

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, April 15, 2014**

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris
County Administrator, Dr. Rebecca Bridgett
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Russell called the business meeting to order at 9:00 am in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve the minutes of April 8, 2014, as presented. Motion carried 5-0

DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES: EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Present: Sue Sabo, Human Resources Director;
Kathy Arnold, Human Resources Specialist/Risk Manager

The following awards were presented:

Special Achievement Award – Gracie Brady – Dept. of Land Use and Growth Management

Nominees and Employee of the Year:

Administrative

Drema Russell – Dept. of Aging and Human Services
Shellie Graziano – Dept. of Aging of Human Services
Kim Cullins – Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Employee of the Year – Kim Cullins

Non-Administrative

Employee of the Year - Julianna Goldsmith – Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Managers

Donna Gebicke – Board of County Commissioners

June Robrecht – Dept. of Human Resources

Alice Allen – Dept. of Aging and Human Services

Richard Tarr –

Employee of the Year – June Robrecht

People's Choice Award

Peter Lambert – Sheriff's Office

Benjamin Luffey – Sheriff's Office

Marilyn Smith – Dept. Land Use and Growth Management

Kelly Crosby – Dept. Emergency Services and technology

Larry Eberhard – Dept. of Land Use and Growth Management

Brenda Webb - Treasurer's Office

Cynthia Dyson – Treasurer's Office

Ray Pilger – Dept. of Public Works and Transportation

Meghan Mclean – Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Gracie Brady – Dept. of Land Use and Growth Management

Robert Al Bailey – Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Tom Vancleaf – Dept. of Emergency Services and Technology

Alice Allen – Dept. of Aging and Human Services

Anthony Hardesty – Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Kenneth Quade – Dept. of Public Works and Transportation

George Erichsen – Dept. of Public Works and Transportation

Margie Boorman – Dept. of Public Works and Transportation

Lisa Ledman – Dept. of Economic and Community Development

Cathy Conlon – State's Attorney's Office

Employee of the Year – Kelly Crosby

PROCLAMATIONS WERE PRESENTED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Proclamation #1: Retirement of Janis Cooker, Library's Youth Services Coordinator

Proclamation #2: Fair Housing

Proclamation #3: Month of the Young Child

COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR

1. Draft Agenda for April 29, 2014. There will be no meeting April 22, 2014.

2. Circuit Court (*Karen Abrams, Administrative Judge; Bill Tench, Court Administrator*)

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment transferring \$6,608 from various operating accounts in the Circuit Court, to the Court Security Grant MD1468, to upgrade the security intercom system. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Department of Recreation and Parks (*Brian Loewe, Director; Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager*)

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Memorandum of Understanding and related certifications and assurances between the County and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Developmental Disabilities Administration, on behalf of the Department of Recreation and Parks for assisting in funding the New Horizons Summer Camp, in the total amount of \$29,781. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Department of Economic and Community Development (*Robin Finnacom, Acting Director*)

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Budget Amendment to realign funds within the Department of Economic and Community Development's operating budget from Administration salaries to Worker's Compensation Insurance for the Tourism Division to address the budgeted shortfall. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment transferring funds in the amount of \$59,566 from the FIN14 Capital Reserve to the STS Bus Barn Project PF-0507, as presented by staff. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Budget Amendment realigning \$8,960 of funding from the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Project PF-1310, to the Public Facilities Needs Assessment Project PF-1409, as recommended by staff. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Department of Finance (*Elaine Kramer, CFO*) **Department of Public Works and Transportation** (*George Erichsen, Director*)

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to authorize staff to respond to the questionnaire from the Maryland Department of Transportation, State

Highway Administration, when received, indicating St. Mary's County is intending to utilize the FY2014 Governor's Supplemental Appropriation of \$268,588 as presented by staff. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendments which identify savings from Departmental operating accounts to increase the BOCC Emergency Appropriations account; and the budget amendments decreasing the BOCC Emergency Appropriations and increasing specific operating accounts as they are related to the FY2014 snow impact. Motion carried 5-0.

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL: RESOLUTION REQUESTING WAIVER OF TIPPING FEES

Present: George Erichsen, DPW&T Director
Nicholas Zurkan, Solid Waste Manager
Darene Kleinsorgen, Exec. Dir., Christmas in April
Howard Thompson, President, Christmas in April

The Christmas in April organization has repaired 652 homes in St. Mary's County at the cost of over \$5 million in materials. Seventy applications were received this year. On April 26, 2014, 15 homes are scheduled for repair. Mr. Thompson invited Commissioners to participate in the Christmas in April event and requested the landfill fees be waived that day for the program.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and sign the Resolution waiving the landfill fees associated with the Christmas in April Program scheduled for Saturday, April 26. Motion carried 5-0.

