

**Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, March 30, 2021)**  
*Generated by Julie Burch on Wednesday, March 31, 2021*

**Members present**

Commissioner President James R. Guy  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt  
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan  
Commissioner John E. O'Connor  
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator  
ALisa Casas, Communications Director, Public Information Office

**1. WELCOME**

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:03 a.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

I move to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Minutes of March 23, 2021, as presented.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**2. PROCLAMATION**

A proclamation was presented for National Public Health Week. The Commissioners also presented a Commendation to Dr. Meenakshi Brewster for her leadership and unwavering dedication to the citizens of St. Mary's County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AS COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY**

I move to adjourn as the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and reconvene as the St. Mary's County Board of Health.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**3. ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

## **A. BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Present:** Dr. Meenakshi Brewster, Health Officer

Dr. Brewster discussed the COVID-19 data on the Health Department's Website. There have been 6,366 COVID-19 cases in St. Mary's County with 122 COVID-19 related deaths. She provided an update on the COVID-19 testing sites available in St. Mary's County. She also reviewed the current vaccine eligibility and provided statics for the current COVID-19 vaccinations in St. Mary's County. Twenty-six percent of St. Mary's population has been vaccinated.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN AS THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

I move to adjourn as the St. Mary's County Board of Health and reconvene as the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

## **4. LEGISLATION**

### **A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Legislative Updates**

**Present:** David Weiskopf, County Attorney

Updates were provided on the following bills: HB 1372/SB 965 – Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Revisions; HB 589 - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2021; HB 590 – Capital Budget (Creation of a State Debt - Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2021, and the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020).

## **5. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR APRIL 13 AND 20, 2021.** There will be no meeting of the Commissioners on April 6, 2021.

**B. DEPARTMENT OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES - State of Maryland Emergency Rental Assistance Program ( ERAP-1)**

I move that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, Maryland authorize the submittal of an application for U.S. Treasury funds in the amount of \$4,515,115 through the Dept. of Aging & Human Services for the establishment of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP-1)

and to approve the request for a public hearing upon notification of award and sign the related documents.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**C. DEPARTMENT OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES - FY2022 Senior Rides Program Grant Application**

I move to approve the FY2022 Senior Rides Grant Application, Project #MD2205, from the Maryland Department of Transportation: Maryland Transit Administration on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services in the amount of \$35,652 and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the related documents.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**D. DEPARTMENT OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES - FY2021 Senior Rides Operating Grant Agreement**

I move to approve the FY21 Senior Rides Operating Grant Agreement, Project #MD2105, from the Maryland Department of Transportation: Maryland Transit Administration on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services in the amount of \$37,632 (including \$15,532 county funding), and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the Budget Amendment returning \$694 to the Commissioners Emergency Reserve and sign other related documents.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**E. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Restaurant, Hotel, and Online/Telework MD Relief Grant Funds**

I move to approve the parameters of the grant programs for restaurants, hotels, and online sales and have the Commissioner President sign the Agreements from the State of Maryland and any related items.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**F. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - Federal Funding Priorities**

I move to approve the Federal Funding Request letter to the Federal Delegation, support the Department's completing the online applications consistent with the materials, and authorize the Commissioner President to sign any related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, O'Connor

Not Present at Vote: Commissioner Morgan

## **6. MAIN AGENDA**

### **A. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Request for Public Hearing - Commercial Property Tax Investment Incentive Ordinance**

I move to approve a morning public hearing to receive public comments on the proposed ordinance to implement a commercial property tax investment incentive.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

### **B. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Approval of Nonrecurring Costs to the Maryland State Department of Education**

I move to approve the schedule of nonrecurring and other unique one-time costs to the Maryland State Department of Education for FY2022 and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

### **C. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - FY2022 Operating - Approval and Execution of the FY2022 Recommended Budget for Public Hearing**

**MOTION #1:** I move to approve the FY2022 Recommended Budget as presented, and execute the related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Morgan

Nay: Commissioners Colvin, O'Connor

**MOTION #2:** I move to authorize the Finance Department to schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 on the Constant Yield Tax Rate.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**MOTION #3:** I move to authorize the Finance Department to schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 on the St. Mary's County Fee & Charges increase.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

## **7. COMMISSIONERS' TIME**

The Commissioners highlighted events over the past week and provided general comments.

## **MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION**

I move to enter into Closed Session to discuss Legal Advice.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries  
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

## **8. CLOSED SESSION**

### **A. LEGAL ADVICE**

**Present:** James R. Guy, President  
Eric Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner  
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner  
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator  
David Weiskopf, County Attorney  
Catherine Pratson, Director, Dept. of Human Resources  
Mary Claire Chesshire, Whitman, Taylor & Preston L.L.P.  
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(12) of the *Local Government* Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland  
Time Held: 11:30 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.  
Location: CSMC Meeting Room  
Purpose: To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

**9. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:55 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on April 13, 2021.

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JB  
Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator