

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, January 14, 2025)
Generated by Julie Burch on Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Members present

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

Not Present:

Commissioner Eric S. Colvin
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow

1. WELCOME

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:02 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 December 17, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Alderson

2. PROCLAMATION

A proclamation was presented for National Mentoring Month.

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR JANUARY 28 AND FEBRUARY 4, 2025. There will be no meeting of the Commissioners on January 21, 2025.

B. CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY - Courthouse Security Grant

I move to approve the Circuit Court Security Equipment Grant Award, MD2536, from the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts on behalf of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, for courthouse security improvements in the amount of \$201,963 and authorize the Commissioner President 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, Hewitt, Alderson

C. DEPARTMENT OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES - FY2025 Provider Solicitation for Comprehensive Care Management

I move to approve the FY25 Provider Solicitation for Comprehensive Case Management and Supports Planning Services for Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports received from the Maryland Department of Health on behalf of St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the related documents.

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

D. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Housing Assistance Vouchers for Villas at Lexwoods

I move to authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Environmental Assessment for the Villas at Lexwoods Low-Income Housing Project to enable the receipt of Project-Based Section 8 Vouchers and have the Commissioner President sign all related documents.

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

E. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Resolution to designate the St. Mary's County Art Council as the Official St. Mary's County Arts Agency.

I move to approve and authorize the Resolution designating the St. Mary's County Art Council as the Official St. Mary's County Arts Agency.

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

F. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - Approve Employment Contract

I move to approve the employment contract for the Director of Recreation and Parks for St. Mary's County Government and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the related documents.

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

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Alderson

4. LEGISLATION

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Legislative Updates

Present: John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

The following bills were discussed:

HB 125 - St. Mary's County – Circuit Court - Judges

HB 6 / SB 143 - State Department of Assessments and Taxation and Department of General Services - Property Appraisal Aids - Geographic Images

HB 20 / SB 198 - Transportation – Consolidated Transportation Program – Prioritization (Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2025)

HB 38 - School Construction and Housing - School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances

HB 93 / SB 234 - Housing and Community Development - Homeless Shelter Certification Program – Establishment

HB 101 / SB 204 - Property Tax - Deadline to Set County and Municipal Corporation Tax Rates – Alteration

HB 132 - Cannabis – On-Site Consumption Establishments and Cannabis Events

HB 176 / SB 26 - Labor and Employment - Occupational Safety and Health - Revisions (Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act)

HB 204 / SB 221 - Cannabis - Wholesaler License – Establishment

HB 286 - Local Comprehensive Planning and State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy - Planning Principles

SB 20 - Locally Operated Transit Systems - Mandatory Funding - Inflation Adjustment (Local Transit Sustainability Act)

HB 87 / SB 132 – Short-Term Rentals and Home Amenity Rentals – Taxation, Regulation, and Crimes

5. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events 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 Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Alderson

6. CLOSED SESSION

A. LEGAL ADVICE

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator
Buffy Giddens, County Attorney
Chris Kaselemis, Director, Dept. of Economic Development
Shawn Kingston, Executive Director, Housing Authority of St. Mary's County
Tomica Scriber, Deputy Director, Housing Authority of St. Mary's County
Matthew Padron, Managing Director of Development, Volker
Tracy Rohan, Recorder

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

Time Held: 11:07 a.m. - 12:01 p.m.

Purpose: To discuss strategy in collective bargaining or litigation.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on January 28, 2025.

JB
Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator

8. PUBLIC FORUM

Present:

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
Leenkia Martin, Communication Coordinator, Public Information Office
Julie Burch, Recorder

Commissioner President Guy called the Public Forum to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center and requested Ms. Martin to provide the format for the Forum.

Public Forum comments were provided by:

Christina Timmons, 24660 Morgan Road, Hollywood, MD

Julia Lindsey, 16288 Shipsview Way, Piney Point, MD
John Dumler, 26225 Gardiner Court, Mechanicsville, MD
Marcia Greenberg, P.O. Box 5013, St. Mary's City, MD
Terri Doughtry, 21825 N. Essex Drive, Lexington Park, MD
Michael Brown, 20825 Wolftrap Street, Lexington Park, MD

There were no other citizens present who wished to speak, so Commissioner President Guy closed the Public Forum at 6:54 p.m.