

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

Generated by Julie Burch on Wednesday, April 24, 2024

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

Julie Burch, Recorder

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 April 16, 2024.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

2. PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamations were presented for:

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

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR APRIL 30 AND MAY 7, 2024.

B. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION - Childcare Facility Status Update

Present: Jim Gotsch, Director

Mr. Gotsch reviewed the proposed Childcare Facility. The proposed facility would be located on the St. Mary's County Governmental Campus and is intended to accommodate 73 children. The projected opening date is Fall 2025.

C. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Resolution - to Appoint Buffy Giddens, County Attorney, as Resident Agent for Commissioners of St. Mary's County

I move to approve the Resolution appointing Buffy Giddens, County Attorney, as Resident Agent for the Commissioners of St. Mary's County

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

D. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Resolution - Delegation of Administrative Authority Concerning Execution of Certain Contracts to the Procurement and Contracting Officers

I move to adopt the Resolution to Delegate Administrative Authority Concerning Execution of Certain Contracts to the Procurement and Contracting Officers as presented.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

4. PUBLIC HEARING

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Public Hearing - Great Mills Swimming Pool/Gymnastics Center Program Open Space Conversion

Commissioner President Guy opened the public hearing at 9:43 a.m.

Present: John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

The public hearing is to receive public comment for the conversion of the 5.1152 acres of 21100 Great Mills Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653 encumbered by Program Open Space ("POS"). The County's offered replacement for 21100 Great Mills Road are the properties known as 46955 and 46961 Bradley Boulevard, two contiguous parcels less than two miles east of 21100 Great Mills Road comprising approximately 7.434 acres. Notice of the public hearing was published on April 5 and 12, 2024, in the Southern Maryland Newspaper.

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

Public Comment given by:

Joan Sullivan–Cowan, 21411 S. Essex Dr, Lexington Park, MD

Troy Cowan, 21411 S. Essex Dr, Lexington Park, MD

Eve Taylor

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 10:05 a.m.

5. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

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

6. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on April 30, 2024

JB

Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator

7. FY2025 PROPOSED BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING, Great Mills High School, 21130 Great Mills Rd., Great Mills, MD

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

Jeannette Cudmore, Chief Financial Officer

Jenna Guzman, Communications Director, Public Information Office

Sharon Ferris, Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners

Julie Burch, Administrative Coordinator to the Commissioners

Amy Carter, Video Media Producer, Public Information Office

A. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Six Public Hearings as related to the FY2025 Recommended Budget

David Weiskopf, County Administrator opened the FY2025 Recommended Budget Public Hearing at 6:30 pm in the Great Mills School Auditorium. Mr. Weiskopf introduced

Commissioner President Guy who introduced the other Commissioners, Staff and provided opening remarks.

Ms. Cudmore noted there would be six public hearings tonight: Local Income Tax Increase; St. Mary's County Fees and Charges; Leonardtown VFD Fire Tax rate to .056; Mechanicsville VFD Fire Tax rate to .056; Ridge VFD Fire Tax rate to .056; FY2025 Recommended Budget. She presented an overview of the \$329 million FY2025 Recommended Budget highlighting Revenue Sources and General Fund Expenditures. The budget includes a Constant Yield Rate at \$.08478 per \$100 of assessed value; Local Income Tax rate at 3.20% effective January 1, 2025. Funding for the Board of Education is \$134 million and the Sheriff's Office \$66 million. Funding for County Departments is \$75 million. County funding includes 10 planned vehicle replacements. County fees and charges for Aging & Human Services - Senior Center on-site Building Attendants; Public Works and Transportation – Solid Waste Service Fees; Recreation and Parks – Recreation Activity Fees. Mechanicsville VFD, Ridge VFD, and Leonardtown VFD Fire Tax to 5.6 cents; 5 positions were added to county departments. A one-step merit increase on the anniversary date for Regular and Regular Part-Time employees, a 1% COLA and a 3.66% market increase for county merit scale employees on July 1, 2024.

Mr. Weiskopf moderated the following 6 public hearings.

#1 Local Income Tax Increase

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 7:04 p.m.

Public comments given by:

David Deaderick, 23155 Mirfield Lane, Lexington Park, MD
Linda Thomas, 46852 Flower Drive, Lexington Park, MD
Kevin Emerson, 48021 Piney Orchard St, Lexington Park, MD
Joseph Gardner, P.O. Box 211, Piney Point, MD
Mark Pielmeier, Tall Timbers.MD
Mia Hayward, 45571 Knocheyon Lane, Great Mills, MD
Brandon Russell, 22291 Meadow Lane, Leonardtown, MD
Alonzo Gaskew, 16957 Three Notch Road, Dameron, MD
Joan Sullivan-Cowan, 21411 South Essex, Lexington Park, MD
Troy Sullivan, 21411 South Essex, Lexington Park, MD
Francisco Kuidlan, 45210 Christman Road, Hollywood, MD
Charles Corrington, 22022 Gloucester Court, Lexington Park, MD
Marcia Greenberg, 47577 Memory Lane, Lexington Park, MD
John Bowman, 45873 S. Springsteen Court, California, MD

The public hearing closed at 7:39 p.m.

