

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Agenda (Tuesday, September 17, 2024)
Generated by Sharon Ferris on Tuesday, September 17, 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 Attorney
Jenna Guzman, Communications Director, Public Information Office
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

1. WELCOME

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 September 10, 2024.

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

2. PROCLAMATION

A Proclamation was presented for Constitution Week.

3. PRESENTATION

A. Invitation to the 77th Annual St. Mary's County Fair

Present: John Richards, President, St. Mary's County Fair Association Inc.
Jay Farrell, Vice President, St. Mary's County Fair Association Inc.
Susan Mattingly, Secretary, St. Mary's County Fair Association Inc.

Mr. Richards formally invited the Commissioners to the St. Mary's County Fair, September 19-22, 2024. The Commissioners then presented Mr. Richards with a Commendation for his outstanding accomplishments working with the County Fair for over 40 years.

4. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR SEPTEMBER 24 AND OCTOBER 1, 2024.

B. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Newtowne Players, Inc. Application for Nonprofit Theater Annual Beer and Wine License

I move to approve The Newtowne Players, Inc's request to apply for an annual nonprofit performing arts theater beer and wine license and to authorize Commissioner President to sign the corresponding application and any related documents.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

C. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - PILOT Request for Cedar Lane Senior Living IV

I move to approve the Letter of Support for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement with Cedar Lane Senior Living Community, LLC and authorize the Commissioner President 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, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

D. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - State of Agriculture in St. Mary's County

Present: Chris Kaselemis, Director Dept. of Economic Development
Priscilla Leitch, Ag and Seafood Division Manager, Dept. of Economic Development
Ben Beale, Maryland Extension Agent, St. Mary's County

Mr. Beal provided an overview of the latest 2022 Ag Census for St. Mary's County that was just released this year. He provided the number of farms in St. Mary's County, number of agricultural producers and the type of farms noting that St. Mary's County exceeds Calvert and Charles Counties in all aspects of agriculture. He also discussed livestock production noting that sales from Livestock and Poultry have increased over the years. He expressed the need to increase a marketing profile for the County to expand to larger buyers.

E. DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS - FY26 Waterway Improvement Fund Grant Application

I move to approve the FY26 Waterway Improvement Fund Grant Application and authorize Recreation and Parks staff to submit online as presented.

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

F. DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - Citizen Broadband Connectivity – 2024 Update

Present: Bob Kelly, Chief Information Officer

Mr. Kelly provided an update on the County's effort to improve wired broadband access to St. Mary's County residents. To date 1,559 addresses have received access to wired broadband with an additional 189 addresses approved but are still in the pipeline and approximately 912 registered addresses with no request for wired broadband. The County participated in the Fast Trak program by providing 4,500 state funded laptop computers to eligible citizens. Assistance was provided through a Federal program, the Affordability Connect Program (ACP) to reduce monthly internet bills for those who qualified. Training and technical support was provided by the Dept. of Aging and Human Services at their Senior Centers, the St. Mary's County Public Libraries, and the University of Maryland Extension Office. The Federal Government has a new five- year plan, Federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD), to connect all unserved addresses nationwide. This program will supersede local connectivity projects. Mr. Kelly provided the County's broadband information for the BEAD program.

G. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - BOE - St. Mary's County Public Schools Piney Point E.S. HVAC Systemic Renovation Funding

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Built to Learn Act in the amount of \$1,442,462 for Piney Point E.S. HVAC Systemic Renovation as approved by the Board of Education on August 28, 2024, to be submitted to the MD Stadium Authority, in accordance with state procedures.

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

H. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - BOE - St. Mary's County Public Schools FY2026 - FY2031 State Capital Improvements Program Approval

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the letter of support for the FY2026 - FY2031 State Capital Improvements Program as approved by the Board of Education

on September 11, 2024, to be submitted to the Interagency Commission on School Construction, in accordance with state procedures.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Alderson, Ostrow

Nay: Commissioner Hewitt

5. LEGISLATION

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Presentation of 2025 Legislative Proposals

Present: John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

Mr. Houser presented the following 15 proposed Legislative items for Commissioner consideration.

COUNTY PERSONNEL

1. Public Facilities Bond
2. Amend Local Animal Control Statute
3. Alter Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan Amendment Procedure
4. Increase Procurement Threshold from \$15,000 to \$50,000
5. Alcohol Beverage St. Mary's County Multiple Licensing Plan.
6. Prohibition of Roadside Solicitation and Donations in St. Mary's County
7. Prompt Repayment of Exempt State Motor Fuel Tax
8. Legislative Bond Initiative Request - EV Charging Infrastructure for Planes at Airport
9. Legislative Bond Initiative Request - Feed St. Mary's

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

10. Alcoholic Beverages Increase Maximum Civil Penalty for Violations of Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board from \$1,000 to \$2,500
11. Sheriff's Office Amend Correctional Service Article to Allow Establishment of Day Reporting In-Patient Treatment and Pretrial Supervision and Release Programs
12. METCOM Amend Chapter 113 of the Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County to Provide Relief to Certain Charges and to Allow Commission to Recoup Certain Costs

COMMUNITY REQUESTS

13. Alcohol Beverage Board Amend Maximum Number of Class A License
14. Amend Term Length for Library Board of Trustees Members
15. Amend Eligibility Requirements for the St. Mary's County State Tax Credit

The Commissioners will vote on the proposed Legislative items at their September 24th meeting.

6. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

The Commissioners discussed events attended over the past week and items of a personal nature.

MOTION TO MOVE 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

7. CLOSED SESSION

A. LEGAL ADVICE

Present: James R. Guy, President

Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner

Eric Colvin, Commissioner

Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

David Weiskopf, County Administrator

David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator

John Houser, Deputy County Attorney

Tracy Rohan, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(2) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 12:56 p.m. - 1:14 p.m.

Location: Savich Conference Room

Purpose: To discuss strategy in collective bargaining.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County _____.

Sharon Ferris, Admin Assistant