

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Tuesday, March 20, 1973 and Wednesday, March 21, 1973

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STATE FUNDING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Commissioners attended a meeting in the State House in Annapolis at 9:00 a.m. Those present were:

Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles, President
Commissioner J. S. Guy, Jr.
Commissioner George R. Aud
Harris Sterling, Finance Director
John Little, CPA
Fred Spigler, Governor's Administrative Officer for Education
Senator Paul Bailey
Delegate Manning McKay
Delegate John Hanson Briscoe
Henry Kanowitz, Board of Education
Dr. Robert King, Superintendent of Schools, St. Mary's County
John Cross, President of Education Assoc., St. Mary's County
Charles Purcell, Maryland State Teachers Assoc. (field representative)
Judith Mullins, Recording Secretary

Mr. Purcell explained that he received a copy of a letter from Commissioner Bowles to Senator Bailey concerning the promise made last year in regards to increase of state aid in funding of education for St. Mary's County. Everyone is concerned about the situation facing St. Mary's County this year.

Commissioner Bowles stated that his letter to Senator Bailey was to call to his attention and Mr. Spigler's attention and other interested citizens the financial predicament the County is going to be faced with this year insofar as funding of education is concerned unless the State's commitments made to the County last year were fulfilled. Mr. Spigler had said if the Board of Education can "hold the line" this year - April 1972, there will be some changes made to help funding beginning next year. Commissioner Bowles continued with the commitments that were discussed last year and the reasons for the letter to Senator Bailey regarding the loss of P. L. 874 funds and the financial crisis facing St. Mary's County.

Mr. Spigler stated there have been some changes. He stated that last year he promised relief for St. Mary's County and there will be some relief. Mr. Spigler presented copies of data of how much the increases are in the major categories of the state aid to current expenses and other items of the budget. Senate Bill 807 has been reported to the Senate Finance Committee by a vote of 10 to 3 and will go the Senate Floor today. Mr. Spigler said he did not anticipate the bill having difficulty in the Maryland General Assembly. This bill contains some adjustments. The figure that will be shown in the bill for St. Mary's County is \$3,751,000. There will be an increase in the amount of \$246,000 for St. Mary's County. The amount listed under the Mauer Plan which is \$314,000 will be the amount of increase

for the next four years. This figure could change because each year the calculation is based on local effort. The increase in the budget for handicapped children is \$100,599, for transportation \$64,345 and for construction \$57,241. Total increase in state aid will be the \$246,000 plus these three figures.

Mr. Spigler said he thought the State has done a great deal in increasing the State share of the aid to public schools. St. Mary's County has been fortunate to be able to hold the same tax rate for five years.

Commissioner Bowles stated he felt the slowing down of the tax rate throughout the State was due to the general public's resistance to tax increases on top of the drastic assessment increase. This has been and is the Governor's position, we have only followed his lead.

Mr. Spigler then referred to the Governor's Bulletin dated March 16, 1973 concerning Education Special Revenue Sharing Bill for vocational education and education for the handicapped. The bill would require the development of local plans to provide education for the handicapped. The County would be required to fund 50% of the cost which they are presently funding.

Mr. Little pointed out to Mr. Spigler that the increase in revenue according to Mr. Spigler, exclusive of construction, would amount to \$411,000. Whereas, the Board of Education had included in their budget an increase of \$467,000 for these items. The effect would be that the County would have to come up with an additional \$56,000 if the School Board figures are adjusted to Mr. Spigler's.

Commissioner Bowles requested Dr. King to comment on the loss of funds for transportation for children living within a radius of one mile to the school they were attending. Dr. King said the State had been funding transportation in the past for all students regardless of the distance they lived from school and the dollar amount in jeopardy is \$40,000. They are now withdrawing funds for students living within one mile. Mr. Spigler stated that this would take some type of legislative relief. Transportation aid to the State for the Fiscal Year 1973 was \$34,612,000. Mr. Spigler said the reason is the "tug of war" of what the State can afford for transportation and what the local people can do, and this is going to be difficult to do. He stated they are putting up about 93% of the total cost of school transportation in the State. The other 7% is local funding which has been done for years. This pressure the State is putting on its expenditure for transportation, the percent of support is going to drop. Mr. Spigler said he did not see any relief in transportation this year.

Commissioner Bowles stated that with the \$56,000 Mr. Little mentioned and the \$40,000 for transportation, the County would have to come up with approximately \$100,000 more than what the Board of Education has requested. Commissioner Bowles asked Mr. Spigler if he thought \$246,000 is a major program. Mr. Spigler said he did consider it a major program.

Delegate Briscoe said he noted St. Mary's County ratio of assessed evaluation of real property was next to Anne Arundel County, the lowest in the State. Assuming the State will take full control of the assessment system and assuming the mandated annual assessment, what effect on the future would it have. We are at 48.3% in assessed evaluation and assuming everyone is up to 60% as it is supposed to be up to today, what is 12% of the current assessed evaluation.

Mr. Purcell said the assessed rate is now 50.2% and the tax rate is \$2.30.

Delegate Briscoe said they had a hearing on this bill last week and it would have approval of the legislature. The Legislature does not feel at this point the State can afford to go into a state-wide tax increase. He said he saw no additional funds coming from the State.

Senator Bailey said even if the Governor wanted to increase taxes, the Legislature would not do it. They would rather reduce the taxes than increase them.

Delegate McKay stated he believed it would be very difficult to get through any major tax increase. He said that he had stated publicly on "Conversation" on WPTX that he would reluctantly support the Commissioners in a tax increase to support the needs of education in St. Mary's County. Delegate McKay said the legislators of St. Mary's County took the position that they were very doubtful any additional help was coming from the State and it was something the Commissioners had to do.

Senator Bailey stated that when the County lost the slot machines he knew taxes would go up and he expected the taxes to go up even more. He said it was amazing the taxes have been kept down as they have been. He said he realized the spot the County was in and the only way would be to cut the school budget, and he understood it could not be cut.

Mr. Spigler asked what the increase of the budget request is this year over last year and Mr. Kanowitz said 15%. Mr. Spigler said the increase in State aid is 11% and the difference will be the problem.

Mr. Spigler said the majority of the fiscal items are increases in support of public education in the 24 subdivisions of Maryland at a time when that is not necessarily a popular item in legislation. Mr. Spigler said the Governor has not stood still. He stated that he had said there would be some relief and there has been some.

Commissioner Bowles mentioned to Mr. Spigler that last year when he had said major, he was relating his thoughts to what Mr. Spigler would have said five years ago when he was with MTSA. Commissioner Bowles further stated if the Governor and legislators remain in their existing position, someone is going to have to

"tighten belts". Commissioner Bowles asked Mr. Spigler what his feeling is concerning the constitutional responsibility of the State to provide an equal education to every child regardless of where he lives. Mr. Spigler said it is the State's responsibility. Commissioner Bowles asked why Mr. Spigler as a State representative did not take a stronger position in that regard.

Mr. Spigler said the County would require higher percentage of State support to the cost of the local public education. Delegate Briscoe asked what average percent that would be and Mr. Spigler said about 30% to 31%. St. Mary's County, by virtue of its wealth factor received a greater share of current expenses support than most counties.

Mr. Kanowitz said the average cost as was mentioned was 31% for the State. The other refers to the individual county and the share was approximately 63.53% for the mandated minimum. Commissioner Bowles advised Mr. Kanowitz his statement was very misleading because this percentage would be reduced to about forty-five percent if the two million supplemental request was included.

Dr. King stated the Board of Education has a severe problem and they are trying to make the best of a bad situation.

Commissioner Bowles said the local Government is willing to face up to its responsibility; however, we are greatly disturbed that we have been misled by the State Government in meeting its obligation to the education of St. Mary's County children, also the loss of Federal Funds. He said the County is willing to do its part, but would like to call to the attention of the State its 1972 promise.

Senator Bailey stated that he had predicted some years ago about the raise of taxes when the religious people of the County stopped the revenue from slot machines. He said the past and present Commissioners have backed the legislators completely in their battles in Annapolis to maintain our County at the same level at which it should be.

Mr. Spigler referred to the kind of help the Governor has given St. Mary's County. He mentioned that Charlotte Hall Military Academy had been saved because the Governor did not want it to disappear. Twenty-five (25) juvenile cases had been amalgamated into Charlotte Hall because the Governor wanted to try another route other than institutions.

The Commissioners returned to the Courthouse at 1:30 P.M. to resume their regularly scheduled meeting.

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

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

READING OF MINUTES

Commissioner Guy made a motion that the minutes of February 13-14 be approved in the Minute Book of 1973. Commissioner Aud seconded the motion and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous and signed same.

The minutes of March 13-14 were read and corrected.

