aid in the funding, Mr. Welch stated the program would be scaled down for St. Mary's County.

Mr. Welch said he would be available to answer any questions the Commissioners may have. A copy of the report is on file in the Commissioners' office.

Commissioner Bowles thanked Mr. Welch for his presentation.

TRI-COUNTY GROUP HOME

Present: Mr. Tom Scherer, President, Tri-County Group Home
Mr. Joseph Weiner, County Attorney

Mr. Tom Scherer came before the Commissioners to sign the Agreement between Tri-County Group Home, Inc. and the County Commissioners. Commissioner Aud made a motion to sign the Grant Award and Conditions. Commissioner Guy seconded the motion and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous and signed same.

Commissioner Aud made a motion to sign the Contract Agreement dated February 28, 1973 between the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Tri-County Group Home, Inc. Commissioner Guy seconded the motion and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous and signed same.

DELLABROOKE FAMILY SUBDIVISION

Present: Mr. Francis Abell (J. R. McCrone)
John Norris, Assistant County Engineer

Mr. Abell stated approval for Dellabrooke Family Subdivision has been given by Health Department, Soil Conservation, County Engineer, and Planning Commission, and requested the Commissioners' approval.

Commissioner Aud made the motion to approve Dellabrooke Family Subdivision of the daughters of the late Stephen M. Jones in accordance with the terms and conditions filed by Mrs. Stephen M. Jones by letter February 19, 1973 (copy of said letter is on file in County Commissioners' and Planning & Zoning offices). Commissioner Guy seconded the motion and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

SCOTCH NECK SUBDIVISION

Present: Jim Kenney, Attorney

Mr. Jim Kenney requested county road approval for Section 1, Scotch Neck Subdivision from the County Commissioners. He stated he is prepared to present the plans to the Planning Commission meeting Monday, March 5, 1973. Commissioner Bowles said the Commissioners would discuss it and advise him later.

TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Present: James Dobry)
 Claude Jarboe)
 Allan Cecil) Taxpayers Association
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sakran)
 Mr. Al Longobardi)
 Rudolph Baliko)
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Heard - property owners adjacent to
 Housing Authority project
 Stanley Schrader)
 James Ogden) Board of Education
 Leroy Thompson)
 Donald Curtis)
 Dr. Patrick Jarboe) Housing Authority
 William Greene)
 John Slade, Attorney)

BOARD OF EDUCATION - Mr. Dobry stated the Taxpayers Association would like to ask the Commissioners before the approval of any budget that an impartial survey be conducted through the Commissioners. He also discussed the appointment of School Board members and stated none should serve more than four years. Commissioner Bowles stated the Commissioners do not appoint School Board members.

HARRY LUNDEBERG SCHOOL - Mr. Dobry asked the status of the collection of taxes from the Harry Lundeberg School. Commissioner Bowles stated Mr. Weiner, County Attorney, had been instructed to file suit on Harry Lundeberg School. Mr. Albert Ward of the Maryland Tax Office scheduled a meeting in Baltimore February 23, 1973 with the attorney for the School, and invited Mr. Weiner and the Commissioners to attend. Following the meeting it was concluded that if the taxes were not paid in one week, the County Commissioners will file suit March 5. Commissioner Bowles further stated Mr. Ward told them if the school filed an application for abatement after the taxes were paid, he would grant the abatement.

Mr. Dobry asked if legislation could be developed so Mr. Ward would not have this power. Mr. Dobry asked if legislation is introduced would the Commissioners support it. Commissioner Bowles said yes they would.

QUESTIONNAIRE - Mr. Dobry stated the Taxpayers Association had developed a questionnaire to distribute throughout the County.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Mr. Dobry said there should be a citizens advisory committee, at which time Commissioner Bowles had the secretary read a letter that he was sending to different organizations throughout the County requesting volunteers to serve on Committees and Commissions.

HOUSING AUTHORITY - Mr. Dobry requested more information concerning the development of low-income housing on Norris Road. He

understood that the concept plan for the project was approved at the Planning Commission meeting on February 26, 1973 even though "perk" tests have not been approved. He stated he is opposed to projects such as this in view of the fact that Center Gardens has 300 to 400 vacancies.

Commissioner Bowles stated the Commissioners appoint the Housing Authority. The approval of such projects is up to the Health Department and Planning Commission. The Housing Authority deals with federal agencies such as HUD for funding purposes. Commissioner Aud said it was approved by the Planning Commission subject to Health Department and other approvals.

Dr. Jarboe stated that some of the vacancies at Center Gardens were not liveable at this time. There are a multitude of people in our County living in shacks. We are trying to lease 40 units from Center Gardens with three bedroom apartments. The 40 new units will have four to five bedrooms.

Mrs. Heard asked Dr. Jarboe why these people cannot be put in a community with other low cost housing.

Dr. Jarboe stated it was the developer's job to find land which has been difficult. There is no land at a decent price that could hook up with the Metropolitan Commission sewage line.

Mr. Dobry asked Dr. Jarboe to have public hearings on the project, and Dr. Jarboe stated they had been discussing this type of program for at least 12 months and all meetings have been publicized. Dr. Jarboe said the land location had to be kept secret to prevent the land price from going sky high.

Dr. Jarboe said the bond issue will have to be paid off in twenty years and then the Housing Authority would own it in fee simple.

LAND-USE PLANNER - Mr. Sakran asked about the hiring of a land-use planning consultant and Commissioner Bowles stated the land use plan was being updated as required by State law and will be completed by the end of December 1973. Completion of a zoning ordinance would be Step No. 2.

SCOTCH NECK SUBDIVISION SUBDIVISION

Commissioner Aud made a motion to approve Section 1 of Scotch Point Subdivision as requested by Attorney James Kenney earlier this date. Commissioner Guy seconded the motion and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

J. Wilmer Bowles 4/3/73
J. Wilmer Bowles
President