

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 7 and May 8, 1975

Wednesday, May 7, 1975

Present: Commissioner James M. McKay, President  
Commissioner Ford L. Dean  
Commissioner Larry Millison  
Commissioner John K. Parlett  
Commissioner J. Patrick Jarboe  
Edward V. Cox, Chief Clerk  
Alice V. Bailey, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Commissioner President, James M. McKay.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 23-24, 1975, were read and corrected. Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Parlett. All Commissioners voted in favor. The minutes of April 30 and May 1 will be read and corrected at a later time.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to appoint the following persons to the following Boards and Commissions with expiration dates as noted:

TRI-COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PLANNING BOARD

Alfred Longobardi  
Term to expire 5/30/78

Thomas Edward Harrison  
Term to expire 5/30/78

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

John P. Rue, III  
Term to expire 6/30/78

TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

Commissioner James M. McKay  
Term to expire 6/30/76

Brent Sharf  
Term to expire 6/30/76

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Hall W. Venetta  
Term to expire 6/1/80

Commissioner Parlett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

Mr. Cox, Chief Clerk, stated that he was still in the process of contacting nominees to serve on the Cable TV Study Committee, and would report back to the Commissioners. He also informed the Commissioners that John Pleisse and Robert Waxman stated that they would not be able to serve.

#### VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Edward Cox, Chief Clerk, presented a list to the Board of Commissioners stating the vacancies on boards, commissions and committees that will be due to expire one month from said presentation.

#### AUDITOR

Present: H. D. McGlade, Comptroller  
Harris Sterling, Finance Director  
Joseph Patrick O'Dell, Budget Officer

Mr. McGlade, Comptroller, presented a list of C.P.A.'s from the State of Maryland for review by the County Commissioners, as well as a draft letter as to the duties involved with our County Accounting System. The Commissioners instructed Mr. McGlade to send a letter to all the firms listed, asking if they would be interested in handling the audit for St. Mary's County. Also, the letter is to state that a reply should be returned within ten to fifteen days as to their interest or non-interest in contracting for the annual County Audit. Upon agreement by the Commissioners, Commissioner President McKay will sign the proposed letter. After a return has been made from the firms interested, the Commissioners will then start their selection.

The Commissioners decided that Jerry Colvin was at the present time auditing the accounts of the Metropolitan Commission and the Nursing Home, and these audits will be continued for FY 75 by Mr. Colvin.

#### NURSING HOME

Present: John Norris, County Engineer

Mr. Norris discussed with the County Commissioners correspondence received from Cross and Adreon, architects for the Nursing Home addition and modernization. Mr. Adreon indicated in his letter that the contract with the County terminated May 2; and is thirty days after anticipated completion of the contract. He proposed in his correspondence rates for his services in administrating the project and performing the necessary inspection and making final report.



The County Commissioners questioned Mr. Norris as to the terms of the contract and supplement payment schedule requested by the architect. The County Commissioners felt that the cost for the final report, including the fees for mechanical, electrical and engineering inspection, were included in the architect's original contract. Mr. Norris indicated that the estimated cost for the architect's services would be approximately \$3,000.00, based on an assumed contract completion date in early June.

The County Commissioners decided to have Mr. Norris discuss these costs with the architect.

#### COUNTY ROADS

Mr. McKay requested Mr. John Norris, County Engineer, to look into the situation as to roads not meeting the minimum standards that have been accepted into the County Road System. Also, Mr. Norris was to discuss this matter with the County Attorney.

#### MARGARET BRENT ISSUE

Present: Neal P. Myerberg, Esquire

Mr. Myerberg appeared before the Commissioners and stated that he had replied to the correspondence of April 16, 1975 from Edward V. Cox, in reference the Margaret Brent Issue. Mr. Myerberg stated that he would be happy to elaborate or explain any of the positions he had stated in his correspondence of May 5, 1975.

#### BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. Edward Cox, displayed a binder from Prince George's County that contained a listing of all the Boards and Commissions and stated that when our project has reached completion we are in the hopes that St. Mary's County will have theirs bound in the same manner.

#### PINEY POINT WHARF

Mr. Cox stated to the Commissioners that the Project Income in reference the Piney Point Wharf was received in the amount of \$17,568.00.

#### BILLING PROCEDURE

Commissioner Millison stated that he would like on bills submitted to put the original contract amount, less deductions and the balance remaining. This would be an asset in knowing the original amount and balance to be paid.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF BUILDING PERMIT FEE  
LEXINGTON PARK CHURCH OF GOD  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DAY CARE CENTER FOR  
THE MENTALLY RETARDED

The Lexington Park Church of God has made a request to the Board of County Commissioners to waive the building permit fee in reference the construction of their church. Mr. Richard L. Platt, Director of Land Use and Development, in a memorandum, stated that he recommended disapproval of the waiver of this fee in reference this particular request because it is private and not a government-sponsored activity.

The St. Mary's County Day Care Center for the Mentally Retarded has also made a request to the County Commissioners to waive the building permit fee in reference the construction of their center. Mr. Richard L. Platt stated in memorandum form that he was of the opinion that this fee should be waived in the same manner as the fee was waived for the Home for the Elderly because it was a government-sponsored activity.

The Commissioners stated that they would like to make a short study and to set policies relative to stating what organizations, etc. should and would be exempt from a building permit fee. This will be taken under consideration at a later time.

STAFF MEETING

Mr. Edward V. Cox, Chief Clerk, presented a memorandum as to the scheduled staff conference to be held on the second Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. Also, he presented a list of Department Heads, and recommended that all be present at the first staff conference. Mr. Cox requested that the Commissioners inform him as to the department heads they would like to have in attendance prior to the staff conferences each month.

ST. MARY'S METROPOLITAN COMMISSION BUDGET

Mr. Cox, Chief Clerk presented copies to the Commissioners of the St. Mary's Metropolitan Commission Budget for FY 76. The budget has been reviewed and approved by the Metropolitan Commission on April 28, 1975.

HISTORICAL TRUST

Mr. Cox informed the Commissioners that an invitation was received from The Maryland Historical Trust, inviting the Commissioners to attend the first awarding of the Calvert Prize in Historic Preservation on Monday, May 12, at 10:00 a.m. at the State House in Annapolis, Maryland.



EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to go into Executive Session after returning from the meeting with the County Employees in the Circuit Court Room, said meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Dean. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

ST. CLEMENT'S ISLAND MUSEUM

Commissioner Dean made a motion to authorize John Baggett of Recreation and Parks to transfer appropriate funds from his budget to the St. Clement's Island Museum for operating costs, seconded by Commissioner Parlett. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

PROCLAMATION NO. 75-39 - NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Present: Sheriff George Sanger  
Sergeant Bill Miedzinski - Md. State Police  
Chief Applegate - St. Mary's College  
Commander Patterson - NAS Patuxent River

Sheriff Sanger requested the County Commissioners to have the flags flown at half mast on May 15, 1975 in memory of the 104 police officers killed in 1974. He also stated that the Sheriff's Department is going to have an open house on that date.

Chief Applegate made a statement that the Sheriff's Department has been working very closely with the St. Mary's College and appreciated his assistance.

Commander Patterson stated that he appreciated the assistance he has been receiving from the Sheriff's Department and the State Police.

