

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, May 23, 2023)
Generated by Julie Burch on Wednesday, May 24, 2023

1. COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY AND ST. MARY'S COUNTY METROPOLITAN COMMISSION JOINT MEETING, Chesapeake Building, 41770 Baldrige St., Leonardtown, MD

Members present

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

St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

Keith Fairfax, Chairman, 8th Election District
Gerald Meyerman, Vice Chairman, 1st Election District
Roy Alvey, 2nd & 9th Election District
Dale Antosh, 4th & 5th Election District
Joseph Russell, 3rd Election District
George Ericksen, Executive Director
Patricia Stiegman, Chief Financial Officer

Presenters

Jim Gotsch, Director, Department of Public Works and Transportation
Courtney Jenkins, Acting Director, Department of Land Use and Growth Management
Christy Hollander, P.E. Chief Engineer
Heather Moritz, St. Mary's County Health Department
John Houser, Assistant County Attorney

Commissioner President James R. Guy called the joint meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission to order at 9:02 a.m. in the Chesapeake Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

Opening remarks were provided by Commissioner President Guy and Chairman Fairfax.

Presentations/Discussions focused on: Capital Improvement Project Updates; Comprehensive Water & Sewer Plan; Problem Water and Sewer Areas; Climate Resiliency; EDU Transfer Program Initiative and Disposition of Tax Sale properties.

Mr. Houser provided a summary of 2023 Legislative Session items of interest to the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission, noting that HB 887 – St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission – New Facilities has been signed into law.

MOTION: I move to approve the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission Fy2024 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) and FY2025-2029 Plan in accordance with Section 113-30 of the Code of St. Mary's County.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Alderson, Ostrow

2. ADJOURN

Following closing remarks by Commissioner President Guy and Chairman Fairfax the meeting closed at 10:11 a.m.

3. WELCOME

Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy

Commissioner Eric S. Colvin

Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.

Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow

David Weiskopf, County Administrator

Jenna Guzman, Communications Director, Public Information Office

Not Present: Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 10:26 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 May 16, 2023, as presented.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Alderson, Ostrow

Not Present at Vote: Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt

4. PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamations were presented for:

A. Stroke Smart

- B. National Emergency Medical Services Week
- C. National Public Works Week

5. PUBLIC HEARING

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Public Hearing on Proposed Road Naming and Addressing Manual

Commissioner President Guy opened the public hearing at 10:53.

Present: John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney

Notice of the public hearing was published on May 5 and May 12, 2023, in the *Southern Maryland Newspaper*. The public hearing is to receive public input on the proposed updating of the St. Mary's County Road Naming and Addressing Manual.

Commissioner President Guy requested David Weiskopf provide the format for the public hearing and open the hearing for public comment.

No public comments given.

Mr. Weiskopf closed the public hearing for public comment and noted that the record would remain open for public comment for an additional seven days. Commissioner President Guy closed the public hearing at approximately 11:03 a.m.

Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt joined the meeting Via Zoom

6. PUBLIC HEARING

A. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES - Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan proposed 17th Amendment

Commissioner President Guy opened the public hearing at 11:03.

Present: Catherine Pratson, Director

Notice of the public hearing was published on May 12 and May 19, 2023, in the *Southern Maryland Newspaper*. The public hearing is to receive public input on the proposed amendments to the Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan by modifying the Plan's Deferred Retirement Option Program.

Commissioner President Guy requested David Weiskopf provide the format for the public hearing and open the hearing for public comment.

No public comments given.

Mr. Weiskopf closed the public hearing for public comment and noted that the record would remain open for public comment for an additional seven days. Commissioner President Guy closed the public hearing at approximately 11:07 a.m.

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 Scott R. Ostrow, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Alderson, Ostrow
Not present at vote: Commissioner Hewitt

7. ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

A. BOARD OF HEALTH

Present: Dr. Meenakshi Brewster, Health Officer

Dr. Brewster provided information on the changes in COVID-19 services; the School-Based Health Centers; and the St. Mary's County Health Hub. She highlighted the Behavioral Health Crisis Care System and the new services available for citizens with behavioral health needs. She also reminded citizens of eligible age are now required yearly to re-enroll in Medicaid.

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 Scott R. Ostrow, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Alderson, Ostrow
Not present at vote: Commissioner Hewitt

8. MAIN AGENDA ITEM

A. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Commissioners of St. Mary's County Set Rates and Approves FY2024 Operating and Capital Budgets

MOTION 1: I move to approve the fees and charges included in the public hearing.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

MOTION 2: I move to approve the increased Fire Tax Rate to 5.6 cents for Hollywood VFD, District 6.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

MOTION 3: I move to approve the increased Fees for Soil Conservation.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

MOTION 4: I move to approve and execute the Revenue Ordinance for FY2024, which sets the tax rates.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

MOTION 5: I move to approve and execute the Appropriation Ordinance for FY2024, which identifies appropriations, and includes compensation increase for appointed employees.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

MOTION 6: I move to approve the FY2024 Budget, as set forth in the schedules and documents included in the submission, and execute Budget Estimates page evidencing our approval of the itemized budget.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

MOTION 7: I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the Annual Budget Certification Statement (B-3) for FY2024 and submit to the Maryland State Department of Education.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

MOTION 8: I move to submit the executed FY2024 Nonrecurring Cost Requests Form and related documents to be submitted to the Maryland State Department of Education.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt left the meeting.

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR JUNE 6 AND 13, 2023. There will be no meeting of the Commissioners on May 30, 2023.

B. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES - LOSAP Resolution increasing benefit payments and budget amendment increasing funding to LOSAP Trust

MOTION 1: I move to approve the resolution amending the Length of Service Awards Program Benefit Amounts with benefits payable beginning July 1, 2023.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Alderson, Ostrow

MOTION 2: I move to approve the budget amendment decreasing the Commissioner Emergency Reserve by \$1,600,000 and increasing the LOSAP trust by \$1,600,000.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Alderson, Ostrow

C. DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS - Maryland Bikeways Program Funding Application

I move to approve the FY24 Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Bikeways Program grant application, in the amount of \$1,200,000 for the Three Notch Trail Phase Seven Project and authorize on behalf of the Department of Recreation and Parks to submit the application online and the Commissioner President to execute the related documents.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Alderson, Ostrow

**D. DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS - Gymnastics Center RP2305 -
Purchase of Real Property**

I move to approve the purchase of real property, known as 46961 Bradley Blvd., Lexington Park, MD, containing 3.926 acres, from Willows Run, LLP, in the amount of \$4,250,000; and to authorize Commissioner President Guy to sign the Contract of Sale and all other related documents.

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

10. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

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

MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

I move to go into Closed Session to discuss Litigation.

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

11. CLOSED SESSION

A. LITIGATION

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
John Houser, Assistant County Attorney
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(2) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland
Time Held: 12:25 p.m. - 12:35 p.m.
Location: Savich Conference Room
Purpose: To discuss strategy in a case currently in litigation.

12. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on June 6, 2023.

JB
Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator

**13. OUTSIDE EVENT - NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK PROCLAMATION,
LEONARDTOWN WHARF**