

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
Tuesday, April 5, 2011**

**Present:** Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell  
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe  
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones  
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris  
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan  
Sue Sabo, Acting County Administrator  
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner President Russell called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to adopt the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, March 29, 2011 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

**PROCLAMATIONS PRESENTED FOR NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH, NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH, AND NATIONAL LIBRARY MONTH**

**UPDATE ON DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY'S VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE RECRUITMENT & RETENTION COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES**

**Present:** Bob Kelly, Interim Director, Dept. of Public Safety  
William Smith, Recruitment & Retention Coordinator, Dept. of Public Safety

Mr. Smith briefed the Commissioners on plans to observe National Volunteer Week and the importance of fire and rescue volunteers to the County. He also highlighted other ongoing initiatives to recruit and retain more volunteers including the "First-Ever County Recruitment Day."

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

1. Draft Agendas for April 12 and April 26, 2011. There will be no meeting on April 19, 2011

**2. Department of Public Safety** (*Bob Kelly, Interim Director*)

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Advanced Life Support Unit and the County on behalf of the Department of Public Safety for funding towards the match requirement of the MIEMSS Matching and Hardship Grant Program for the purchase of a defibrillator and also to execute the related budget amendment. Motion carried 5-0.**

**3. Circuit Court** (*Teresa Weeks, Senior Legal Assistant*)

**Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement, Project US1127, for the Maryland Department of Human Resources, on behalf of the Circuit Court for Child Support Enforcement, in the amount of \$12,816, and the related budget amendment that includes realigning \$491 from the Circuit Court accounts to cover the increase in county funding. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment reducing the Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement, Project US1027, to the Supplemental Reserve and to the BOCC Emergency Reserve to reflect the actual revenue and expenses as they occurred in the grant. Motion carried 5-0.**

**4. Sheriff's Office** (*Brian Eley, Civilian Administrator, Bonnie Lancaster, Fiscal Specialist*)

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize the Sheriff's Office to submit the grant application documents electronically and mail for the Sex Offender Compliance Enforcement grant, Project MD1224, from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention in the amount of \$16,073 with the hard copy to be submitted for review at the award stage. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Commissioner Morgan moved, Seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment reducing the Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement, Project US1017, to the Supplemental Reserve and to the BOCC Emergency Reserve to reflect the actual revenue and expenses as they occurred in the grant. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment reducing the ARRA 09 Byrne Crime Analyst Grant to the Supplemental Reserve to reflect the actual revenue and expenses as they occurred in the grant. Motion carried 5-0.**

**5. Department of Public Works and Transportation** (*George Erichsen, Director*)

**Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to authorize the Department of Public Works and Transportation staff to submit the Grant Application to the FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Program, Project PF1004, in the amount of \$500,000 for the purpose of structural enhancements to the Emergency Communications Center. Motion carried 5-0.**

*(Jacqueline Fournier, Transportation Manager and Mary Ann Coontz, STS Supervisor, Dept. of Public Works and Transportation, Ella May Russell, Director, Department of Social Services)*

**Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Job Access Reverse Commute I, Memorandums of Agreement, Project #US1272, with the Maryland State Department of Human Resources and Department of Social Services in the amount of \$20,000 and the Certification of Lobbying, on behalf of the Department of Public Works and Transportation. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Job Access Reverse Commute II, Memorandums of Agreement, Project #US1273, with the Maryland State Department of Human Resources and Department of Social Services in the amount of \$20,000 on behalf of the Department of Public Works and Transportation. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the JARC III grant Memorandum of Agreement, Project #MD1276, with the Maryland State Department of Human Resources and the Department of Social Services in the amount of \$40,000. Motion carried 5-0.**

**6. Department of Finance** (*Elaine Kramer, CFO, Brad Clements, Chief Operating Officer, St. Mary's County Public Schools*)

**Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and sign the letter of support which confirms local funding support for the Board of Education's FY2012-FY2017 State Capital Improvements Program as identified in the Recommended Budget. Motion carried 5-0.**

**7. Department of Recreation and Parks** (*Phil Rollins, Director*)

**Entrance fee proposal for Elms Beach Park and Myrtle Point Park**

---

Mr. Rollins presented an entrance fee proposal and implementation plan for Elms Beach and Myrtle Point Parks. Following discussion, the Board agreed to consider the proposal and return the matter for decision on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Department of Economic and Community Development** (*Bob Schaller, Director; Hans Welch, Manager, Business Development*)

*(Don Parsons, Executive Director, Patuxent Habitat for Humanity)*

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and sign the letter to Patuxent Habitat for Humanity for two Impact Fee Waiver requests for properties located at 21859 and 21863 Milton Lane, Lexington Park, MD, and to authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the related Budget Amendment. Motion carried 5-0.**