UPDATE ON LEONARDTOWN LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT

Present: George Erichsen, Dir., Dept. of Public Works and Transportation
Gary Whipple, Project Manager, Dept. of Public Works & Transportation
Jeff Morgan, Architect, Morgan Design Group
Kathleen Reif, Library Director

The Leonardtown Library will be partially renovated to include elevator access to the second floor, a fire rated emergency stairwell, upgraded restrooms, electrical and fire alarm upgrades, interior enhancements, and exterior cosmetic improvements. The main entrance to the library will move from its current location to the rear of the building. The first and second parking spots in place now will be removed to allow easier ingress/egress to the parking lot.

REQUEST TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, GRADING, EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ORDINANCE – PERFORMANCE BONDING EXEMPTION

Present: George Erichsen, Director, Dept. of Public Works and Transportation
George Sparling, County Attorney

A public hearing was requested for the proposed amendment to the St. Mary's County Stormwater Management, Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance to exempt bodies politic and corporate and other quasi-public entities from the requirement of delivering security to guarantee performance to secure a building or grading permit for a development requiring a stormwater management plan. Quasi-public entities, such as the Board of Education, MetCom, and Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, manage their own contracts and contractors independently from the County and do not pose a risk of default or expose the County to costs arising out of noncompliance.

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to authorize staff to proceed with the scheduling of a Public Hearing to amend Chapter 261 of the Code of St. Mary's County, St. Mary's County Stormwater Management, Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance, to exempt bodies politic and corporate and certain other quasi-public entities from the requirement of delivering security to guarantee performance. Motion carried 5-0.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS IN THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING THE BOARD OF APPEALS

Present: George Sparling, County Attorney
Phil Shire, Director, Dept. Land Use and Growth Management

Mr. Sparling requested scheduling of a public hearing on proposed amendments of administrative provisions in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance regarding the Board of Appeals to conform to *Land Use Article* of the Annotated Code of Maryland and to rescind requirement of payment of filing fee and advertising costs for appeals.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize the Office of the County Attorney to schedule a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the administrative provisions in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance regarding the Board of Appeals to conform to the Land Use Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events of the past week.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Russell adjourned the Board of County Commissioners meeting at 11:10 am.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY2015 RECOMMENDED BUDGET AT CHOPTICON HIGH SCHOOL, 25390 COLTONS POINT ROAD, MORGANZA, MD

Present: Dr. Rebecca B. Bridgett, County Administrator
Tony Jones, Public Information Officer
Elaine Kramer, Chief Financial Officer

Commissioner President Russell opened the public hearing at 6:32 pm and provided opening comments.

Ms. Kramer provided an overview of the recommended budget explaining guidelines set forth by the Commissioners, operating costs, revenue sources, and a comparison between the projected FY2015 budget and the FY2014 budget. The proposed general fund budget is \$220,036,696 -- a 1.2% decrease from the 2014 budget. The projected general fund budget revenues, which include property taxes, income taxes, and all other revenues, total \$214.2 million, an increase of 2.4% over FY2014. Total County funding for the Board of Education is proposed at \$93,910,979, an increase of \$4,000,000 over FY2014. The open comment period for citizen input on the proposed budget will close on April 25, 2014. The Commissioners will conduct budget work sessions on April 28th and May 5th to finalize the budget and will set tax rates and adopt the final budget on May 13, 2014.

Mr. Tony Jones facilitated the following public hearings.

PUBLIC HEARING - 7TH DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S RATE INCREASE

The 7th District Volunteer Fire Department is requesting a rate change from \$.044 to \$.056 effective July 1, 2014. This will increase their revenue by approximately \$78,000. The additional funds are needed for apparatus and facilities. Approximate annual average impact per property will be \$18.18 per year.

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE

Notice of a proposed real property tax increase was published in the Enterprise Newspaper April 4, 2014. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$.8532, the Constant yield tax rate; however, the County proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.857 per \$100 of assessment. This is .4% higher than the constant yield rate and will generate \$432,218 in additional property tax revenues.