Commissioner Dean made a motion to authorize that the flags be flown at half mast on all public buildings in St. Mary's County on May 15, 1975, seconded by Commissioner Parlett. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

The Commissioners presented Proclamation No. 75-39 "National Police Week" declaring May 11-17, 1975 as National Police Week in St. Mary's County.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Present: Jack Kershaw, Enterprise  
Sandy Lawrence, Enterprise  
Richard Polk, Enterprise  
Dick Myers, WKIK  
Randy Buehler, Beacon  
Brian Murphy, Guardian

At this time the regular bi-monthly press conference was held. A tape of the conference is on file in the Commissioners' Office.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES MEETING  
PERSONNEL STUDY

Mr. Edward V. Cox presented the Personnel Study Review Process, copies of which were given to all in attendance. Mr. Cox stated that he had received copies of the personnel study, numbering 50, and that now the employees and department heads would have more time to review and make comments. The tentative personnel study review process is as follows:

1. Public Meeting with employees on 5-7-75 and announcement of plans.
2. Review by Departments 5-7 - 5-30 - schedules and reporting system details - ability for individual comment in addition to group reports.
3. Concomitant review by County Commissioners - submission of grant request for Personnel Officer.
4. Completion of initial input and compilation of recommendations 6-2 - 6-6-75.
5. Final review by County Commissioners 6-9; proposed package made public 6-11; public hearing scheduled and conducted 7-9.
6. Additional input considered 7-10 - 7-22.
7. Adoption and implementation of Policies and Procedures.
8. Initiation of classification review process.

Mr. Cox stated that the dates are not final and they can be flexible. The Department Heads are to submit the comments and recommendations of their departments in the form of group reports. If an employee is not in agreement with something contained in the report from the department, they may submit their written comments in addition to the group report.



Mr. Gordon Otis, Representative of Maryland Classified Employees Association, stated that the proposed personnel study was good in general, but in some areas there were conflicts. He would prepare a statement as to the areas of conflict and submit same to the Commissioners for their review.

The Board of County Commissioners went into Executive Session at 1:35 p.m. in reference to personnel transactions.

BILLS APPROVED

The following bills were approved by the Board of County Commissioners:

Bates & Associates, Inc. for interior improvements to Airport Hangar, SM 75-4-1B, partial payment in reference to encumbrance voucher 2540 - \$10,035.00;

Cross & Adreon, Nursing Home Project, Payment No. 11 - \$1,749.39;

Mervell M. Dean, Inc. for payment No. 11, Nursing Home Project - \$43,978.00.

Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to pay the above-stated bills, seconded by Commissioner Millison. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

NATIONAL CASH REGISTER PRESENTATION

Present: Raymond I. Marks, Account Managar  
H. D. McGlade, Comptroller  
Edward V. Cox, Chief Clerk  
Francis Cecil, Treasurer  
Harris Sterling, Finance Director

Mr. Marks stated that he had spent approximately one and a half days here in St. Mary's County, and thanked the offices for their cooperation and assistance.

Mr. Marks presented a report to the Commissioners on their findings and recommendations. Mr. Marks stated that control of funds by each department is being maintained. Each department is collecting funds, maintaining proper back-up documents, and depositing them with the Treasurer's Office in a timely manner. The County system is basically a good system. Mr. Marks presented the following recommendations: That a report be issued by accounting at the end of each month to the appropriate Department Head showing the revenue activity for that month and year-to-date. Also, recommend that the County consider a new cash register in the Treasurer's Office. The present one was purchased in 1955 and is not able to do all the break-outs. This work is now being done manually and a new machine would alleviate this burden.

Mr. Marks further stated that he would like to go one step further and go into other areas. He would like to do a system analysis and do a study to see if the NCR organization will have something to offer the County. This will be done at no expense to the County. This study will take approximately fourteen man days or two people for a week to make a completed study of the budgetary/accounting system.

The Commissioners were in favor of letting Mr. Marks continue his study and upon completion given the Commissioners the results of the findings.