**DECISION ON REQUEST FOR RAILROAD RIGHT-OF -WAY CONCEPTUAL EASEMENT APPROVAL RELATIVE TO ST. MARY'S MARKETPLACE DEVELOPMENT**

**Present:** Derick Berlage, Director, Dept. Land Use and Growth Management

Mr. Berlage provided the background on the request for an easement agreement crossing the railroad right-of-way to construct an entrance to St. Mary's Market Place Shopping Center from Rt. 235 and also to gain easements for SMECO and MetCom. He noted there are three entrances planned at this time but only the 235 entrance requires the easement agreement. He expressed the concern of the shopping center's representatives that major chain stores will not locate in the shopping center if access to Rt. 235 is not given. He acknowledged the safety concern for hikers/bikers using Three Notch Trail that was expressed at the original presentation in March.

*Concerns considered during discussion included safety issues for Three Notch Trail users, additional traffic congestion on Rt. 235, the vacant building that would result from relocation of existing store, and the affect an easement agreement could have on potential railroad right-of-way uses in the future.*

**Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to deny the request for an ingress and egress easement over the railroad right-of-way for the St. Mary's Marketplace development and to authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute an easement agreement prepared by the County Attorney granting the St. Mary's Marketplace an easement for such underground connections to utilities as the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. and the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission shall approve. Motion carried 5-0.**

**PRESENT WICOMICO SHORES GOLF COURSE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND PRIVATIZATION OPTIONS**

**Present:** Phil Rollins, Director, Dept. of Recreation and Parks  
Robert Richardson, Chair, Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board

Mr. Rollins provided the financial history of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course and the new clubhouse facility. He noted that until recently the facility has been successful and self-supporting, but that the economy has had a significant impact on the operations incurring a deficit for the last two years. He also explained necessary steps to be taken if it is determined to privatize either the restaurant or golf operations. The Golf Advisory Board discussed the possibility of privatization the last two years and held a special public meeting in March to get feedback from golfers and residents in the community. Mr. Richardson said the Advisory Board is recommending against privatizing. The Clubhouse serves the community by hosting several youth programs and charity events. Discussions focused on the location of the facility and the need for creative marketing to bring more revenue into the golf course and restaurant. The Commissioners will render a decision on the privatization issue at the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **BOCC SITTING AS ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Present:** Dr. William Icenhower, Health Officer  
Tracy Kubinec, Deputy Health Officer  
Daryl Calvano, Environmental Health Officer  
Nancy Luginbill, Health Services Director

**Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to adjourn as the Board of County Commissioners and reconvene as the St. Mary's County Board of Health. Motion carried 5-0.**

Dr. Icenhower provided an overview of services provided by the Health Department. Ms. Kubinec discussed ways the Health Department meets the everyday needs of the community and the challenges to meet those needs in lieu of recent state budget cuts which have resulted in layoffs and furloughs. Mr. Calvano explained environmental health issues handled by his division which include perc and soil testing, food safety, water quality, air quality, on-site septic/building permit programs and inspections of camp grounds and mobile home inspections. Ms. Luginbill discussed initiatives in the Health Services Division. Her goal is to provide effective Public Health programs while saving costs. She noted the importance of immunizations for vaccine preventable diseases. The flu immunization initiative in the schools has been very successful with 52% of all elementary/middle school students vaccinated this year and the program will continue next year. Other programs promoted for a healthy lifestyle are Reproductive Health, Smoke Free for Life, Infant Toddler Early Intervention, Healthy Smiles Dental and Maryland Children's Health. Although each of the divisions have lost FTE positions, staff has cross trained to maintain the same quality of service to the public.

**Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to adjourn as St. Mary's County Board of Health and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners. Motion carried 5-0.**

## COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events attended over the past week and upcoming events.

## PUBLIC FORUM

Commissioner President Russell welcomed citizens and opened the Public Forum for public comments at 6:30 pm.

Public Comments. *(Comments as noted below are intended as highlights of testimony given and are not verbatim.)*

### **Jim Hodges, 24235 Mervell Dean Road, Hollywood, MD 20636**

As a regular golfer and longtime taxpayer, concerned about golf fees and prices and the fact we are dipping into the County's General fund to subsidize operations at Wicomico. The Senior Blitz group who plays on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday pays green fees, rents carts, buys from pro shop and eats and drinks in restaurant should be thanked for their support. Commends Board for addressing this issue and working towards a solution. Confusion if they are making money or not. Feels administrative salaries and benefits are just too high. Opportunity for revenue has been missed – lack of marketing. Neither for or against privatizing but feels Wicomico should be run like a good business returning a profit. With all of the losses in recent years, any other business being run like this would be out of business. Hoping business picks up. Recreation and Parks has not offered any plan to make changes for the better. Suggested cutting administrative costs, promote and market better or possibly privatize.

### **Jerry Slagle, Golf Course Drive, Mechanicsville, MD 20659**

New member of Golf Board. Played golf for 30 years at Wicomico. Has seen many changes in course over the years and one change he does not like is it is a very unfriendly course to visit and feels that hampers new players from returning. Feels they have lost many golf outings due to price of handling water and soda - cost of water, \$13 a case. Asked Recreation and Parks management about costs and was told they are in the business to make money. Feels golf course and restaurant would run more efficiently and cost effective with contract employees for pro shop and restaurant with performance based salary as opposed to county employee with guaranteed salary and high dollar perks. Play has gone down and prices have been going up last 3 years. Complimented Jim Farren and his crew for condition of golf course – maybe this is only part of Wicomico that should stay under the County.

### **Shelby Guazzo, Chaptico, MD 20621**

Recently held daughters wedding and reception at Wicomico Shores and was extremely pleased. Concerned with article in paper for contracting out food and beverage services. Feels missing piece is the need to review the current long term marketing plan – need to enhance marketing. Suggested simple upgrade of Wicomico signage, on-going program for radio spot advertising; website exclusively for Clubhouse and Golf Course and attractive brochures to hand out on-site and at hotels/motels in area. Reasons should not privatize: (1) impact of facility on its 400 household community location and priority must go to the largest financial earner, the golf course and (2) food and beverage services should be worked around the needs of golfing community. Maryland public golf courses - 26 golf

courses self operating their food and beverage services and only 8 contracts for outside operated services. She provided a list of 33 functions held at the restaurant in 2010.

**Everett Cooper, 36550 Bashford Lane, Maddox MD**

Member of Wicomico. Groundskeeper does a great job. Restaurant offers 3 meals a day 7 days a week. 50% of golfers from Charles County.

**Bob Parkinson, 43765 Little Cliffs Rd., Hollywood, MD 20636**

St. Thomas Creek Oysters. Connected with Circle C Oyster Ranchers Association as a grow out rancher. St. Thomas's Creek was stated to be in prohibited water classification in April 2010 in a letter from MDE. MDE declared creek restricted in January 2011 along with creeks on NAS Patuxent River. Regulations state MDE required to sample water at least twice monthly however the County can request more frequent samplings and the results will be reported to the county expeditiously. Mr. Parkinson requested County Commissioners to : (1) ask MDE for implementation of remediation action required by COMAR 4-472, (2) ask MDE to increase sampling to daily until water quality falls to restricted status definition under NSSP, (3) ask MDE to allow relay to be conducted as defined in statute and policy for water borne relay as soon as water quality is seen to improve to restricted by the daily samplings and (4) request county staff look into and report on actions that can be taken to improve the water quality in St. Thomas Creek as a goal of the Comprehensive Plan of 2010.

**Rich Pelz, 44676 Freeman's Rd., Dameron, MD 20628**

Concerned with water quality in St. Thomas Creek and creeks on NAS Patuxent River and St. Inigoes. Using quality test from 1904. In 1983 EPA found the test did not work to protect swimming beaches. This 1904 test is the one they are using on these 3 areas. Bacteria not an indicator for anyone eating shellfish. Bacteria from trees included in current test. Contacted the State Health Department – there is a new test called Source Test. Went to O'Donnell to ask for legislative action to do Source Testing. Bill 966 was co-sponsored by Wood and Bohannon. Bill passed and went to Senate and passed today. Would like letter requesting new source testing.

**Susan McQuinkin, Box 517, Chaptico, MD 20621**

Recalled taking her father to the Wicomico Golf Course 20 years ago to see the view. Beautiful natural resource. Course was in great condition. Concerned with how little is known about the facility. Need more marketing. No dedicated sign. Website submerged on County Website. Need to promote.

**Trisha Post, 45900 Harbor Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653**

Increase funding to education. Getting less than 40% from county. Statistics show most systems get 50%. Any dollars given to education will be used wisely. Board of Education makes wise decisions. Put education as number one priority - make same choice as the MD Governors Association made.

**Danny Guy, 41972 Cemetery Rd., Leonardtown, MD 20650**

Member of senior group that plays at Wicomico. Club operation prices out of order. Promote more play. Blue collar course – have contractors coming in, in the evenings after work to play. Building is beautiful but poorly designed – golfers get shoved aside if there is function – building could be redesigned. Course costs almost as high as Breton Bay. Golf Course is tribute to St. Mary's County. Keep it, give it a shot.

**Mary Piotrowski, 36685 West Lakeland Dr., Mechanicsville, MD 20659**

Representing Friends of Myrtle Point Park and herself. Provided her background which includes a BS in resource management and worked in forestry and a naturalist in several nature parks. Park was designed to emulate Flag Pond Nature Park in Calvert County. Myrtle Park was open space purchased with county and other funds. A professional strategic plan of \$21,000 was developed, then next BOCC dropped the project. Now we have illegal camping, illegal parking outside the gate, cars getting locked inside the gate, dumping ground for trash and well know sexual solicitation going on in the park. Friends of Myrtle Point Park wants fees implemented at the park to hire attendants to work Friday 4-8 pm and 8-hour days on Saturday and Sunday. A second road opened to provide easier access for first responders attracts more foot traffic. There is now room for 150 more vehicles in the park. The park is a registered archeological site.

**Marian Moore, 26376 Mar-A-Lee Dr., Mechanicsville, MD 20659**

Has son attending Chopticon. Son was called into Counselor's office and told welding/sheet metal programs were being cancelled. Program is important to students. Son will be guaranteed a job if he completes welding/sheet metal program at the Tech Center. Lots of kids need this type of program to straighten them out. Wrote letter to Tech Center and received response from Dr. Tolson that they were reconsidering keeping the program. Need to hold on to these programs.

**David Triantos, 42371 Riverwinds Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20650**

Public TV. Last May MetroCast moved his Public TV programs to Midnight to 3am. Currently showing mostly reruns. People have been reluctant to bring him videos because of time slot. Asked for County's assistance to get his programming rescheduled at a reasonable time slot. Is speaking with Bob Kelly in the IT Department.

**Paul Kelley, 41885 Medleys Neck Rd., Leonardtown, MD 20650**

Regarding the budget process just completed and the criticism you have received concerning education. -- Commissioners have been criticized for being heartless and I don't believe that. US borrows dollars to fund this Country's budget. State budget is out of whack. It needs to start in the community. Commended Commissioners for trying to live within our means. Argument is that the State of Maryland is 24<sup>th</sup> in the Country for funding. Our Nation spends more per capita than other countries. Per capita is not the sole parameter for measuring success. Our nation ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in national spending and spends most per capita of any nation in the world. The idea of how much a school spends is bogus argument, per capita is only a part of it. Think of other factors that influence our children. Read part of Commissioner Morgan's article from Enterprise. Suggested everyone needs to do their homework.

**Beverly Brown, 22236 Goldenrod Dr., Great Mills, MD 20634**

New Administrator for Oyster Festival. Support the Ranchers Association – they need your help to get message to MDE. Provide watershed areas along our shorelines. Concerning hospitality and tourism -- Ms. Brown works for Cherry Cove – 2 hotels and 3<sup>rd</sup> on the way. Had to shut down Daugherty Conference Center, a private owned business, because many state and local government-funded entities now offering same type of facilities. Suggested Wicomico look for marketing strategy. Hotels provide 5% revenue – want to see some of those funds go to marketing to bring visitors to County. Concerning Public Television, if interested in getting new programming, Carolyn Laray can assist you about events happening in the County.

**Robert Boxwell, 242 Elkins Lane, Lusby, MD 20657**

Myrtle Point Park needs a presence at the park. Used to be a place families could go to picnic and fish. Concerned it is turning into party place for youth. Something needs to be done. Recreation and Parks is making good first step. Support charging fee.

**Elfreda Mathais, 45811 Delegate Court, Great Mills, MD 20634**

Fifth generation of family living in St. Mary's County. Heard the Finance Officer say the budget is going back to 1999. The expectation for education that the contractors and military bring for their children are high. Education and security are serious business. Said her heart was in education. Attended budget hearings for the last 40 years and heard educators beg and grovel for funds. Want to see Commissioners do their best to keep the county moving forward not backward. Take serious look at Great Mills, 20% didn't get a diploma this year – that is down from 75% in previous years. Sheriff planned for center because he developed a forward plan. Education and Security are key components to a community. Departments in county giving 10% back -- hope you can use it to come together on budget. Educating kids is not only the right thing but the thing that is right.

**Mr. Rivers, 35695 Aviation Yacht Club Rd.**

Listened to everyone talk about the beautiful golf course at Wicomico and, yes, we love it. We are losing money. Cutting back and raising prices is not always the answer. Only way to add dollars is to add customers.

**Dr. Guazzo, Maddox MD**

Substitute teacher in Kindergarten through high school and at the Tech Center. Tell students all the time I'm not necessarily educated, I am skilled. Heard the mother speak about her son's sheet metal class. The Tech Center offers aeronautics and students have their own full-size airplane and helicopter to work on. See sheet metal work being done – kids need to get these marketable type of skills. Tech Center offers marketable skills in school system.

**Danny Guy, 41972 Cemetery Rd., Leonardtown, MD 20650**

Invited Commissioners to join the Senior Blitz Group at Wicomico for breakfast some Thursday.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner President Russell closed the Public Forum and adjourned the Board of County Commissioners meeting at 7:53 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on \_\_\_\_\_

---

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)