Public Comment. *(Comment as noted below is intended as a summary of testimony given and is not verbatim.)*

Roy Fedders, 16690 St. Jerome's Neck, Dameron, MD 20628

Representing the St. Jerome's Creek Citizens Association. Concerned that keeping the same constant yield assessment the County had in 2014 is actually increasing property taxes. Seniors are on fixed incomes and would like to see property taxes reduced. Rain tax may be headed our way. Do not increase taxes –now is the worst time to do it during an already bad economy.

There were no additional public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY2015 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

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

Faith Abernethy, 29839 Lincoln Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

President, Collective Education Association of St. Mary's County (CEASMC)
Wants adequate funding for Board of Education. Think beyond State mandates.
Support professionals are dedicated employees who work hard every day. Many employees work more than one job. Many employees on state assistance and receive benefits because they cannot afford basic needs. These qualified professionals cannot continue to go above and beyond without adequate compensation.

Tanya Parker, 21414 Manon Way, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Contract/Fiscal Specialist for St. Mary's County Public Schools, Dept. of Design and Construction. Compared Fiscal Specialist's salary in school system to colleges and Pax River, noting that Pax River employees make approximately \$25,000 more than the school employees. Sometimes take 2nd and 3rd jobs to survive. I chose to work in the school system because of job security and their benefit package. When you invest in education you are investing in children. Fully fund St. Mary's County Public Schools.

Phyllis Smith, 44941 Buck Redman Rd., Callaway, MD 20620

Employee of St. Mary's County Public Schools. Asked Commissioners to think of all of the support employees as you are making your decisions. Support employees work behind the

scenes but are vital to the education system. The cost of living in St. Mary's County is almost above my head now and I'm afraid by the time I retire I will be unable to live in the County. Employees want a decent salary.

Jill Morris, 24566 Cotswold Drive, Hollywood, MD 20636

A member of the board of directors for the Collective Education Association of St. Mary's County (CEASMC) that represents support workers in the public school system. Without support employees in St. Mary's County Public Schools, our schools would cease to exist. Proud to work for St. Mary's County Public Schools, but we are the working poor. She told Commissioners that she brings home a salary of \$293.43 a week. Some employees take 1 or 2 jobs to make their life bearable and as a para-educator it is not enough to make ends meet. Asked Commissioners not to forget the working poor in St. Mary's County Public Schools.

Courtney Dowling, 41680 Miss Bessie Dr., Suite 201, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Many members are not here to speak tonight because they are spending time with families on spring break. Asked the County to support the school system as you have in past. Additional funding last year was appreciated. The State Maintenance of Effort is just a measure to meet the basic needs of the school. Employees are struggling financially; we are behind in steps and no cost of living increase in some years.

Terri Griest, 22015 Clipper Dr., Great Mills, MD 20634

Here as a parent to ask Commissioners to fully fund the school system. Providing appropriate education for children with disabilities is a law. Children who require special education cost more than others. The number of school children with special needs in the school system is on the rise. Reports show that one out of every 68 kids has an autism spectrum disorder. In St. Mary's County there are roughly 265 school children with some form of autism.

Dr. Meena Brewster, 21580 Peabody St., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Health Officer for St. Mary's County. She recently attended the Drug Summit for parents as well as reviewed the data on substance abuse. Need a more concerted effort to address substance abuse prevention and control. She requested nonrecurring funding to combat substance abuse prevention and control in the County. Need to look at interventions that are evidence-based and have significant returns on investment for the County.

Jeff Burrell, 45953 Indian Way, #926, Lexington Park, MD 20659

Working for community improvement and education awareness in the County. Works with youth. Suggested commissioners look at www.basketball4lyfe.com. Basketball for L. Y. F. E. (Love, Youth, Family and Education) is an organization he founded which utilizes the influence of strong volunteers, coaches, military personnel and college students to improve the quality of living in our community through mentorship, events, tutoring and the game of basketball. Has seen improvement in the County but is concerned with the increase of alcohol abuse.

Janice Walthour, 20493 Partin's Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Representing the NAACP. Expressed concern about the economic and education disparities in the County. St. Mary's County is the fastest growing county in the state and the cost of living is going up. Salaries range from below \$30,000 to over \$100,000. Asked Commissioners to fully fund education and not forget the members of the Community who are struggling. Fully support the DECD diversity study. There is nothing for kids to do in the County - need for something like Teen Centers. Would like to see more programs for children.