#### TRI-COUNTY GROUP HOME

Present: Mrs. Tina Lancaster, President Board of Directors  
Richard Williams, Teaching Parent Director  
Janice Williams, Teaching Parent Director  
Doris Bracken, Member of Board of Directors

Mrs. Tina Lancaster, representing Tri-County Group Home appeared before the Commissioners requesting that St. Mary's County contribute the sum of \$3,750.00 to the Tri-County Group Home to supplement the Department of Juvenile Services funds from April 1, 1976 to June 30, 1976. At the present time they are receiving a federal grant which will expire on March 31, 1976. Mrs. Lancaster stated that Charles and Calvert Counties have been requested to contribute to this program also.

Mr. McKay requested Mrs. Lancaster to speak with Mr. O'Dell Budget Officer and Mr. McGlade, Comptroller and submit an estimated budgetary request for Loretta House for FY '76 and thereafter.

#### STAFF CONFERENCE

Commissioner Dean made a motion to move the staff conference scheduled for May 8, 1975 at 11:00 a.m. to May 15, 1975 at 11:00 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Millison. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

#### PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT

STEPHEN M. GIBSON - Stephen M. Gibson, employed November 14, 1974, in the position of Motor Equipment Operator I has completed his six month probationary period and is recommended for permanent status by John Norris, Supervisor of the position, effective April 14, 1975.

DANIEL H. RALEY - Daniel H. Raley, employed November 4, 1974, in the position of Building and Zoning Inspector has completed his six month probationary period and is recommended for permanent status by Richard L. Platt, Supervisor of the position, effective May 4, 1975.



ALICE V. BAILEY - Alice V. Bailey, employed November 18, 1974 in the position of Steno-Clerk, has completed her six month probationary period and is recommended for permanent status by Edward V. Cox, Supervisor of the position, effective May 18, 1975.

SUSAN L. MORSE - Susan L. Morse, employed November 29, 1974 in the position of Steno-Clerk, has completed her six month probationary period and is recommended for permanent status by Richard L. Platt, Supervisor of the position, effective May 29, 1975.

Commissioner Parlett made a motion to have Stephen M. Gibson, Daniel H. Raley, Susan L. Morse and Alice V. Bailey placed on permanent status as of the effective dates noted, seconded by Commissioner Dean. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

Mr. Edward V. Cox requested approval from the County Commissioners to reclassify the position of steno-clerk under his supervision, provided that if said position is reclassified it be offered to all County Employees who are qualified as a promotional position.

Commissioner Dean made a motion to approve the reclassification of said position and that it has to be open to equal competitiveness for that position, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

#### ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to request Delegate Roy Dyson to attend the 9th Annual Conference of Regional Councils to be held in Boston, Massachusetts from May 27 through May 30, 1975 to represent St. Mary's County, seconded by Commissioner Parlett. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

#### ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED

Present: Theodore H. Ifft  
John Hall  
Lee Watson

Mr. John Hall, Representative from the Soil Conservation Service appeared to inform the Commissioners of the work that has been taking place in reference to the Watershed Project and also the action necessary to complete this project.

Mr. Hall stated that Site I is to be a state-operated Fish and Wildlife Lake to be operated and maintained by the State.

Site II is to be a state park and the operation and maintenance will be provided by the State Park System.

Site III, Chancellor's Run Lake for flood control area of Great Mills will be on a cost-shared basis. Fifty percent (50%) State and fifty percent (50%) cost to the County for the purchase of easements or fee simple title, whichever the Commissioners desire to obtain.

Sites IV and V, the County will have the obligation of the cost for the easement or fee simple purchase.

The Soil Conservation Service does not care how the County handles the purchase or easements.

Mr. Theodore Ifft stated the main purpose of the visit is to inform the Commissioners of the work that is being done, and to request the Commissioners to decide to purchase the entire tracts or just easements. Mr. Ifft stated that the geological survey for Sites 1 and 2 have been completed. The State will provide for the inspection and engineering on the jobs and the total cost for construction for the sites is 100% federally funded. The County has to purchase the land or get the easement and a cost for administration of contracts. The County Commissioners can have this completely done through the Federal Government or they have the option to have local contractors perform the work necessary. The County Commissioners will have to have the survey performed. The Federal Government needs a perpetual easement for the sites.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
ST. ANDREWS CHURCH ROAD LANDFILL CRITICAL AREA  
TREATMENT MEASURE PLAN

Present: George Wheeler, Project Coordinator

Mr. Wheeler presented to the Commissioners the Project Agreement for Contract No. AG24scs-00087 with an estimated figure for cost to the County of \$6,660.00, which represents 33.3%; Operation and Maintenance Agreement and the Project Measure Plan for the approval and signature of the Commissioners.

The purpose of these contracts are to maintain the St. Andrews Church Road Landfill which at the present time is causing considerable erosion and some silting of nearby streams. There are plans to purchase land for a state park and construct a recreation lake on the main branch below the site.

Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to authorize Commissioner McKay to sign the contracts, seconded by Commissioner Dean. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.



At this time Commissioner McKay signed all contracts, and Mr. Wheeler stated that the County Commissioners' Office would receive a copy after all appropriate signatures had been obtained.

EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Present: Charles Purcell  
Avis Mealy  
John Ryan  
Mr. Nicholas

Mr. Charles Purcell, representing the Educational Association of St. Mary's County, appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the reduction in the increase in salary for the teachers from 8.5% to 6.5% as presently appearing in the Board of Education Budget. Mr. Purcell presented documents stating the inequity of salary in St. Mary's County as compared to other counties in the State of Maryland. The Educational Association is of the opinion that the 8.5% is a proper request and would like for the Commissioners to consider this amount.

Commissioner Dean presented documentation stating that St. Mary's County teachers' salaries were not inadequate in comparison to other counties.

At this time, Mr. Purcell stated that he was of the opinion that there were areas in the Board of Education Budget which could be reduced in order for the teachers to obtain the amount they requested. Mr. Dean requested Mr. Purcell to investigate those areas and return his findings to the Commissioners as soon as possible. Mr. Dean stated that Mr. Purcell could obtain a copy of the Board of Education Budget from Mr. O'Dell, Budget Officer.

Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Millison. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

Meeting recessed at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 8, 1975

Present: Commissioner James McKay, President  
Commissioner Ford L. Dean  
Commissioner J. Patrick Jarboe  
Commissioner Larry Millison  
Commissioner John K. Parlett  
Edward V. Cox, Chief Clerk  
Alice V. Bailey, Recording Secretary

The meeting was reconvened at 9:15 by Commissioner President McKay.

DAVID M. GRUBER AND JOHN LITTLE  
ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

Present: David Gruber  
John Little  
Harris Sterling, Director of Finance  
H. D. McGlade, Comptroller  
Joseph O'Dell, Budget Officer

Mr. David M. Gruber stated that there were four items to be brought to the attention of the County Commissioners:

1. Comments on the letter addressed to the Commissioners from Gruber and Little dated April 4, 1975;
2. Report on status of the Assessment work and tax billing;
3. The State is taking over the assessment work as of July 1. Mr. Little has been in contact with the State Department of Assessment and they have asked if we can furnish a report from July 1 through December 30 to help them with assessment notices and assessment roles, this will help them in making the transition.
4. Comments on Phase II project. Asking the Commissioners how they want them to handle the credit balance and retainer account.

The Commissioners discussed the above-noted items.

Mr. Gruber stated that it was essential for the Commissioners to notify him of the tax rate for State, County and Eighth District Fire Tax as soon as possible. Also, to have the Treasurer's Office get the billings out as soon as possible.

The County will enter into a contract with Gruber and Co. to do the Assessment rolls for the Assessment Office on June 30, 1975, at which time the State will then handle the procedures in reference to that office.



