

Commissioner President Thomas F. McKay
Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
George G. Forrest, County Administrator
Kate Mauck, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to authorize Commissioner President McKay to sign the Check Register. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, January 27, 2004. Motion carried.

PROPOSED FERRY SERVICE UPDATE (REAL PROPERTY MANAGER)

Joyce Malone, Real Property Manager, presented information regarding the potential Potomac River Ferry Service. **Mr. Ed Von Bergen of Von Bergen, Ltd, will present additional information on the proposed ferry service at the February 10th Public Forum at the Valley Lee Fire Department.**

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for February 10, 17, and 20, 2004, were reviewed.
2. Board of Education (*Daniel Carney, Chief Financial Officer; Charles Ridgell, Director of Secondary Education; Kathleen Lyon, Director of Student Services*)
Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize inclusion of the following new grant awards to the approved grants for FY04: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (\$22,000); National Science Foundation (\$40,806); and Local Management Board (\$11,000). Motion carried.
3. Information Technology Department (*Bob Kelly, Director*)
Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign a Budget Amendment (1,200) transferring funds from IT software maintenance account to Facilities

Maintenance of Equipment account to upgrade software for HVAC control system at Emergency Communications Center. Motion carried.

4. Real Property Manager (*Joyce Malone*) and Department of Recreation and Parks (*Phil Rollins, Director*)

a. **Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Easement Agreement with SMECO for electric service to Chaptico Park with the following change: Sixth Election District should be changed to Fourth Election District. Ms. Malone was directed to coordinate the language change and to have a new SMECO signature on the document prior to the Commissioner President's final signature. Motion carried.**

b. **Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Lease Agreement with O'Brien Realty Investments for the use of space in the former Maryland Money Market Mortgage building located at 22178 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park. Motion carried.**

5. **Department of Public Works and Transportation**

(*George Jarboe, Transportation Manager*)

a. **Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the FY04 Grant Agreement for Statewide Special Transportation Assistance Program and the Budget Amendment realigning the revenue sources in accordance with actual program funds. Motion carried.**

(*George Erichsen, Director*)

b. Discussion took place concerning the increase in tip fees at the Appeal Landfill. Tip fees have increased by \$8 per ton, effective January 15, 2004, which will cost, on the average, an additional \$15,000 to St. Mary's County Government each month. The proposal to fund the increase through the remainder of FY04 would be paid for out of funds originally designated for a staff position which has since been eliminated. Commissioner President McKay outlined the system of solid waste collection and transport that is currently taking place. It was pointed out that any changes to fees in the future would not impact convenience centers, but would be considered for use of the landfill only. Possible alternatives were discussed, and Mr. Erichsen stated that more information would soon be presented to the Board of County Commissioners regarding ways to reduce costs in this area for the FY05 budget year.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Budget

Amendment to fund the tip fee increase at the Appeal Landfill. Motion carried.

6. Emergency Communications (*Shirley Wood, Acting Director*)
Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign Agreement with MD Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems for reimbursement funding in the amount of \$2,245.50 for emergency medical dispatch certification and recertification and to sign Budget Amendment reallocating \$2,250 in unused grant appropriations (not included in FY04 budget). Motion carried.
7. Recreation and Parks Department (*Phil Rollins, Director*)
Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign Alcohol Beverage License Renewal Application for Wicomico Shores Golf Course. Commissioner Jarboe voted against the motion. Motion carried.
8. Department of Economic and Community Development (*Donna Sasscer, Agriculture Manager*)
Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign release of St. Mary's County Agriculture Land Preservation Agreements (Dr. Henry A. and Nancy W. Virts). Motion Carried.

Commissioner President McKay recessed the meeting at 10:20 a.m. During the recess, the Board of County Commissioners and the viewing audience watched a video presentation covering the Commissioners' tour of January 20, 2004, to the McFaul Multigenerational Center in Hartford County, Maryland.

MULTIGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER CONCEPT FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY: DISCUSSION

Office on Aging Director Gene Carter and Recreation and Parks Director Phil Rollins provided an overview of positive and negative factors their departments and personnel have experienced regarding multigenerational community centers. The following items were discussed:

- Hollywood Recreation Center and Adult Day Services programs have turned out well.
- Chancellor's Run – designed as a Senior Center and Medical Adult Day Center with a small area for a Teen Center. The size of the building is less than half that of the McFaul Multigenerational Center. Chancellor's Run is approximately 12,000 to 13,000 square feet in size and the Hartford County Center is under 30,000 square feet. The Senior Center proposed in the northern end of St. Mary's County would be just under 11,000 square feet.

- Both department directors pointed out that their agencies and respective staff members have each worked well together at the Hollywood site as well as at the Chancellor's Run site.
- Negative features due to the small size of Chancellor's Run are: lacks substantial gymnasium for recreational activities, no separate space for fitness programs, impinges on areas occupied by seniors, the combination of senior programs and medical adult day program in the same area have not worked well together, and reconfiguration of multi-purpose areas due to set-up and take-down is costly, cumbersome, and time consuming for staff.
- The key to a successful multigenerational center would be to appropriately accommodate wide uses for all generations targeted and to provide the necessary adequate space to meet all needs. Designated space for each group should be set aside.
- County services could be provided at a multigenerational center, thereby improving service to the community in which it is established.
- Discussion ensued on the old Carver Elementary School site, where Recreation and Parks and the Boys and Girls Club are currently working well together. It was pointed out that this site might provide a potential future site for a multigenerational center.
- School gymnasiums are currently being used for community sporting programs and events, and would continue to be utilized in the future, as a multigenerational center would not provide for all the practice, training, and event needs of sports programs that are necessary.
- A combined center engages the community, integrates generations, and provides for a healthier aging process.
- Discussion regarding the phasing-in concept of different portions of a center took place. Mr. Rollins stated that he had asked Mr. Erichsen, Director of Public Works and Transportation, to look closely at the current site for the Senior Center in the northern portion of the county to determine whether or not it would lend itself to accommodating future expansion.
- Discussion took place regarding the funding of large facilities and the limitations that might occur due to capital budgeting limitations.

