

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, April 27, 2010**

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
John Savich, County Administrator
Donna Gebicke (Recorder)

**JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE
COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS) PATUXENT RIVER:
ENCROACHMENT MITIGATION AND PREVENTION, HELD AT THE FRANK KNOX
CENTER, NAS/PAX RIVER**

US Navy and Civilian staff present, included:

Capt. Stephen Schmeiser, CO, NAS/Patuxent River (PAX)
Mike Quigley, Executive Director, NAS/PAX
Leroy Mattingly, AICUZ Manager, NAS/PAX
Rick Owen, U.S. Naval District Washington
Andrew Maack, F-35 Site Director / Chief Test Engineer - PAX

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am. Commissioner President Russell and Commanding Officer Captain Stephen Schmeiser provided opening comments. The Commissioners presented Capt. Schmeiser with a letter thanking him for his decision to retain Gate 2 as the "Main Gate" of the Naval Air Station.

Staff provided the following updates: St. Mary's County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Derick Berlage, Director, Land Use and Growth Management; Navy Shore Vision 2035, Enhanced Use Lease-Proposed Modernized Work Campus; Mike Quigley, NAX/PAX; U.S. Navy Joint Land Use Study, Leroy Mattingly, AICUZ Manager; Encroachment Partnering Update, Rick Owen, U.S. Naval District Washington; Community Redevelopment Update, Robin Finnacom, Community Development Corporation; and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program Update, Andrew Maack.

The Board of County Commissioners recessed at 9:25 and returned to the Governmental Center to conduct the business meeting.

RECONVENED AT GOVERNMENTAL CENTER AT 11:00 AM

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, that the bills submitted for April 27, 2010, be approved as presented. Motion carried 4-1.
Commissioner Jarboe voted no.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, April 20, 2010, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

PROCLAMATIONS WERE PRESENTED IN RECOGNITION OF: FAIR HOUSING MONTH, MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD, AND RETIREMENT OF LIZ PASSARELLI

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for May 4 and May 11, 2010
2. **Department of Aging** (*Lori Jennings Harris, Director*)

(Rebecca Kessler, Mgr., Home & Community-Based Services; Dr. Joseph E. Devadoss, President, El Shaddai; and Marianne Athen, Vice President)

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the lease agreement between St. Mary's County and El Shaddai for the transition of the Medical Adult Day Program, effective July 1, 2010. Motion carried 5-0.

(Peggy Maio, Fiscal Supervisor)

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the revised Nutrition Service Incentive Program (NSIP) grant award, project US1006 from the Maryland Department of Aging on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging to provide meals to our seniors, in the amount of \$36,396, and the related budget amendment to increase the project budget by \$15,076. Motion carried 5-0.

3. **Dept. of Economic & Community Development** (*Bob Schaller, Director*)

(Robert Gant, Chair, Housing Authority; Stephanie Proctor and Joan Gelrud, Board members; Dennis Nicholson, Exec. Dir., Housing Authority; Jackie Reabe, Program Mgr)

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the Housing Authority of St. Mary's County on behalf of the Housing Authority to contribute toward the cost to install a Fire Suppression Sprinkler System at Greenview Village Apartments in an amount up to \$140,000 from the County's Workforce Housing Initiative Fund, PF0701, which is consistent with the FY10 approved budget. Motion carried 5-0.

(Robin Finnacom, Executive Director, Community Development Corporation)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the budget amendment transferring \$15,000 from project US0519, Lexington Manor South, to the BOCC Emergency Appropriation Reserve, since it has been determined that the funds are not needed in the project. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Department of Human Services** *(Kelsey Bush, Youth and LMB Coordinator; Joan Gelrud, Chair, Human Services Council)*

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the twelve FY2010 Mini-Grant agreements between the County and each of the selected grantees for one-time only human services emergency funds for the amounts and purposes as specified in each individual agreement and to sign the budget amendment to realign \$43,000 to the individual accounts for these entities. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Mattingly abstained.

5. **Dept. of Public Works & Transportation** *(John Groeger, Deputy Director)*

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign Public Works Agreement Addenda for Southwoods PUD Subdivision, Phase 3; Woodland Park Subdivision; Greenbrier Subdivision, Section 5; and Clements Landing Subdivision, Phases 1 & 2. Motion carried 5-0.