Mr. Gruber stated that in connection with the retainer there is a credit balance of \$3,300. Two retainers in the amount of \$5,500 have previously been paid and the balance remaining of \$2,255 is due and owing Gruber and Co. Also, owing Gruber and Co. is a bill in the amount of \$650, representing one-half Treasurer's cost and one-half Assessment Office cost of the Zero District (personal property). In addition is a bill for \$196.25 payable to Gruber and Little for additional forms to do the assessment rolls.

#### REDISTRICTING BOARD

It was brought to the attention of the County Commissioners that appointments must be made to the Redistricting Board by June 8th of this year.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners decided to go into executive session in reference to personnel matters on May 15, 1975 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of considering appointments to Boards and Commissions.

#### ABELL'S WHARF

At this time the Commissioners signed a letter addressed to Mr. James Waring, Attorney for Friends of Breton Bay; Mr. Jack Witten, Mr. Ted Greer and Mr. Jack Koegel, stating that they were in the process of alleviating the apparent lack of communications between the Board of County Commissioners and several department heads.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Commissioner Jarboe raised the question of appointing an Environmental Committee, and this was tabled until a later time.

#### TEEN CENTER

Commissioner Millison raised the question of rather than buying more land for parks if those same funds could be used in terms of a teen center.

Commissioner Parlett stated that there are two types of money; open space purchase money and department money. He did not know if open space funds could be used for teen centers.

Commissioner Jarboe stated that he would like for Mr. John Baggett to give a report on his study of teen centers in St. Mary's County.

The Commissioners would like to have this report at the next staff meeting.

AIRPORT - ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Commissioner Dean stated that a letter should be sent to Professional Flight Service establishing a date of record as to when they occupied the hangar, and stating that as of that date they were operating under the terms of the lease.

PRIVATE COUNTY ROADS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Dean stated that he wanted to set a date for a meeting before the County Commissioners and the private roads committee, consisting of Johns Dixon, Ernest Bell and Commissioner Dean. Said meeting has been scheduled for June 4, 1975 at 9:45 a.m.

MARGARET BRENT ISSUE

Commissioner Jarboe stated that this is a hard decision, but in his opinion it must be made on a dollar and cents basis. In his opinion, it is the Board of Education's decision to decide if it was still useable for an educational facility. Commissioner Jarboe stated that if we were to use the building for county purposes, he estimated it would cost in the neighborhood of \$319,500 to renovate and if you add the \$60,000 for new plans it would come to about \$379,500 and this amount would come from County funds. Since we have the Leonard Hall space available for county offices, he was of the opinion that it would not be in the best interest of the County to separate the county offices. Therefore, he was of the opinion that the decision by the Board of Education was correct.

Commissioner Millison stated that he felt that Margaret Brent is a valuable asset and does not want to see this structure torn down. The Board of Education is talking about a new office building and among other things this building could be used for that purpose. Therefore, Mr. Millison stated that he would like to see the building remain.

Commissioner Parlett stated that he agreed with Commissioner Jarboe, but was of the opinion that the cost would probably be higher than the figure previously stated. Also, that the people of the County were not aware of the facts and figures, and he was of the opinion that the building should be demolished.

Commissioner McKay stated that he thought it was the Board of Education's decision to demolish the building and he would not interfere with that decision. He stated that he thought it was an economic decision and not a political decision.



Commissioner Dean read a prepared statement as follows:

"Arriving at some conclusion in the Margaret Brent issue has not been an easy one for me. I am a 1957 graduate of the school, an uncle was in the first graduating class, my brother and sister are graduates, as are numerous cousins and many friends. In addition, I taught there the last year Margaret Brent was a Junior-Senior High School.

In reflecting on the issue of sentimentality associated with the school, I would propose that whatever Margaret Brent Junior-Senior High School was is not contained in the bricks and mortar of that building, but rather is the spirit and bond among the people who went there. The school is named after Mistress Margaret Brent -- the body of that person has been dead for centuries; she is remembered, not for her body, but what she stood for, what she represented. I submit that there is a parallel with the 1931/39 structure of the school. The "body" might be worn out, but the spirit continues in the students who went there. A school is not the bricks and mortar; it is the interpersonal relationships among people.

