

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, April 25, 2023)

Generated by Julie Burch on Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Eric S. Colvin
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
Jenna Guzman, Communications Director, Public Information Office

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:01 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 April 18, 2023, as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

2. PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamations were presented for:

- A. National Library Week
- B. Afterschool Professionals' Week
- C. National County Government Month
- D. Administrative Professionals' Day

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR MAY 2 AND MAY 9, 2023.

B. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - ST. MARY'S METROPOLITAN COMMISSION -

Review of FY2024 Capital Improvement Budget FY2025-2029 Plan

Present: George A. Erichson, P.E., Executive Director
Patricia Stiegman, Chief Financial Officer
Christy Hollander, P.E., Chief Engineer

The MetCom Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) for FY2024 and Plan FY2025 - 2029 was presented.

C. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION - Resolution to waive landfill fees for Christmas in April Projects

I move to adopt the Resolution waiving the landfill fees for Christmas in April projects associated with the annual program scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

D. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION - FAA Airport Grant Application

I move to approve and authorize the Director of Public Works and Transportation to sign and forward the grant application to the Federal Aviation Administration and to authorize the Commissioner President to sign the grant agreement consistent with the grant application upon receipt.

Motion by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow, second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

E. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION - Reorganization

I move to approve the DPW&T reorganization in collaboration with the County Administrator, Human Resources, and Finance.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

F. DEPARTMENT OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES - FY23 Federal Older Americans Act Notification of Grant Award 2

I move to approve the FY23 Federal Older Americans Act Notice of Grant Award 2 from the Maryland Department of Aging on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services in the amount of \$462,677, the attached budget amendments and authorize the Commissioner President to execute related documents.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

G. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES - Contract Award - Actuarial Services

I move to approve the award of a four (4) year base term contract with (2) additional four (4) year options renewable by mutual agreement on the anniversary date of the contract award date, with a potential for 12 years in total; to Bombershine Consulting Group, L.L.C, with authorization for the C.F.O./Procurement Officer and Board member Jeannett Cudmore to execute the related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

H. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES - Personnel Policy Manual Update

I move to approve the requested policy modifications and additions to the St. Mary's County Government Manual of Personnel Policies and Procedures and to the Hourly Handbook of Personnel Policies and Procedures as presented; effective May 2023, following the Manual(s) update and distribution and further research into tuition.

Motion by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow, second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

I. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - American Rescue Grant Update

I move to accept changes to the American Rescue plan as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

J. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - SMCG Vision, Mission & Values 2023

I move to adopt St. Mary's County Government Vision, Mission & Values 2023 as discussed.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

4. LEGISLATION

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Legislative Updates
Present: John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney

Mr. Houser highlighted bills presented during the 2023 Session of the Maryland General Assembly that ended at midnight on Monday, April 10, 2023. The County Attorney's Office tracked the following bills.

SB 457 – St. Mary's County – Public Facilities Bond Status: Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; HB 219 – St. Mary's County – Golf Carts on Public Highways – Report Status: Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; HB 447 - Local Elections - County Commissioner - District Voting Status: Failed to advance from Ways and Means Committee; SB 1 - Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023) Status: Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; SB 974 - State-Owned Nursing Homes - Deficiencies, Citations, and Fines - Contractor Reporting Requirements Status: Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; HB 551/SB 547 – Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023 Status: Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; SB 61 – Property Tax Credit – Public Safety Officer Status: Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; SB 114 - Property Tax - Real Property Tax Assessment and Tax Rate Increases - Notice Requirements Status: Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; SB 555/CH 2 – Fair Wage Act of 2023 Status: Approved by the Governor; SB 828 – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Modifications Status: Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; HB 556/SB 516 – Cannabis Reform Status: Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; HB 692 – Public Service Commission – Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity – Local Permits Status: Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; HB 830 / SB 477 - Residential Construction - Electric Vehicle Charging Status: Passed, awaiting Governor's signature

5. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events attended 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 Michael R. Alderson Jr., second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

6. CLOSED SESSION

A. LEGAL ADVICE

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric Colvin, Commissioner

Ms. Cudmore noted there would be four public hearings tonight: Constant Yield Tax Rate; St. Mary's Fees and Charges; Hollywood VFD Tax rate to .056; and FY2024 Recommended Budget. She presented an overview of the \$ 314 million FY2024 Recommended Budget highlighting Revenue Sources and General Fund Expenditures. The budget includes a Constant Yield Rate at \$.08478 per \$100 of assessed value. Funding for the Board of Education is \$127 million and the Sheriff's Office \$62 million. Funding for County Departments is \$68.5 million. County funding includes 24 planned vehicle replacements. County fees and charges for Aging & Human Services, Senior Center Room Rental Rates; Emergency Services, Rescue Billing Transport Fees; Land Use and Growth Management, Development Service Fees; Recreation and Parks, Wicomico Golf Course Fees; Recreation and Parks, Recreation Activity Fees; Soil Conservation, Erosion and Sediment Control Fees. Hollywood VFD – 6th District Fire Tax to 5.6 cents. 26.25 positions were added to county departments, which included 18 Emergency Medical Technicians in the Emergency Services Medical Billing Fund. A Merit Increase on the anniversary date for Regular and Regular Part-Time employees, and a 4.5% COLA.

Mr. Weiskopf moderated the following 4 public hearings.

CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 7:03 p.m.

Public comments given by:

Deborah Ray, 18364 Chestnut St., Lexington Park, MD

David Kelsey, 38930 Wanda Lane, Mechanicsville, MD

Roy Fedders, 16690 St. Jeromes Neck Road, Dameron, MD

The public hearing closed at 7:12 p.m.

COUNTY FEES AND CHARGES

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 7:12 p.m.

No public comments given.

The public hearing closed at 7:13 p.m.

HOLLYWOOD VFD FIRE TAX RATE INCREASE

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 7:13 p.m.

No public comments given.

The public hearing closed at 7:13 p.m.

FY 2024 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 7:13 p.m.

Public comments given by:

Edward Szymkowiak, 21980 Willis Drive, California, MD
Michael Blackwell, 23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD
Deborah Ray, 18364 Chestnut St., Lexington Park, MD
James "Freddie" Riner, 46103 Saltmarsh Ct., Lexington Park, MD
Dave Hesse 18147 Point Lookout Rd., Park Hall, MD
Dr. Scott Smith, 40825 Spring House Lane, Leonardtown, MD
Karin Bailey, 38159 New Market Turner Road, Mechanicsville, MD
State's Attorney, Jaymi Sterling, Leonardtown, MD
Sheriff Steve Hall, Leonardtown, MD
Cody White, 41151 Glenwood Lane, Mechanicsville, MD
Troy Cowan, 21411 S. Essex Drive, Lexington Park, MD
Raegan Medeiros, 46103 Saltmarsh Court, Lexington Park, MD
Roy Fedders, 16690 St. Jeromes Neck Road, Dameron, MD
Nick Willett, 48017 Mary Lynn Drive, Lexington Park, MD
Tanya Parker, 21414 Manor Way, Lexington Park, MD
Duke May, Leonardtown, MD
Sean Coogan, 41658 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown, MD
Steve Tuttle, 23842 Myrtle Glen Way, California, MD
Daniel Morris, 45040 Three Way Lane, Callaway, MD

The public hearing closed at 8:06 p.m.

Commissioner President Guy thanked citizens for attending the meeting and stated that the comment period would remain open until May 2, 2023. Comments should be mailed to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650, or emailed to: csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov. The public hearing closed at 8:08 p.m.

ADJOURN