Carolyn Miller, 40610 Kavanaugh Rd., Mechanicsville, MD

Representing St. Joseph's Community Center, Inc., a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization. The organization sponsors free programs for seniors and children. She requested the Commissioners revisit St. Joseph's Community Center's request for funding to help support a six-week educational camp for approximately 25 children ages 8-13. The camp would be free for the children.

Cherry Daniels, Bushwood, MD 20681

Representing Longview Beach Club Association. Ms. Daniels asked for County assistance with the roads in their development. Since 1954 everything has been done in the community by residents. Don't understand why we do not get any assistance from the County on roads. Roads are in terrible condition and residents are getting older and cannot keep them up. Want you to consider the Longview Community; we also pay taxes.

Dr. Martirano, Leonardtown, MD, 20650

Dr. Martirano thanked Commissioners for their support for Spring Ridge Elementary School renovations and the new Captain Walter Duke Elementary School. 85% of school budget goes to administration, 10% to fuel and 5% to curriculum. School system is confronted with issues this year such as high cost of snow removal, increase in health care issues, special education services, etc. He asked for more opportunities to dialog with Commissioners as he works through shortfalls in the Board of Education budget.

Sheila O'Brien-Fisher, P.O. Box 103, Coltons Point, MD 20626

Read statement from EASMC President Anna Laughlin. We are the wealthiest and fastest growing county in the state, yet our schools are underfunded. Teachers are overworked and broke. More is expected from all school staff to make up for positions lost more than four years ago. A school system of the size St. Mary's County should have a fund balance, but they have been using their fund balance because they are not fully funded. Being fiscal conservative is a good thing, but it can be overdone.

Bill Fisher, P.O. Box 103, Coltons Point, MD 20626

Representative for educator, teachers, and support personnel across the state. Maintenance of effort only gives enough money from prior year taxes. Classes are increasing, staff morale will decrease, no salary increases again, and teachers need a paycheck. Requested full funding for schools. Education is the first step to solving any problem.

Dawn Drury, 49820 Airdele Road, Ridge, MD 20680

Second Semester nursing student at College of Southern Maryland who is a recipient of a scholarship provided by the County. Thanked Commissioners for their support and noted additional expenses such as uniforms, stethoscope, and travel expenses that all nursing students acquire. She and her fellow classmates are proud to be students of the College of Southern Maryland and noted she is maintaining a 3.9 GPA.

Brad Gottfried, College of Southern Maryland

President of the College of Southern Maryland noted they have 20 students in the Healthcare courses. Thanked the Commissioners for their continued support working to help improve the college as it continues to move forward. The County's support of the college helps keep tuition affordable for students.

Joe Anderson, 45870 Boothe Rd., Drayden, MD 20630

Representing Vital Community Connectors (VCC). Thanked Commissioners for the funding VCC received in 2014 and asked for continued funding in 2015. The coalition is comprised of about 20 agencies that currently receive grant funding from St. Mary's County Government to assist in their programs, services, and operations. VCC strives to add to the quality of life in the County, not just in terms of services and programs delivered, but also in regards to the impact they have on the local economy. Concerned about the growing number of overdoses in the County and the number of people living in poverty.

Carol Moody, 23392 Esperanza Circle, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Julia A. King, P.O. Box 213, St. Mary's City, MD

Representing Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission wants to develop a detailed inventory of the County's archaeological sites. Request that the Board of County Commissioners support launch of this project through a commitment of \$3,900 as matching funds for the Maryland Historical Trust Certified Local Government sub-grant. Feel it is important to understand County history. Thanked Commissioners for the support they provide the Historic Preservation Commission.

Grant Cutler, P.O. Box 403, Chaptico, MD 20621

Taxpayer. Given what we viewed tonight, make sure we keep current tax rate where it is now. Of every dollar we make, 3% goes to County government. Current unfunded liabilities will make you want to increase taxes. If you have to raise taxes tell us, tell us why, and if you do, make sure it goes in the right pot. You can spend money, but if you still have debt to pay, that burden will stay with you forever.

Bob Schaller, 41100 PawPaw Hollow Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Requested the Commissioners not remove "Community" from the title of the Department of Economic and Community Development as proposed. Explained the community activities the Department of Economic and Community Development has participated in over the past four decades.

BOCC Meeting of April 15, 2014

Page 11 of 11

As there were no other citizens wishing to present public comments, the public hearing was closed at 8:29 pm. It was noted that the comment period on the proposed County Budget remains open until April 25, 2014.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)