INVESTMENT OF COUNTY FUNDS

The Commissioners concurred in the placement of the funds (\$700,000) in Maryland National Bank as reflected in the March 14 minutes.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES OF ROBERT THOMPSON

Present: Joseph Weiner, County Attorney

Mr. Weiner informed the Commissioners that he was of the opinion that the taxes were uncollectable from Mr. Robert Thompson, who did business at Esperanza Car Wash, unless there was some agreement he did not know about. His house in Town Creek is in his and his wife's name and, therefore, cannot be attached.

COUNTY INSPECTOR

Present: Leonard Cryer, County Inspector

Commissioner Bowles informed Mr. Cryer that it had come to the Commissioners' attention that Mr. Robert Thompson of the Esperanza Car Wash owed the County four years personal property taxes from 1968 to 1972. Commissioner Bowles said a businessman cannot obtain a traders' license unless taxes were paid, and how did Mr. Thompson get a traders' license to stay in business four years.

Mr. Cryer said Mr. Thompson did not have a license, and he had reported this to Mr. Wigginton, who was the County Attorney at that time in 1969 when the taxes became delinquent, but nothing more came of it.

Commissioner Bowles requested Mr. Cryer to verify by next week how many places of business do not have a traders license. The Commissioners will work with the Assessors and Treasurers Offices to take appropriate action to collect taxes.

COLLECTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES - ROBERT THOMPSON

Present: Oliver Guyther, Attorney

Commissioner Bowles explained the situation of the past due personal property taxes of Robert Thompson of the Esperanza Car Wash, and that there was a difference of opinion whether these taxes could be collected or not.

Mr. Guyther said when Mr. Thompson had problems with the car wash, he owed the finance company \$17,000 to \$18,000 for the equipment of the car wash. In addition he owed several judgments and owed a mortgage on the property. Mr. Thompson entered into an agreement with Besche Oil whereby Besche Oil would pay the mortgage and assume the mortgage which would relieve Mr. Thompson of the responsibility of the judgment of \$2800 and take over the balance due for the car wash equipment, provided Mr. Thompson and his wife give Besche Oil a second mortgage on the house in Town Creek. An agreement was signed between Besche and the Thompsons. The last paragraph stated that Besche would be responsible for any or all claims. This agreement was entered into April 1972. Mr. Thompson had mentioned to Mr. Guyther that he had been sued for the back personal property taxes and Mr. Guyther thought Besche Oil should pay the taxes. During this time Mr. Thompson got behind on his second mortgage and Besche Oil started foreclosure proceedings which Mr. Guyther said he had stopped. Mr. Thompson's parents obtained the money and part of this money was given to Besche Oil, but a release was not given. Besche Oil claimed they never received title to the property. Mr. Guyther stated it was a failure of communication between Besche Oil and the company's attorney.

Commissioner Bowles asked if the money can be turned over to the County and Mr. Guyther said no, he would need a release for Mr. and Mrs. Thompson.

Commissioner Guy stated that if Besche Oil is paying off the money due for the car wash equipment, sooner or later they will own this equipment and the law says the property taxes are owed by Mr. Thompson.

Commissioner Bowles suggested the way to proceed would be to foreclose against the equipment. Mr. Guyther said this could be done subject to the balance due on the company's prior lien.

Commissioner Bowles said the County could sell the equipment and the proceeds over and above what is due could go to the County.

Mr. Guyther said he thought the taxes were uncollectable.

Mr. Guyther said he would give the Commissioners a copy of the Agreement entered into April of 1972. Mr. Guyther suggested the Commissioners obtain the financial statement of Mr. Thompson and Besche Oil from the land records in the Record Room.

OFFER TO SELL LAND TO THE COUNTY

Present: Oliver Guyther

Mr. Guyther presented a plat to the Commissioners showing a parcel of land across from the Courthouse which he would like to sell to the County for an office building. The Commissioners suggested that it would depreciate the value of the other buildings in that location and that area might be best used as a park area. Commissioner Guy suggested Mr. Guyther work with Mr. Baggett of Recreation and Parks for this purpose.

PROCLAMATION OF CLEAN UP MONTH

The Commissioners unanimously agreed to sign the Proclamation 73-5 making April Clean Up Month.

PINEY POINT RECREATION AREA

Commissioner Guy made a motion that the Commissioners accept the 25-year renewal lease for the Piney Point recreation area. Commissioner Aud seconded the motion and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous and signed same.

BUDGET OFFICER AND DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Bowles stated the above positions should be advertised so applicants can be attracted for these positions.

Commissioner Aud made a motion that they be advertised, seconded by Commissioner Guy and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Commissioner Bowles said a request was received from Dr. Patrick Jarboe, Chairman of Housing Authority, for financial assistance to employ an attorney to represent said Authority in the case of Housing Authority, et al vs. James Dobry, et al. The Commissioners will review said request with our Attorney on Wednesday, March 21, 1973.

BIDS ON COOLING TOWER

The following bids were received for the cooling tower for the control center:

- Southern Maryland Mechanical Contractors, Inc. . . . \$10,387.00
- J. Carroll Morgan & Son 5,283.00

The Commissioners will make a decision on awarding the bid at a later date.

ST. ANDREWS CHURCH - RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION

Commissioner Guy made a motion that Commissioner Bowles sign the

Deed conveying property to St. Andrews Church in the amount of 7,000 square feet plus old right of way to St. Andrews Church property. Commissioner Aud seconded the motion and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

MR. WILLIAM GATTON

Paul Raley said he received a letter from Donald Tynes, of the State Commissioner of Personnel, in which he stated the position of Custodian be no higher than Grade 4. Mr. Gatton is now a Grade 9. Mr. Raley said he spoke with Mr. Tynes this morning and Mr. Tynes told him that Mr. Gatton could be placed as a Grade 6. Mr. Gatton would lose his merit system status if he should leave the Custodian position and be a jailer.

Commissioner Aud suggested putting Mr. Gatton at a Grade 6 in the Custodian job for 40 hours and pay him overtime.

The meeting recessed at 5:30 P.M.

Wednesday, March 21, 1973

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

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

The meeting reconvened at 10:00 A.M.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Paul Raley stated Dr. Mills of Tri-County Council would like to know who is going to represent St. Mary's County Economic Development Commission in place of Dr. Patrick Jarboe. The Commissioners will advise him at a later date.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ST. MARY'S NURSING HOME

Paul Raley stated he received a letter from the Nursing Home calling to attention the vacancies on the Board of Directors. Mrs. Louise Somerville has not attended meetings and Commissioner Guy will write to her concerning this. One of the other vacancies - Harvey Bailey - may be an error. His expiration date should be 1974, not 1973. Mr. Raley will verify this.

COUNTY FILM

A letter was received from Mr. Earl Griswold in which he sub-

mitted a proposal for the films for the County. Said proposal came to a total of \$1,251.74. Commissioner Guy suggested this should be included in EDC's budget for next year. Mr. Sterling is to be advised of this and Paul Raley is to write a letter to Mr. Griswold acknowledging receipt of the proposal and that it will be a budget item and he will be advised further after budget time. Mr. Briscoe, Director of EDC, is to be advised of the increase in his budget for this specific purpose.

BILLS APPROVED

The following bills were unanimously approved:

Mileage Report for John Norris, Asst. County Engineer - \$90.90.

John Bailey, Jr., for secretary's salary for November and December 1972 in the amount of \$549.00 and for January and February 1973 in the amount of \$460.00.

State Highway Administration for Inspection Services for St. Andrews Road project in the amount of \$209.58.

Kirby Glass Service Co. for furnishing and installing glass and spline in County landfill loaders at Clements and St. Andrews Church Road in the amount of \$402.17.

D & M Research Company for engineering services at Dukehart's Creek in the amount of \$450.00.

WPTX for Plumbing Board Advertisement in the amount of \$141.50.

TRI-COUNTY GROUP HOME

A letter was received from Ernest Bell II declining appointment to the Board of the Tri-County Group Home.

MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST

A letter was received from Maryland Historic Trust nominating St. Richard's Manor and St. George's Episcopal Church to the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Edwin Beitzel is to be contacted and requested to make recommendations to the County Commissioners on this matter.

MECHANICSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department is requesting a deputy to patrol the grounds during their carnival this summer. This request should be made to the Sheriff, who in turn should make a request to the Commissioners for payment of overtime if necessary.

CLEAN

The Society Hill Garden Club is requesting the County to help

them in the collection of old newspapers by providing transportation for the recycling of the newspapers. This is not in our comprehensive solid waste plan. Paul Raley is to acknowledge receipt of their letter and state that our Solid Waste Plan recommends that the County not get involved in recycling because it is not economically feasible.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR LAND USE

A letter was received from Dick Myers, Chairman of Leonardtown Planning and Zoning Commission, recommending Robert Wathen for the Citizens Advisory Committee. The Commissioners and Mr. Myers also suggested Abell Longmore, Jr., and Michael Sachs.

Spence Howard declined appointment to serve on Citizens Advisory Committee.