6. **Office of the Sheriff** *(Erin Shoemaker, Fiscal Supervisor)*

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to accept and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the LETS Training Grant Award, US1047, from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention on behalf of the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$4,716, and to execute the related budget amendment reducing the project budget by \$284. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted upcoming events and those attended over the past week as well as personal interest items. *Commissioner Jarboe requested the County Administrator provide copies of all letters/emails sent in to the Board in support of and opposed to oyster sanctuaries. Commissioner Raley asked staff to advise what the Board's role/responsibility is in this process.*

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY: DECISION ON PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND CHAPTER 267 OF THE CODE OF PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY, TO ALLOW AN EXEMPTION TO THE ADMISSIONS AND AMUSEMENT TAX FOR AGRICULTURAL TOURISM ACTIVITIES

Present: Christy Chesser, County Attorney

The Board held a public hearing to consider the amendment of the St. Mary's County Code to allow an exemption from the Admissions and Amusement Tax for agricultural tourism activities on March 23, 2010.

One comment was received after the public hearing which requested that the language of the Ordinance be amended to include the term "winery," rather than the term "vineyard," as drafted. This request was made in light of changes to the Zoning Ordinance definition of a winery, which were made in 2009 (defined as permitted uses in the RPD, RSC, VMS and TMX). In the RPD there is a requirement that the owner or operator of the facility cultivate grapes or other fruit on site or on other land located in the County. It was clarified that if a winery is a stand alone activity and not connected to an agriculture/farm operation and an admission fee is charged, it would be subject to the amusement tax. If the winery is part of a vineyard, i.e., an actual agricultural farm operation, and charges an admissions fee, it would be exempt from the admissions tax.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to amend Chapter 267-7 of Article III, Admissions and Amusement Tax, of the St. Mary's County Code to provide an exemption for agricultural tourism activities and to adopt the Ordinance as presented by staff. Motion carried 5-0.

ST. MARY'S NURSING CENTER, INC., (SMNCI) PROPOSAL OF PROPERTY TRANSFER

Present: Nursing Center Governing Board of Trustees President James O'Farrell and Kenneth W. Caps, Secretary/Treasurer
Donald E. Lewis, Administrator; and William M. Holman, CFO

Commissioner Mattingly announced that he was recusing himself from the discussion and any vote on this matter due to his service as an ex-officio member of the St. Mary's Nursing Center Board of Trustees.

Mr. O'Farrell presented a proposal from The St. Mary's Nursing Center's Governing Board of Trustees requesting a transfer of property and the building currently occupied by SMNCI. This real property is currently titled to the St. Mary's County Building Authority Commission and was funded through bonds issued from this Commission that will not retire until July 15, 2016. SMNCI proposes to use the real property as collateral to secure commercial financing to provide the County with the approximately \$3.5 million outstanding balance owed on the bonds. The funds paid to St. Mary's County would be placed in escrow and paid to the bond holders as they come due.

Mr. Holman described SMNCI's current situation. A decline in patient days beginning in 2004 and state budget cuts to the Medicaid program beginning in 2006 continue. Annual debt service repayment is approximately \$650,000.

Mr. Capps described the benefits of the proposal to both SMNCI and the County. For SMNCI, the proposal puts a viable asset on the Corporation books to be used as collateral, removes uncertainty with regard to ownership in 2016, and increases cash flow to fund reserves and meet future reimbursement cuts. For St. Mary's County, the proposal removes a potential liability from its books, pays \$3.5 million in advance, which may be used to retire the bonds early, and helps create an environment for SMNCI to grow and complete its strategic goals.

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to direct County staff and the Building Authority Commission to work with St. Mary's Nursing Center, Inc., to complete this transaction by June 15, 2010, and to involve our bond counsel and financial advisor, as needed, with the understanding that the costs incurred will be fully reimbursed by the Nursing Center. Motion carried 4-0.
Commissioner Mattingly abstained.

The Board recessed at 2:14 pm.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY RECOMMENDED FY 2011 BUDGET AND CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE - HELD AT CHOPTICON HIGH SCHOOL, 25390 COLTON POINT RD., MORGANZA, MD

Present: John Savich, County Administrator
Elaine Kramer, Chief Financial Officer
L. Jeannett Cudmore, Deputy Finance Director
Donna Gebicke, Recorder

Commissioner President Russell provided welcoming remarks and commented on the budget process to date. Ms. Kramer stated that notice of the evening's public hearings was published in the Enterprise newspaper on April 16, 2010, final adoption of the FY 2011 Budget is scheduled for May 25, 2010, and any additional written comments relative to the FY 2011 Budget and the Constant Yield Tax Rate must be submitted by May 7, 2010.

Constant Yield Property Tax Rate -- Proposed Real Property Tax Increase

Ms. Kramer presented the Board of County Commissioners' proposal to increase real property taxes. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2010, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 4.6%, from \$10,299,298,565, to \$10,774,297,559. If St. Mary's County maintains the current tax rate of \$.857 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 4.6%, resulting in \$4,070,741 of new real property tax revenues. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$.8192, the constant yield tax rate. The County is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The County proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.857 per \$100 of assessment.

Recommended FY 2010 Budget

Ms. Kramer provided an overview of the Recommended FY 2011 Budget. The recommended general fund/operating budget for FY 2011 is \$188,614,205, which is a decrease of approximately \$10,700,000 from FY 2010 to FY 2011. Overall revenues are down \$10.1 million. The recommended budget uses \$3.5 million of the unreserved, undesignated fund balance. Property tax, income tax and energy tax rates are proposed to remain the same as the previous year.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CONSTANT YIELD PROPERTY TAX RATE -- PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The public hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate was opened for public comment at 7:20 pm. The following is a summary of each public comment presented (comments are not recorded verbatim).

Michael Hewitt, 26074 Sotterley Heights Rd., Hollywood

Maintain Constant Yield. Speaking as a small business owner, give us *something*. Three main concerns: 1. \$12-13m fund balance is our taxes. Wise to have some, but not this much. 2. No new ideas. Focus is all on increasing taxes and cutting spending; never hear anything about regional initiatives, such as jails or landfills, to take advantage of economy of scale with neighboring communities. 3. Re 7% budget reduction departments took - - non-county agencies should do the same. Make everyone take same cuts.

Cindy Jones, 46241 Usher Lane, Valley Lee

Maintain Constant Yield rate. Consider economic consequences of raising taxes in economic downturn. When increase in property tax is imposed, causes harm to the most vulnerable. Need a public debate on this. Echo previous speaker - - look outside box for fresh, new ideas.

Kenneth F. Boothe, 46138 Boothe Farm Lane, Great Mills

Maintain Constant Yield rate. Budget is not going to be sustainable.

Pam Vallandingham, 24066 Mervell Dean Rd., Hollywood

Maintain Constant Yield rate. Going to have to sell my home as I can no longer afford to live here due to taxes. Have recently needed to adjust my spending by 50%. My assessment is far greater than what I could sell home for. Not fair to put burden on homeowners.

Deb Rey, Lexington Park

Maintain Constant Yield rate. Lower the tax rate so that more people will come to the county, which will increase tax base.

Wanda Twigg, EASMC

Against maintaining the Constant Yield Tax rate. Allow rate to increase to provide revenue for schools. Not doing so would be devastating to education.

Randy Guy, Clements, Candidate for Commissioner President

Reduce Property Tax Rate to the Constant Yield. Cut spending. 116 homes in St. Mary's County in foreclosure.

Rich Johnson, Valley Lee, Candidate for Commissioner

Reduce Property Tax Rate to the Constant Yield. Budget proposes \$1.5 m to non-county agencies -- cut this and dept. heads in half and don't go to New York.

Dan Morris, Candidate for Commissioner

Maintain Constant Yield. Commissioner Jarboe had a recommendation that would have enabled this to happen and it did not involve cutting teachers or police officers. Your efforts should go toward recruiting people to come here to fill the homes.

Robert Smith

Fully fund education, concerned about special education. The number of kids with special needs is increasing. It's not the time to cut funding.

After hearing comments from all those present who wished to speak on the proposed Real Property Tax Increase, the hearing was closed at 7:38 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE RECOMMENDED FY 2011 BUDGET FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY

The public hearing on the FY 2011 Recommended Budget was opened for public comment at 7:39 pm. The following is a summary of each public comment presented (comments are not recorded verbatim).

Doris Day, 22835 Newtowne Neck Rd. (Leah's House volunteer)

Support for Leah's House (read letter of support from Leah's House client).

Juanita Butler

Support for Leah's House. Retired government employee volunteering at Leah's House. Depend on community and fundraising efforts. Give Leah's House a piece of the pie.

Sherri Wood, resident of Leah's House

Support Leah's House

Dr. Michael Martirano, Superintendent, SMCPS, and Board of Education members: Bill Mattingly, Chair; Cathy Allen, Sal Raspa, and Mary Washington.

Fully fund education. We have cut budget to the leanest level in years, have been responsible, and have strategically saved money to use as revenue replacement or a fund balance for times like now. The money we saved will be used to offset the budget shortfalls in FY 2011 budget in order to avoid deep cuts and furloughs. Challenges on horizon causing great concern. Our school system is at risk for a major trauma. Business of educating children is the business of everyone. Needs to be #1 priority to prevent regression.

Liz Purcell Leskinen, Leonardtown, MD State Teacher's Association

Fully fund education. Difference between two viewpoints is vision: short term vs. long term. Commit to expanding public school resources.

Wanda Ruffo Twigg, California, MD, Education Association of St. Mary's County

Fully fund education. Like all businesses/organizations, you have to balance the budget and set priorities each year. You have plans for new roads, libraries, schools, sewer systems, etc. Can't address needs of the County on the same budget and plan from 1990. Your capital budget reflects your priorities and planning. How do you plan to maintain our first place school system with last place funding?

Kathy Norton, Chaptico, military parent, Principapl, Park Hall Elementary

Fully fund education. Can't afford to lose taxes/revenue and loss to local businesses when people don't move here due to lack of support for education.

Dawn Pipkin, Hollywood, teacher

Fully fund education. Never short-change or search for bargain when it comes to education. We already are doing without (textbooks not purchased, computers donated). How do we prepare students for highly skilled jobs right here in this County if we don't provide the tools.

Jay Massey, Circle K, St. Mary's College Boy's and Girls Club volunteer

Fund Boys and Girls Clubs. Statistics show graduation rates higher, teen pregnancy lower, students reach full potential as responsible, caring citizens.

Kristen Brunot, Circle K

Fund Boys and Girls Club. Students become more interested in their communities and learn leadership skills.

Erika Schmitt, Circle K

Fund Boys and Girls Club. Important life skills are provided.

Laurel Dietz, 44631 Cedar Ct., California, SMCPs, Choral Director, Evergreen Elementary

Fully fund education. Increase per pupil spending so that we can continue to provide the tools necessary for quality education.

Kathleen Park, 1100 Steamboat Rd., Shady Side, State Farm Insurance Agent, Boys and Girls Club Grant

Support Boys and Girls Club. Reaches 500 children.

Joanne Clapp, 45831 N. Springsteen Ct., Lexington Park, SMCPs teacher at Chesapeake Charter School

Fully fund education. Involved in great amount of after hours work. Help me maintain my level of effort by showing me yours.

Joe Shade, 19724 Oak Ct., Lexington Park, CEASC President

Fully fund education. Interact with students each day and teach them to have pride in themselves and the work that they do. Try to help them reach their dreams. Need to do your part. How can we sustain 1st place with last place funding.

Courtney Dowling, California, CEASMC, MD State Uniserve

Fully fund education. "Pay it forward." Premise – doing favor for someone without expectation of pay back and passing it on. Think about return on your investment.

Faith Abernathy, California, CEASMC, Secretary, Dept. of Student Services

Fully fund education. Appreciate your fiscal responsibility. Students are the future of our County. Ability of well-educated students to get skilled jobs cuts down on crime and other future expenses. Don't be short-sighted.

Paul Christian, Lusby, MD, LPES music teacher

Fully fund education (particularly for the arts). Funding for the arts is not a luxury. Students look to music for hope, joy, and self-esteem. Arts should be made more available to K-12. Maintain or expand arts programs.

Trisha Post, 45900 Harbor Lane, Lexington Park, Vice Pres., County Council PTA

Fully fund education. For community to thrive, children have to be primary focus for all of us. We should all be willing to make sacrifices for the children. As parents we can volunteer and offer gift cards or donations to our students' classrooms. As businesses, we can offer mentorship and donations. Anyone involved in the County budget process or receiving funds should do their part by making any sacrifice necessary to make sure education comes first and is funded appropriately.

Mark Smith, Prince Frederick; Wendy and Lilly Heidrich, Lexington Park, for Boys and Girls Club

Support Boys and Girls Club. Thank you for funding in the past. This program makes a difference to the children and the community and helps us leverage additional grant funds. Children are safe and inspired to learn.

Harold Siskind, 23314 Holly Hill Lane, California, General

Fully fund education. Consider Navy/BRAC reaction – we'll become a ghost town. Need new library and air museum.

Barbara Thompson, 43865 Thompson Farm Lane, Hollywood, Justice and Advocacy Council of St. Mary's County and other Non-gov't agencies

Restore \$50,000 of line item for mini-grants to non-county organizations from budget hearing reserve. Remember those who are most in need of assistance. Those who lack housing, food, and health care do not have the public voice of those of us who have jobs, insurance, etc., but are still the persons most seriously harmed by cuts to the budget. Challenges facing volunteer organizations are great. Helping Hands assisted 2,328 families (7,670 individuals) in 2009. (Additional statistics were provided.)

Rich Johnson, 19026 Russell Rd., Valley Lee, County Commissioner Candidate Dist.1

Fiscal responsibility. I support base. Do more with less. Wicomico Shores – government should not be running restaurant and bar.

Marguerite Morris, P.O. Box 233, Callaway, Leah's House

Funding for Leah's House. Good organization that deserves funding. Homeless will always be among us, not going away. You provided \$250,000 to Walden for salaries. We are still "moteling" people. \$225,000 spent on sending to motels and also having to send people out of the County. Angel's Watch only has so many beds for St. Mary's County residents. Reallocate some of the money going to other groups.

Danielle Nuttle, resident of Leah's House

Support funding for Leah's House. Gives second chance at life. Deserves everyone's donation.

Maureen Williams, Leah's House resident

Support funding for Leah's House.

Lori Werrell, 42019 Starlight Dr., Leonardtown, CCPTA

Fully fund education. Didn't get raise this year. By short changing education budget, do you understand you will have to pay the price in later years if continue to place education as the lowest priority. Start now to increase funding. Fund in direct relation to wealth of County.

Shonda Shepherd, P.O. Box 413, North Beach, Boys and Girls Clubs of So. Md.

Fund Boys and Girls Club.

Jamie Raley, P.O. Box 52, Avenue, Chair, Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland; and Brad Gottfried, President

Thank you for support of CSM, Wellness Center, and helping keep tuition affordable.

Anna Laughlin, Leonardtown Middle School, EASMC

Fully fund education. We spend less per pupil than any other county in the state- -- technology outdated, lack of textbooks. Spend my own money and have twice as many students. Taking advantage of teachers. Visit our schools to see for yourself.

Billy Breslin, Leonardtown High School, EASMC

Fully fund education. Easy solutions to budget. Not fiscally responsible. Illusion of saving money. Damage not immediately evident. Sustain our successful school system now.

Brian Rose, Benjamin Banneker Elementary, EASMC

Fully fund education. Increase school system budget. State #1 in achievements.

Joyce Walker, Wicomico Shores, Special Education Teacher at Chopticon High School, EASMC

Fully fund budget request submitted by Dr. Martirano and the Board of Education. The claim is that the amount of funding for education has increased. This makes the community believe you have allotted a greater percentage of monies for education. However, an independent auditor has reported that the percentage of the County budget has actually decreased over the years. The value of the money that the district receives has decreased. The cost of living continues to increase, but teacher's salaries remain the same. The new federal government program, "Race to the Top," requires up to date technology, facilities and curriculum and the best teachers to be hired and retained. Our students will be at a disadvantage if we don't give them the tools to compete in global market.

Vicki Brown, Avenue

Provide support for programs for persons with disabilities.

Alan Dillingham, Library Board President

Support for new library. Thank you and staff for your support and for budget allocation. We will absorb decrease in budget and will maintain hours, service and materials. Capital - \$765,000 grant from state and county money to move forward with design of new library. Increasing concern about growth and demand for services. Unable to apply for grants unless we have construction funds.

Stephanie Hampton, P.O. Box 194, Leonardtown

Fully fund education.

Nancy Easterling, P.O. Box 67, Hollywood, Historic Sotterley, Inc.

Thanks for continued support of Sotterley.

Trudy Wible, 78494 Bauer Rd., Lexington Park, Transportation

Fully fund education. How long can we sustain 1st place education with last place funding?

Liz Yokley, Teacher, GMHS

Fully fund education. We sacrifice so much. Others in County not making same commitment. We are role models 24-7. Need support. Do your part.

Joe St. Clair, 38520 Ah-Ha Lane, Avenue, President, Blackistone Lighthouse Foundation

Maintain existing museum budget.

Ryon Gravelle, 19856 Three Notch Rd., Lexington Park, Spring Ridge Middle School, Boys and Girls Club

Fund Boys and Girls Club. Keeps students in school and provides safe and positive place to learn.

Melissa Kiernan, 43531 Abis St., Hollywood, teacher

Fully fund education. Spend extra time after hours. Play role each day in student's lives. They are worth more than last place in per pupil spending.

Sheriff Tim Cameron, P.O. Box 152, Morganza

Request to fill frozen positions and fill vacancy. Despite budget reductions we have made great strides in public safety with your support, innovative technologies. Breaking cycle of domestic violence. Family Violence Council is making a difference. Best budget year so far.

Ella May Russell, 21571 Gerards Cove Rd., Abell, Julie Randall, 19711 Teddy Way, Lexington Park, Gerald McGoin, Human Services Council

Restore \$100,000 for Human Services mini-grants. Provided 600 citizens with emergency and safety net services last year. Ms. Randall read letter from the Human Services Council, signed by the Chair.

Terri Griest, 22015 Clipper Dr., Great Mills, Autism Spectrum Support Group of MD

Fully fund education beyond current percentages. Support funding for special education. Goal is independence rather than depending on others for their care later in life when they are out in the community.

Deb Rey, 18364 Chestnut St., Lexington Park

Why fund non-government agencies? Do we get income from recycling program? Reality is that there is no more money and no more coming in the future. Solutions: ask those who want more funding to tell the Commissioners where to cut the budget and submit it to them in writing. Host a charity fair where each charity can pitch to me why I should donate to them. It's not the job of government to do this.

Cindy Jones, 46241 Usher Lane, Valley Lee

Reframe issues. My vision is that we're all in this together. Will take more to resolve issues in community than funding. Vision – not just cut spending, but have priorities and plan on how going to fund. Embrace economy as well as funding part. How will we find solution together. Do what's best for very individual. Sense of urgency.

Glenn Weder, 44462 Clarkes Landing Rd., Hollywood

Implement wage tax to garner additional revenue. Property tax is unfair burden on seniors and others being forced out of homes. Propose to delegation next year. Congratulations for funding at maintenance of effort level. BOE rarely specifies what they would do with the money. Student attitude determines results. Per pupil spending tells you nothing. Test results do that.

Kenneth F. Boothe, 46138 Boothe Farm Lane, Great Mills

Clarify – I do support constant yield for 2011. Budget not sustainable. Started out with \$22m surplus, spending \$11.5 in 2011, leaves \$10.5 for 12 and 13 – how will you get by in 12 and 13.

Peg Johnson, 42506 Henry Ct., Hollywood

Fully fund education. If going to be competitive, need to invest in programs like STEM. We are wearing down, due to neglect. Meet challenges of ever-changing technological world.

Aisha Alson, 40279 Wathen Rd., Leonardtown, Boys and Girls Club

Fund Boys and Girls Clubs. Aspire to Inspire.

Todd Morgan, President, So. Md. Navy Alliance, Commissioner Candidate

Support new library. Navy Alliance continues to do good work in support of PAX.

Sheila Herbert, P.O. Box 180, Colton's Point, President, Friends of St. Clements Island Museum and Piney Point Museum

Refrain from cutting the already austere museum budget.

Margarita Rochow, Leonardtown, Elms Environmental Center

Three priorities: libraries, public education, and law enforcement

Jennifer Crownover, 38674 Woodland Way, Mechanicsville

Fully fund education. Specific safety concerns relative to school parking lots.

Charlie-Marie Stamm, P.O. Box 1336, Leonardtown, (Hourly County employee in After-School program with Recreation and Parks).

Consider giving leave and holiday benefits to hourly employees and not cutting any jobs.

After hearing comments from all those present who wished to speak, the hearing was closed and the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Donna M. Gebicke, Administrative Assistant (Recorder)