The real issues in this case are dollars and cents AND adequate educational facilities for our children and the children of tomorrow. I have heard such statements as ". . . if it was good enough for me, it's good enough for the kids today." I don't subscribe to this line of reasoning. I believe that most parents desire improvement of conditions with each generation. The school was far from adequate in the 1950's when I was a student there and is even more deplorable today.

I cannot but believe that this matter has surfaced at this time to cause political embarrassment for some of the present Commissioners. If there is such a genuine out-pouring of sentiment for saving the building, why has it only surfaced at this time, when the Board of Education plans to demolish the building have been known for a least three years? Why did such a staunch public proponent for saving it tell me ". . . I've gotten all the mileage out of it that I want - tear it down for all I care"? Why did another person call me and say, if you vote to tear it down, I'll destroy you politically?

I believe that it is my duty as an elected official of this County to make the best decisions for the greatest public good, based on the best available information, decisions that the majority of the people would make if placed in the same position and supplied with the same information.

On this issue, the information is contained in the report compiled by Ed Cox as per our directions:

1. The Board of Education emphatically states that the building is inadequate and spells out the details of inadequacy.

2. Letters from the architectural firm and the Inter-agency Committee for School Construction clearly state that if the plan to construct an addition and demolish the 1931/39 building were abandoned at this time, the following costs would be incurred:

- a) \$65,000 in existing design fees for the addition would be lost;
- b) The County would have to provide \$50,000 - \$100,000 for renovation;
- c) The County would have to provide \$50,000 - \$60,000 for new design drawings.
- d) The project would be delayed approximately one year;

In other words, to reverse the Board of Education's decision would mean that:

1. We would throw away \$65,000 in tax money which has already been spent for design fees.
2. We would take from the County treasury from \$100,000 - \$160,000 to help fund the renovation.
3. We would delay the project for a year which would cost additional tax dollars through inflationary increases.
4. In the final analysis we would end up with an old building which would be something less than educationally desirable.

Faced with information such as this, I cannot but abide by the Board of Education's earlier decision. To do otherwise would be irresponsible."

Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to send a letter to the Board of Education stating that the County Commissioners are not going to interfere with the plans for construction and demolition of Margaret Brent, with the understanding that the gymnasium will remain and be delivered over to the County for recreation and/or other matters, seconded by Commissioner Dean. Commissioner Millison voted against the motion, and the four remaining Commissioners voted in favor.



GRANT - GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The Commissioners agreed that Commissioner President James M. McKay was authorized to sign the grant entitled "Southern Maryland Youth Services, USA, Inc." for re-submission to the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice.

BUILDING PERMIT  
DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

Commissioner Parlett made a motion to waive the cost of the building permit for the Developmental Center for the Mentally Retarded, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR THE CONTROL CENTER

The Contract between Southern Maryland Communications and the County Commissioners for maintenance of radio equipment was presented to the Commissioners. They decided to table this matter until the next meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:30 a.m., to consider the matter of Assessment Office personnel, seconded by Commissioner Dean.

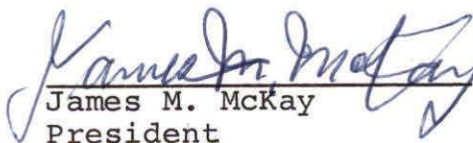
The Board of County Commissioners' meeting reconvened at 12:00 Noon.

ASSESSMENT OFFICE PERSONNEL

Commissioner Dean made a motion that the County Commissioners authorize the two positions requested by the Supervisor of Assessments, and further set in motion the advertising process for those two positions. Funding shall be from the Contingency Fund from date hired through the end of FY '74 - '75, at which time the State shall fund the salary of these two positions, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

The meeting adourned at 12:15 p.m.

Approved,

  
James M. McKay  
President