TAPE SYSTEM FOR COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM

Paul Raley stated he had spoken with Paul Anderson of Lanier Products. Mr. Anderson said he could get a second hand Edison Voice Writer for the Commissioners. Because the Voice Writer has been discontinued, the Commissioners decided against it but did decide to provide in the budget for the tape recorder and attachments that was demonstrated on February 27.

ST. GEORGE'S CREEK

Present: Mr. John Norris, Assistant County Engineer

John Norris requested approval from the Commissioners for the proposal in the amount of \$300 from D. & M. Research Company to provide engineering services for the proposed pier at St. George's Creek.

Commissioner Guy made a motion to approve this work and Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion.

LANDFILL PERSONNEL

Present: John Norris, Assistant County Engineer

John Norris made a recommendation that Howard Adams be promoted to Operator Foreman at Grade 7 - Step 2 - \$7,493 effective immediately. He will receive another step increase effective July 1, 1973. Commissioner Aud made a motion to approve this promotion, seconded by Commissioner Guy and made unanimous by Commissioner Bowles.

COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWAGE PLAN

Commissioner Aud made a motion to accept the proposal from the Beavin Company to update the Comprehensive Water and Sewage Plan. Commissioner Guy seconded the motion and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

TALL TIMBERS

Present: John Norris, Assistant County Engineer

Mr. Norris requested that he be designated as agent in dealing with OEP as far as the work in Tall Timbers is concerned. Commissioner Guy made a motion making this designation, seconded by Commissioner Aud and Commissioner Bowles made it unanimous.

BRETON BAY SUBDIVISION

Present: John Norris

Commissioner Bowles informed John Norris that complaints had been received concerning the drainage problem and the need for a speed limit sign in Breton Bay Subdivision. Mr. Norris is to draft a Resolution to reduce the speed limit to 30 Miles an Hour, and order the Speed Limit sign.

SIGN ON ROUTE 235

Present: John Norris

Commissioner Aud informed John Norris that the "Right Turn Must Turn Right" sign on Route 235 near the Safeway, Lexington Park, needs painting.

VISTA ROAD

Present: John Norris

Commissioner Bowles informed John Norris of the problems on Vista Road - specifically, no shoulders, bad curves, ditches need pulling out, and the entrance to Route 235. Mr. Norris said he would have an engineering firm working on the entrance to Route 235 by next week to prepare a deed.

CLEANING ENTRANCE TO NAS

Present: John Norris

Commissioner Aud informed John Norris that the entrance from the beginning of NAS - Pegg's Lane Road to the gate of NAS needs cleaning up.

MILL COVE ROAD

Present: John Norris

Commissioner Aud requested John Norris to determine if Mill Cove Road requires resurfacing.

HAULING OF GRAVEL

Present: John Norris

John Norris requested approval from the Commissioners to pay the Somerville Estate for the hauling of gravel from its pit at \$.80 a load. Mr. Norris is to develop a statement and sign same.

BIDS ON SALE OF GRADERS

Present: Mr. William Graff

The following bids were received for the sale of the four county road graders:

Name	Model	Model	Model	Model
	AC WD 2514	AC WD 2507	AC WD 2513	AC WD 2570
Richard F. Gram	\$357.20	\$ 61.27	\$ 61.27	\$ 61.27
William Graff	500.00	200.00	200.00	2,000.00
Francis V. Langley	468.33	327.40	638.25	958.00
Charles Langley	703.00	305.00	201.00	703.00
Thomas M. Dillon	60.00	15.00	15.00	510.00
James A. Bean, Sr.	250.00	115.00	95.00	250.00
Peter Lopitz	-----	158.00	258.00	708.00

Model AC WD 2514 was awarded to Charles Langley for \$703.00.
 Model AC WD 2507 was awarded to Francis Langley for \$327.40.
 Model AC WD 2513 was awarded to Francis Langley for \$638.25.
 Model AC WD 2570 was awarded to William Graff for \$2,000.00.

ALTERATION OF RIGHT OF WAY

Present: Charles Norris, Attorney

Mr. Norris stated a mistake was made in the survey of the Maryland National Bank Building located on Shangri-la Drive, Lexington Park. Approximately 35 square feet of the building is located within the right of way that had been deeded to the County. An ad was run in the paper stating Patuxent Development Company will petition the Commissioners to alter the existing road. Mr. Norris said Mr. Robert Wigginton had approved the quitclaim deed conveying property back to Patuxent Development Company. Mr. Norris presented the advertisement of the Notice of Intention to Petition the County Commissioners, the Petition and the Quitclaim Deed.

Commissioner Bowles stated that when the advertisement was prepared it was to be submitted to the Commissioners before publication but this did not occur. Commissioner Bowles stated this matter would be discussed with our County Attorney.

RECREATION AND PARKS

Present: John Baggett, Director

YELLOW BUS - Mr. Baggett stated he would like to put the old 1960 yellow bus up for bids. The bus had been previously used for hauling roller skates but is no longer operable. The Commissioners agreed to advertise the bus for bids.

DEVELOPMENT AT CHARLOTTE HALL - Mr. Baggett submitted a proposal for the development at Charlotte Hall, including baseball diamonds and basketball courts. Commissioner Guy suggested the funding for the development be done in stages.

GRAVES PROPERTY - Mr. Baggett stated he received a telephone call from the real estate company and he was told Mrs. Graves was not interested in selling the property for less than \$1200 an acre and she is unwilling to take the property off the market for appraisals. Mr. Joseph Weiner entered the meeting at this time and Mr. Baggett requested Mr. Weiner to add a sentence to the Agreement that should the appraised price be less than \$1000 she could accept or reject the offer.

WRESTLING MAT - Mr. Baggett said the wrestling mat located at Great Mills High School had been damaged and must be replaced at a cost of \$1322. Mr. Baggett said funds for this are in his budget.

ST. ANDREWS ESTATES PARK - Mr. Baggett requested approved to transfer funds from Ridge Program, under his Capital Improvement budget to pay for two appraisals to be done at St. Andrews Estates Park.

LITTLE LEAGUE - Mr. Baggett stated the Little League is asking for certain work to be done on the ball diamonds. The Little League said they could do some of the work themselves but would like to use County equipment. Liability insurance is so written that if the equipment is used with approval by the County, they would be covered. The Commissioners agreed the equipment could be used by the Little League as long as work is supervised by someone from Recreation and Parks. Mr. Baggett said the exam for the maintenance man may be given on March 24, after which time interviews would have to be given and time is essential concerning the work on the diamonds.

ALLEN ORGANIZATION - Mr. Baggett submitted a copy of the progress of the Allen Organization from November 10, 1972 to March 15, 1973.

BRIDGE AT PINEY POINT - Mr. Baggett said a fishing pier and catwalk would be expensive and he suggested erecting a fence along the sidewalk of the bridge at a cost of \$750 or a single guard rail at a cost of \$1500. Mr. Baggett is to submit a letter to the Commissioners with his recommendations.

FIREBOARD CONTRACT

Present: Otis Wood, Director of Civil Defense
George McWilliams, Chairman, County Fireboard
Gregory Adams, Company 6 Fire Department
Donald Insley, Hollywood Fire Department
Leslie Hanson, Bay District Fire Department
S. B. Vallandingham, Company 4 Fire Department
Elmer Johnson, Mechanicsville
Jake Mattingly, Leonardtown
Robert Dean, Jr., Valley Lee
Fred Burris, Leonardtown
Bill Simpson, Mechanicsville

Otis Wood and members of the Fireboard and Volunteer Fire Departments came before the Commissioners to discuss the bids on the Fireboard Radio Contract. Mr. McWilliams stated it was the feeling of the Fireboard that Southern Maryland Communications be awarded the bid instead of Teltronics, who was the lowest bidder, because they did not know anything about the Teltronics firm.

Commissioner Bowles stated there would have to be sufficient reason for not accepting the lowest bid by Teltronic and therefore, the Commissioners feel that it should be awarded to Teltronics. The Contract is on a month-to-month basis and if the Fireboard is not satisfied with Teltronics, after sufficient notice to terminate, the contract could be reopened for bids.

Commissioner Aud made the motion to award the bid to Teltronics, seconded by Commissioner Guy and made unanimous by Commissioner Bowles.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Henry Dodson, Jr. has requested to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee for Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

PROPOSED SUBDIVISION LOCATED ON OAKS COOKSEY SWAMP ROAD

Present: Oliver Guyther

Mr. Guyther came before the Commissioners to discuss the proposed subdivision located on Oaks Cooksey Swamp Road. The subject lead to discussion concerning the improvements needed to the County road leading from the proposed subdivision to Route 4 to accommodate said subdivision and the responsibility of the developer to improve said road. Conversation then lead to discussion of the financial problems facing St. Mary's County with the 1973-74 budget and several ideas and thoughts were suggested.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

J. Wilmer Bowles 4-10-73
J. Wilmer Bowles
President