#2 St. Mary's County Fees and Charges

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 7:40 p.m.

Public comments given by:

No Public Comment Given

The public hearing closed at 7:40 p.m.

#3 Leonardtown VFD Fire Tax Rate Increase to .056

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 7:41 p.m.

Public comments given by:

Brandon Russell, 22291 Meadow Lane, Leonardtown, MD

The public hearing closed at 7:42 p.m.

#4 Mechanicsville VFD Fire Tax Rate Increase to .056

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 7:43 p.m.

No public comment given.

The public hearing closed at 7:43 p.m.

#5 Ridge VFD Fire Tax Rate Increase to .056

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 7:44 p.m.

No public comment given.

The public hearing closed at 7:44 p.m.

#6 FY2025 Recommended Budget

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 7:44 p.m.

Public comments given by:

Sarah Penrod, California, MD

Rebecca Bradburn, Ridge, MD

Creasy Lopez, Esperanza Middle School

Heather Huff, SMCPS Central Office

Shelley Fielder, California, MD

AJ Barker, California, MD

Casey Scheetz, Drayden, MD

Anna Rodriguez, Mechanicsville, MD

Erin Horner, California, MD

Hannah Heisler, California, MD
Melissa Kierman, Mechanicsville, MD
Wrenn Heisler, 48440 Princess Court, Lexington Park, MD
Patrick Cox
Katherine Holm, Mechanicsville, MD
Arabella Kemp, Mechanicsville, MD
Tammy Bucior, Mechanicsville, MD
Kristin Poston, Mechanicsville, MD
Jennifer Venendaal, Hollywood Elementary
Hanna Byrnes, Leonardtown, MD
Karen Myers, Mechanicsville, MD
Sheriff Steven Hall, Leonardtown, MD
Zachary Horner, California, MD
Caleb Bryon, Leonardtown, MD
Angelica Perez, 24009 Point Lookout Road, MD
Kristie Mattingly, Duke Street, Leonardtown, MD
Kyvetta Ruffin, Lexington Park, MD
Claulette Jordan, Lexington Park, MD
Patricia Gronert, Morganza, MD
Stephanie Myles, California, MD
Renee Russell, 48948 Packer Court, St. Inigoes, MD
Mia Hayward, 46671 Knockeyon Lane, Great Mills, MD
Jenna Pastorek, 23312 Hyacinth Lane, California, MD
Daniel McCollum, 27465 N. Sandgates Road, Mechanicsville, MD
Alison Sayers, 16840 Bay Drive, Mechanicsville, MD
Erin Millham, 45878 Church Drive, Great Mills, MD
Angelia Ballard, 45495 Westmeater Way, Great Mills, MD
Allison Kerr, 13300 Wilson Road, Huntington, MD
Sara Quinn, 21346 Jettison Drive, Lexington Park, MD
Tim Moraca, 22615 Calvert Street, Leonardtown, MD
Dwayne Hancock
Micki Bell, 19423 King James Parkway, Lexington Park, MD
Caitlyn Mroz, Spring Ridge Middle School
Mike Watson, Leonardtown, MD
Jill Morris, California, MD
Brandon Russell, 22291 Meadow Lane, Leonardtown, MD
Janice Walthour, 20493 Partin's Lane, Lexington Park, MD
Barbara Clark, 43713 Stephenson Drive, Leonardtown, MD
Austin Schultz, P.O. Box 1207, Leonardtown, MD
Chris Thompson, 23440 Bushwood City Road, Bushwood, MD
Kayla Deese, 28754 Burroughs Court, Mechanicsville, MD
Melissa Treaster, Leonardtown, MD
Jay Raley, Mechanicsville, MD
Susanne Richards, Piney Point, MD
Jarrett Higgs, Hollywood, MD
Troy Cowan, 21411 South Essex, Lexington Park, MD

Jaymi Sterling, Leonardtown, MD
Jeremy Lisner, Great Mills, MD

The public hearing closed at 10:39 p.m.

Commissioner President Guy thanked citizens for attending the meeting and stated that the comment period would remain open until April 30, 2024. 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. Commissioner President Guy closed the FY 2025 Recommended Budget Public Hearing at 10:42 p.m.

8. ADJOURN