

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, January 23, 2024)

Generated by Julie Burch on Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Eric S. Colvin
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
Jenna Guzma, Communication Director, Public Information Office
Julie Burch, Recorder

Absent

Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:00 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 January 9, 2024.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson

2. PRESENTATION

A. TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND - Check Presentation

John Hartline, Executive Director of Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland presented a \$275,000 check to Commissioners for The Barns of New Market.

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR JANUARY 30 AND FEBRUARY 6, 2024.

B. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Approval of Loan Applications for St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

I move to approve the Maryland Water Infrastructure Financing Administration (MWIFA) Loan Applications for Federal FY2024/State FY2026 Capital Project Financial Assistance through the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), in accordance with Section 113.3.C of the

Code of St. Mary's County, for the following projects: Piney Point Force Main Replacement Phase 1, in the amount of \$6,954,607; Breton Bay Water System Replacement Phase 1, in the amount of \$4,686,911; Shangri-La Drive & South Essex Drive Water Main Replacement Phase 2, in the amount of \$1,188,509; and Hollywood Water Systems Connector and Phase 2 Replacement, in the amount of \$2,779,716.

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

C. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Approval of Supplemental Appropriation for Metcom's FY2024 Capital Improvement Budget

I move that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County approve the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission's Supplemental Appropriation to the FY2024 Capital Improvement Budget in the amount of \$13,079,967 in accordance with Section 113-30 of the Code of St. Mary's County.

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

D. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department request authorization for Public Hearing to increase Fire Tax

I move to authorize the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department to hold a local public hearing in reference to the proposed Fire Tax Rate increase for the the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department as presented, with direction that the public hearing results and public comment will be submitted to the County for consideration as part of the FY2025 budget process, and any such rate increases would be incorporated into our Recommended Budget, including the Public Hearing April 23, 2024.

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

E. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Ridge Volunteer Fire Department request authorization for Public Hearing to increase Fire Tax

I move to authorize the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department to hold a local public hearing in reference to the proposed Fire Tax Rate increase for the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department as presented, with direction that the public hearing results and public comment will be submitted to the County for consideration as part of the FY2025 budget process, and any such rate increases would be incorporated into our Recommended Budget, including the Public Hearing April 23, 2024.

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

F. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department request authorization for Public Hearing to increase Fire Tax

I move to authorize the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department to hold a local public hearing in reference to the proposed Fire Tax Rate increase for the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department as presented, with direction that the public hearing results and public comment will be submitted to the County for consideration as part of the FY2025 budget process, and any such rate increases would be incorporated into our Recommended Budget, including the Public Hearing April 23, 2024.

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

G. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES - Salary Study Presentation

Present: Catherine Pratson, Director of Human Resources
William Benner, Executive Vice President & Principal, Frank & Associates, Inc.
Michael Frank, President & Principal, Frank & Associates, Inc.

A salary study to assess the competitiveness of St. Mary's County merit salary structure was presented. It included a comparison of the St. Mary's County Government merit salary scale with that of Calvert & Charles counties and METCOM.

H. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Budget Briefing #2

Present: Jeannett Cudmore, Chief Financial Officer
Joy Sapp, Deputy Director of Finance

A follow-up to the Budget Work Session held on December 12, 2023, was presented. The following topics were discussed: Tax Credits, FY2025 Board of Education, and Other FY2025 Expenses.

I. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Real Property - Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy

I move to ratify the letter ending the rental relationship with the Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy and authorize Commissioner Guy to sign all related documents.

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

Nay: Commissioner Colvin

4. LEGISLATION

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Legislative Updates

MOTION 1: I move to that we have Ms. Hinkle speak on our behalf to support SB 207/HB 19 Natural Resources - Northern Snakehead - Common Name and authorize Commissioner President Guy to sign and submit a letter stating the Commissioners' position.

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

MOTION 2: I move to oppose HB 81 - Constitutional Amendment - Form of County Government - Requirement to Adopt Charter Home Rule and authorize Commissioner President Guy to sign and submit a letter stating the Commissioners' position.

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

5. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

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

6. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.
Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on January 30, 2024.

JB
Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator