

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell

Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement

Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe

Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley

George G. Forrest, County Administrator

Betty Jean Pasko, Senior Admin. Coordinator (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

DELETIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

It was announced that a Public Forum was added to the agenda, beginning at 6:30 PM. The Executive Session was deleted from the agenda.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Check Register as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to adopt the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of January 16, 2007, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Dept. of Economic & Community Development: Presentation of 2007 Technology Handbook

Present: Hans Welch, Business Development Manager, DECD

Thomas D. Proctor, Science Applications International Corporation

Bob Allen, Patuxent Partnership, and General Manager, Lockheed Martin

Mr. Welch presented the Commissioners with copies of the 2007 Technology Handbook for St. Mary's County. The Technology Handbook is a directory of technology businesses located in the County. The handbook, frequently used by contractors and 'job hunters', features over 230 companies along with their human resource contacts, technology support organizations, professional organizations, and education opportunities.

The Technology Handbook is produced by the Department of Economic & Community Development to encourage communication between local firms and to expand markets for the local technology industry. Mr. Welch, joined by Mr. Allen, presented Thomas Proctor, the winner of the 2007 Technology Handbook cover design contest, with a check for \$500.

Copies of the handbook are available at the St. Mary's County Library, the Frank Knox Career Center, Chamber of Commerce for St. Mary's County, College of Southern Maryland, and may also be viewed on-line on the County's web-site.

The Commissioners were also provided copies of the F-35 Lightning II publication, which contains Patuxent River ads jointly sponsored by DECD, Maryland Dept. of Economic Development, Navy Alliance, and Patuxent Partnership for St. Mary's County. The F-35 Lightning II jet will be tested at Patuxent River in 2008.

County Administrator

1. Draft Agendas for January 30 and February 6, 2007

2. County Attorney (*Liz Passarelli, Real Property Manager*)

Removed from agenda

3. Department of Public Works and Transportation (*George Erichsen, P.E., Director*)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Budget Amendment removing the State funding not received for the Dr. Johnson Road Bridge / Culvert Replacement Improvement Project (HW6313). Motion carried 5-0.

4. Department of Public Safety (*Bob Kelly, Acting Director; Tim Bennett Manager, Emergency Management Division*)

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and the LEPC Grant Eligibility Certification Statement between the Maryland Department of the Environment and the St. Mary's County Local Emergency Planning Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Budget Amendment moving funds from the Emergency Communications Division to the Emergency Management Division for the Critical Infrastructure Planning & Mitigation Specialist. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Board and Commission Appointments (*George Forrest, County Administrator*)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to appoint the following St. Mary's County citizens to the following Boards and Commissions:

Commission on Aging: Samuel F. Brown, Vicki L. Brown, David H. Mattingly

Community Health Advisory: Eleanor N. Ritchie

Library Board of Trustees: Joan Springer

Marcey House Board: Dan White

Recreation and Parks Board: David Phalen

Social Services Board: James O. Farrell

Motion carried 5-0.

Dept. of Land Use and Growth Management (LUGM): Proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments to Chapter 32, Property Development Regulations to Revised Building Height limits Allowed in Schedule 32.1 and to make a Grammatical Change for Directional Purposes Only (Text Amendment "First Reader")

Present: Denis Canavan, Director, LU&GM

Mr. Canavan stated that he believes the proposed Text Amendment was previously approved with the adoption of the 2002 Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and came to light during the review of the Lexington Park Development District Plan and preparation of amendments to increase allowable densities in DMX, CMX, and various zones. The height limitations in the DMX and CMX zones are 100 feet.

Stating that he doesn't believe that when the Zoning Ordinance was crafted, the intent was to apply a 100-foot height limit 'across the board' to all zones in St. Mary's County, Mr. Canavan provided the background and an overview of the proposed changes to Schedule 32.1 of the Zoning Ordinance:

- A. Deleted footnote #7 following the words "Maximum Height"
- B. Inserted a new footnote #7 next to the 40-foot height limit of the RPOD, RSC, RCL, RL, RNC, and RMX zones.
- C. Amended the language of footnote #7 to read as follows: Principal structures may be erected to a maximum height of 50 feet when the side and rear yards are increased one foot for each foot of height in excess of the height restrictions for the zone. Existing buildings constructed as of 1/23/07 are not considered a non-conforming building height.
- D. Inserted a new footnote #12 following the words "Maximum Height".
- E. Inserted new footnote #12 to read as follows: Height of all structures subject to site-by-site analysis for compliance with Chapter 43, AICUZ and AE height restrictions. Structures with a building height greater than 45 feet shall install an

approved sprinkler system. Height of communication towers are exempt from height restrictions of Schedule 32.1 and regulated by the provisions contained in Chapter 51 of this Ordinance.

F. Corrected grammatical error in footnote #10.

Mr. Canavan requested waiving the 30-day comment period and the second reading called for under the Text Amendment Policy and permission to proceed to the Planning Commission, which that process will include a Public Hearing, and then returning to the Board for a second Public Hearing and legislative action.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to direct staff to proceed with the proposed Text Amendment, to waive the 30-day comment period and the second reading, and have this proposed Text Amendment go forward to the Planning Commission for their consideration and recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.

Review of Letter from Delegate Bohanan regarding Legislative Proposals

At the request of Commissioner Russell, Commissioner Mattingly reviewed the January 19th, 2007 letter to the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners from Delegate John Bohanan regarding the County's Legislative Proposals; summarizing the actions taken by the Delegation on proposals that were supported by the Commissioners:

The delegation felt that a proposal for establishing objective metrics/standards for erosion and sedimentation control would best be addressed by the State through the Department of the Environment (MDE) or the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

The sexual offenders' proposals were considered to be statewide initiatives, as was the proposal to end the Maryland estate tax, and the prohibition of a tax on the value of a used component automotive part when received from a purchaser of any remanufactured automotive part.

Bond bills will be introduced for the St. Mary's County Hospice House in the amount of \$250,000, the St. Mary's County Historical Society in the amount of \$150,000, and for the St. Clements Hundred Lighthouse in the amount of \$175,000.

The proposal by the Alcohol Beverage Board increasing the fine for alcoholic beverage sales violations from \$500 to \$1000 is being drafted and will be introduced as requested.

The Southern Maryland Mental Health Coalition's proposal to establish a central statewide resource of local nonmilitary services for veterans and to charter a State taskforce to provide recommendations for fostering interagency collaboration to resolve gaps in health care services for veterans was seen by the delegation as a statewide initiative.

The proposal by the Health Department to reduce the penalty for illegal tobacco sales to minors is being drafted.

MetCom's two initiatives; i.e., increasing the terms of board members and changing its fee schedule, are in the process of being drafted.

The Housing Authority's bill regarding relief from recordation tax when a governmental agency borrows funds has been drafted. The two initiatives by LU&GM; i.e., allowing amendments to the Comprehensive Water & Sewer Plan to be considered by the BOCC and enabling legislation to recognize deeded parcels of land, are being drafted.

The final proposal by the County Attorney's Office, allowing the County to transfer real property that is no longer needed to any non-profit in the County, is also being drafted.

Commissioners Russell and Mattingly will attend the Tri-County Council meeting and dinner in Annapolis tomorrow, 1/24/07. Commissioner Raley asked Commissioners Russell and Mattingly to find out from Del. Bohanan if the fact that the legislation is being drafted, does that imply they have the full support of the delegation.

Dept. of Recreation, Parks and Community Services: Presentation of Draft Charlotte Hall Property Master Plan

Present: Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks and Community Services

Sam Crozier, Crozier and Associates

Mr. Rollins provided a briefing on the concept plan for the balance of the 43-acre Charlotte Hall property owned by the County behind the Northern Senior Center. The BOCC provided direction in September 2005 to develop a concept plan on the Charlotte Hall site to include senior housing; a multi-generational, indoor recreation center; and a swimming pool. The senior housing complex is envisioned as a public-private partnership in which the County would provide the land and a private developer or non-profit organization would develop and operate the project. The recreational facilities are intended to be County owned and open to the general public.

The draft plan, which has been endorsed by St. Mary's County's Commission on Aging, Recreation and Parks Board, and Housing Authority, includes a mixture of senior housing including 100 cottage units and 150 apartment building units intended for independent living; and 60 units that would be available for assisted living. No long term care medical services or facilities are proposed on the site.

As the plan moves forward, there are a number of issues that will need to be addressed and resolved, including: TMX zoning would have to be changed to allow the proposed density for senior housing; housing would be public-private relationship (County provides the land, private or non-profit builder develops and operates), the forest conservation easement (on approximately 13 acres of the site) would need to be transferred to another County owned property; options with managing wastewater/sewer; and concerns regarding increased traffic and right-of-way access to Route 6.

Commissioner Jarboe voiced that the Planned Unit Development (PUD) process would probably be the best option for getting the proposed density. Citing Mohawk Drive as an example, pursuing zoning changes could be difficult; because some of the public is very opposed to public water and sewer. Commissioner Jarboe reiterated the importance of getting buy-in and community support. Commissioner Raley clarified that the County owns part of Whalen Road and suggested that right-of-way access out to Route 6 be included with the outlined project assumptions or constraints as presented by Mr. Rollins. Commissioner Mattingly questioned if the plan had been discussed with the Board of Education, and if an assessment has been done regarding the impact on other approved master plans, cautioning that a lot needs to be done and that the costs just to gain access to existing sewer plants could be phenomenal. Commissioner Dement suggested that a phased-in, prioritized approach be pursued.

Mr. Rollins reiterated that the purpose of a 'concept plan' is to have a plan in place that, if and when, the sewer situation changes (key constraint), provides direction and enables the project to move forward, then looking at the other project assumptions and constraints. Commissioner Russell voiced that addressing the sewer issue may be one of the County's biggest challenges in the next few years, along with addressing the access issue.

Commissioner Russell stated that there is no timetable on this project, but gave direction to keep working diligently and work to satisfy the community's needs and concerns.

Historic Preservation Commission: Presentation of Historic Roads Survey

Present: Jeff Jackman, Sr. Planner, LU&GM

Teresa Wilson, Historic Preservation Planner

A survey of seven historic County roads in St. Mary's County was completed with a Certified Local Government grant, funded by the Maryland Historical Trust and St. Mary's County (\$18,000 grant with the County contributing about \$4,000, plus approximately an additional \$1,000 in labor costs). The survey revealed that most of the County's roads have been significantly upgraded and modernized in the last half-century, and thus few retain enough physical integrity to qualify for National Register of Historic Places listing as individual structures. However, five of the documented roads retain rural settings and landscape features, which make them potentially eligible for the National Register as contributing resources in a Rural Historic District.

The survey makes the following additional suggestions:

1. Conduct further road documentation

2. Develop criteria for identifying and evaluation areas for potential rural historic district designation
3. Make an assessment of potential local rural historic districts
4. Examine measures in the current Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance that govern development along Scenic Corridors, and make recommendations for text amendments that would include historic roads.

Information on each of the surveyed roads: Sunnyside, Trent Hall, Bushwood, Beachville, Jutland, Mattapany, and Cedar Lane, was presented by Ms. Wilson.

Ms. Wilson estimated County funding for the second phase at approximately \$7,500. The second phase will deliver another survey of additional historic roads and also determine areas that could be potentially rural historic districts; and there will be areas that could be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Copies of the final report have been provided to local libraries. Brochures about scenic roads have been provided to the libraries, tourism areas, and museums. Placing the final report on-line, on the County's website, is also under evaluation (it is a large document, over 200 pages).

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to accept the St. Mary's County Historical Roads Survey and direct the Department of Land Use and Growth Management and ask the Historic Preservation Commission to study the Survey recommendations and to seek non-County funding to document the additional roads and to examine measures in the current Zoning Ordinance that govern development along Scenic Corridors and make recommendations for possible text amendments that would include historic roads. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Commissioner Dement

Apologized for not being able to attend the Patuxent River Naval Base tour.

Nice farewell for Jennifer Green, Public Information Officer, who will be leaving next month.

Congratulations to the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department; their Installation of Officers was Saturday.

Commissioner Mattingly

Also congratulated the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department. On a special note, believes Mechanicsville has the first female Volunteer Fire Chief, Chief Carol Craig, in the State of Maryland.

The Pax River tour was very interesting; people on the outside of the fence have no idea the technology and business that goes on there. There's a lot of 'state-of-the-art' 'one-of-a kind', and opportunities there that's not available anywhere else in the Country or even in the world; creating a lot of opportunities and jobs. We're very blessed to have it in our own backyard.

Along with Commissioner Raley and Commissioner Russell, went to the College of Southern Maryland Commencement. There was a strong showing of students from St. Mary's County receiving degrees. Congratulations to Lotti Bell, Budget Analyst in our Finance Dept., on receiving her degree.

Attended the swearing in ceremony in Annapolis for the Governor and Lt. Governor and attended the celebration reception in Baltimore. A number of folks from St. Mary's County participated. Congratulated and extended well wishes to all of the newly elected officials at the State-level.

Commissioner Raley

Commissioners Dement and Mattingly covered most. By now, it's public knowledge that County Administrator George Forrest has announced his retirement. Publicly thanked Mr. Forrest for his service to St. Mary's County and wished him the best.

Commissioner Jarboe

Commissioner Jarboe noted that a reappointment was inadvertently left off of the motion taken earlier in the day and called for the following.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to reappoint Joseph Bush to the Library Board of Trustees. Motion carried 5-0.

Also announced that the Public Forum is coming up tonight at 6:30 pm, in Room 14 of the Governmental Center. Encouraged the public to attend and bring-up any issues they may have.

Commissioner Russell

Expressed his deepest appreciation to Mr. Forrest for his service to St. Mary's County and wished him well with future endeavors.

This part of the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

FY 2008 Budget Work Session convened at 1:30 pm.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum commenced at 6:30 pm and began with the following newly-elected Board, Committee, and Commission appointees introducing themselves to the Board:

John Richard Knott, Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry Commission

Susan Erichsen, Commission for People with Disabilities

Eleanor Ritchie, Community Health Advisory

Larry Ludwig, Development Review Forum

Rudolph Worch, Electrical Examiners Board

Stephen G. Riley, III, Elms Advisory Committee

Richard L. Buckler, Robert N. Hicks, Patrick W. Murphy, and David Phalen, Recreation and Parks Board

Paul Martin, Tri-County Youth Services Bureau

Robert Elwood, Wicomico River Commission

Joan Springer, Library Board of Trustees

John Madel, Board of Trustees, Museum Division, St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks

John 'Skip' Shepard, Airport Advisory Committee

The Board thanked the appointees for volunteering their time and for serving the County.

Cindy Thomas, 48785 St. James Church Rd., Lexington Park, MD

Mrs. Thomas presented for the record a copy of her presentation, property Resource Map, Elms Cooperative Wildlife Management Area document, letter dated 9/7/04 to Mr. Steve Riley from the BOCC regarding the Elms property, and article excerpts pertaining to DNR Managed Hunt Permit and Public Hunting Lands (high-lighting the Elms CWMA property) to the Commissioners and the Recorder.

Mrs. Thomas and her husband are residents and owners of two deeded lots in the Dunbar Subdivision off of St. James Church Rd. Mrs. Thomas voiced concern over the recent lease the County entered into for the Elms property, which has resulted in taking away public access to almost half of the 974+ acres of public land and explained the negative impact it has had on property owners, natural resources, and the general public. When the Thomas' purchased the property, they were able to trail ride their horses, hunt, and walk down to the water. In October, 2004, the gates were locked (without public notice). "We were not made aware of the changes of the lease agreements and we live right outside the front gate".

Mrs. Thomas attended the 10/28/04 Elms Advisory Committee meeting and asked to be kept informed of future meetings, which she was not. In September, 2006, Mrs. Thomas was informed by a citizen that a meeting was taking place to address the school boundaries issues; the safety zones are now being called "school boundaries". Also during this time, Miss Rochow visited the Thomas' property and introduced herself and informed Mrs. Thomas that entering the safety zones/school boundaries at anytime would be trespassing.

Mrs. Thomas attended the Elms meeting in November, 2006, and was told the lease would have to be modified to allow access to be granted back to the public. Mrs. Thomas further summarized opinions voiced at the meeting. Mr. Clements (St. Mary's County Schools) stated that the Elms Environmental School wanted control of the land to stop hunting and activities for liability/safety reasons. Mr. Bryan King, DNR, stated that a child was more likely to step on a nail and die of tetanus than to be adversely affected by any hunter or outdoor enthusiast. Mrs. Thomas asked about the lack of maintenance to the fields in the expanded safety zone. Dr. Dunbar stated that they were abandoning the maintenance of several fields and allowing 'reforestation'. Mrs. Thomas continued by stating that the land in question has become abandoned and unusable and, the road alone, has already cost the school system \$6,000 in maintenance.

Additionally, concern was voiced about the insertion of a 'no hunting clause' in the new lease removing approximately half of the property from public use. The Elms is classified as a Cooperative Wildlife Management Area, meaning the hunters, through their licensing fees, are supporting property upkeep. There have been numerous incidents of poaching, garbage dumping, and gunshots. There are also vacant and half burnt buildings on the property, attracting unwanted attention and visitors.

Pointing out that of the 14 Elms Board members, only one resides within a 18 mile radius of the property, Mrs. Thomas also commented that she had applied for a position on the committee and voiced concern for the lack of community representation.

Mrs. Thomas closed by stating that she is representing the community, not just her and her family, and that the school can safely co-exist with the community. Mrs. Thomas requested that the lease be immediately amended to repeal the boundary lines to allow access back to the safety zones established in 1992; or, at a minimum, push back to the lines established in 1997. And, Mrs. Thomas requested addressing the vacant lots/buildings and destroying the trailers.

Commissioner Raley requested that Mr. Canavan, Director, LU&GM, look into Mrs. Thomas' testimony and to come back to the Commissioners with recommendation(s) that address the concerns and maintain the safety of the environmental school. Mr. Canavan stated that the next committee meeting will be in February.

Mr. Steve Riley stated that he believes that this can be a win win situation, due to the limited hunting season time. Mr. Patrick Murphy, also in support of the testimony, stated that he has taken field trips with the kids and they're all within confined 10 – 20 acre section. However, the access route needs a buffer. Mr. Murphy voice concern over opening the property up for use by the general public; citing concerns over how busy a public beach could become.

Dawn Tierney, 27600 Dawn Acres Lane, Mechanicsville, MD

Mrs. Tierney presented four property/road pictures for review by the Commissioners.

Mrs. Tierney voiced concern over plans to open gravel mines on Thompson's Corner Road. Mrs. Tierney provided family background relative to the property, stating she grew up with only two neighbors that she went to school with, the rest were Amish. She and her brother have both build homes on the property that was owned by her father. Her sister-in-law is planning to open a day care at her home.

Mrs. Tierney's home is positioned directly across from the [Winstead](#) property that has asked for gravel mine. There are currently four approved mining operations on Rt. 236 and one on Rt. 234. Mrs. Tierney stated the daily truck allowances for each of the mining site; a possible total of 370 dump trucks per day. And, if the Winstead project is allowed, that would increase to a possible 470 dump trucks per day.

She further explained how the traffic has changed on the rural 40 mph road with no shoulders, several turns and hills/dips, which now includes traffic to Wicomico Shores, Maryland International Raceway, and tractor trailers transporting trash to VA.

With the day care opening and Mrs. Tierney's son starting school in a couple of years, she is concerned with the traffic and the number of dump trucks that frequently travel the road. She further stated that the rural road cannot handle the traffic. There is currently only one flashing light at the intersection of Rt. 5 and 236, and just recently there was a death at that intersection. A 'truck stop inspection' conducted several weeks ago and Mrs. Tierney observed two trucks being towed away for safety violations. She is pursuing information regarding how many citations were issued regarding safety violations.

Mrs. Tierney also stated that one of her neighbor's well went dry from when the mining was going on at the Yoder pit, and further stated concern for dirt and dust, noise, road hazards (chipped/broken windshields), additional road damage (pot holes), and school bus safety.

A hearing is scheduled for this Thursday, and Mrs. Tierney was encouraged to attend and present her testimony at that hearing. However, NG&O Engineering and Howling Concrete may be requesting an extension.

Commissioner Raley asked Mr. Canavan if he knew if it would be staff's recommendation to the Board of Appeals for denial of the subject application. Mr. Canavan stated that there is a lack of information to address staff's concerns. The applicant desires to take more time and has asked for a continuance.

Commissioner Jarboe stated that one of the challenges is not so much with the gravel pits; there are a lot of small gravel pits on farms. The Commissioners are going to be redoing the Ordinance as with the Comprehensive Plan, and suggested that they consider cumulative effects on traffic and long-term safety.

Tim Tucker, 21075 Briar Patch Lane, apt. 101, Lexington Park, MD

Mr. Tucker expressed interest with opening up a paintball field in St. Mary's County. Paintball has become a popular sport with middle school and high school aged children. He is currently on a Paintball team that travels the country to participate in tournaments. The nearest practice fields are in Bowie MD (one hour away) and Leesburg VA.

Appears to be under complicated zoning, Planned Zoned Development (large scale), for something seemingly very simple, that could be built very small. Mr. Canavan interjected that they are looking into the zoning requirements.

The paintball field in Bowie is large, about 50 acres. Paintball fields range anywhere from 4 – 50 acres. A lot of people like to play in wooded areas. Tournament players play in 180' long x 120' wide tournament fields, with no permanent structures (inflatable structures are used).

Commissioner Mattingly stated that there used to be a paintball field on St. Andrew's Road. And, there is a business in Callaway that sells paintball supplies. Commissioner Raley indicated support, but stated that there would have to be sufficient buffer to ensure safety.

Mr. Tucker indicated that he will be attending a two-day paintball tournament in California that is expected to draw 80,000 (national level).

Mary G. Bailey, 23538 Hollywood Rd., Leonardtown, MD

Ms. Bailey stated, in relation to getting a paintball field in St. Mary's, that she had tried to get an ice skating rink here several years ago, and wished Mr. Tucker luck. In spite of having an active ice hockey team at Ryken, we still don't have an ice skating rink here.

Ms. Bailey expressed concern that, since Rt. 5 has been repaved, the traffic sensors located at the Rt. 245 and Rt., 5 intersection, are not picking-up like they use to. Although there are no cars on Rt. 5, need to wait three minutes for the light to change on Rt. 245. Also, Ms. Bailey expressed interest in having the light blink caution during non-peak travel time; e.g., 9:00 pm to 5:00 am.

Commissioner Jarboe informed Ms. Bailey that the Commissioners can address a letter to the State Highway addressing her concerns.

Brian Wilson, 44716 Emma Lane, Hollywood MD

Mr. Wilson attended the Public Forum in support of establishing a paintball field in St. Mary's County. Loves the game, has to drive to Bowie to play. Brian, is 17 years old and attends Leonardtown High School, and is a member of a local team that plays every other weekend.

William Glen, a newly appointed member of the Electrical Examiners Board, introduced himself to the Board and turned his paperwork in.

Terry Adair, 23826 Meredith Ct., Hollywood MD

Addressed the Board regarding the County Airport and the new school. Mr. Adair stated that he had just spoken to Mr. Mike Wittengale, who is also concerned with how the aviators feel about the school issue.

The Airport tried to get expansion about five years ago, attempting to get approval to realign the runway, which would have impacted the three schools in Leonardtown. There were about 200 people there (in this same room) and everyone but him opposed airport expansion. Now, people want to put a school right under the flight path of the Airport. Those schools were about 3.5 miles from the Airport; this school will be within one mile of the Airport.

The major concern voiced by Mr. Adair is do they know what they're getting into, relative to noise. He stated that he understands that all the requirements have been met. However, from a pilot's perspective, the Airport is being expanded; it is close to approval (to get a final segment of runway added to the west). If the new wide area augmentation system is obtained for GPS to enhance the approach minimums (height the airplane is above ground), the approach minimums can be taken down to 500 ft. (depending on weather conditions), (over the school). Mr. Adair stated that he knows the school is a 'green school', but questioned if they took acoustics into consideration, further stating the school board needs to take this into account when they design the new school. Commissioner Mattingly stated that the Board will pass his concern on to the Board of Education.

ADJOURNMENT

The Public Forum adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Betty Jean Pasko, Senior Administrative Coordinator