It was pointed out that a more detailed presentation, feasibility report, and discussion would be taking place in an upcoming Board of County Commissioners' meeting. Numerous elements would be presented at that time. Commissioner President McKay opened the floor for public comment, with the following individuals speaking:

Mary Ruth Horton – Chairman, Commission on Aging – outlined the years and hard work spent considering the needs of senior citizens in the northern end of the county. As a Board, the Commission on Aging has considered all the issues of seniors and has been in constant contact with citizens in the northern end of the county. Stressed that the Board of County Commissioners needs to hear from the entire community on what they want, need, and will continue to support. Indicated that she felt the multigenerational

concept merited a serious look as well as discussion by all interested citizens within the community.

Clare Whitbeck – President, St. Mary’s Senior Coalition – Encouraged holding public meetings for all citizens in the county on the issue, and stated that more than one meeting may have to take place at different times as well as at different locations.

Ardith Young – Member, Commission on Aging and St. Mary’s Senior Coalition – Pointed out that she was present at the original meeting for the proposed Senior Center in Charlotte Hall. Discussions on the center have been ongoing for five years. Currently, it has been seventeen months since the groundbreaking for the center, and nothing is there. Most individuals who began work on the proposal for the center will no longer be alive once a center has been built.

Staff was directed to provide a detailed report and recommendations regarding multigenerational community centers and a potential construction/program change for the Northern Senior Center. A Feasibility Report is tentatively planned on the February 17, 2004 agenda for the Board of County Commissioners. If, after receiving the report, the Board agrees to move forward, one or more public hearings will be scheduled to provide opportunities to hear from citizens throughout St. Mary’s County before a final decision is made.

COMMISSIONERS’ TIME

Commissioner Dement

- Commissioners attended the Seventh District Optimist’s Club After-Christmas Social last Saturday.
- A proclamation was presented on Sunday to Melvin and Agnes Pilkerton in honor of their 50th golden wedding anniversary – congratulations is extended to them.
- Commissioner Dement’s son, Jody, was also wished a happy 40th birthday.

Commissioner Mattingly

- Commissioner Mattingly, along with Commissioner McKay, members of the delegation, and representatives from the Board of Education attended a Board of Public Works meeting last week for the annual school “Beg-a-thon”.
- Congratulations to the Seventh District Optimist’s for the After-Christmas Social – they did a great job.
- Attended the College of Southern Maryland Winter Commencement at La Plata week before last. Pointed out that 39% of the graduates in the winter class were

from St. Mary's County; 39% were from Charles County; with the remainder from Calvert. It was a good event and congratulations were extended to Kathy Bailey of Recreation and Parks for receiving her degree at that event.

Commissioner Jarboe

- Expressed words of thanks to the folks at St. Clements Island Museum for a successful Appraiser's Fair held over the weekend. It was well advertised and extremely well attended, having to turn people away from the event. The event will be held again during the summer, and will have a tent as well as music. The Museum Board did a great job.

Commissioner Raley

- Asked for an update on the status of a response to a petition presented to the Commissioners requesting a light on Route 235 at Airport Drive. Commissioner McKay responded that the State was asked to look at all intersections south of St. John's Road to evaluate the need for any lights along that stretch of road. The State responded that there is no money in the budget for such an item, however, they will evaluate the need and will report back to the County regarding the issue. The petitioners have been contacted.

Commissioner President McKay

- Expressed congratulations also to the Seventh District Optimist's Club at Holy Angels for the After-Christmas Party.
- Attended the Cosmetologists of Southern Maryland Ball at the Holiday Inn in Solomon's for "The Benefit of a Better Life", which is an organization assisting abused women. It was well attended and they did a great job.
- Attended Friday night, along with Commissioner Jarboe, Chopticon High School's Air Force ROTC Junior Cadet Program at Old Breton Inn. It was truly inspirational to see the young men and women responding to the program the way they are. The ROTC Program is in its first year at Great Mills High School, and it is hoped that it will begin at Leonardtown High School next year. The Commander, Chris Jones, a senior at Chopticon High School, has led the group well, and has been a real asset to that high school. The program at Chopticon is in its second year. Joe North, Principal of the school, reported that the entire school takes on a different attitude when the ROTC students are dressed in their uniforms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Public Hearing will be held in the Governmental Center, Room 14, at 5:00 p.m. next Tuesday, February 10th, regarding the Senior Tax Credit issue.

A Public Forum will be held the same evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Valley Lee Firehouse that allows citizens to come out and speak to any issue. The Forum will also include a presentation on the proposed ferry service.

Volunteers are being sought for individuals to serve on the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board and the Transportation Task Force. If anyone is interested in serving on either of these new boards, they should contact the Public Information Office or visit the County's Website for information.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has picnic pavilion rentals available for a family, company, or church gatherings, as well as other events. They are now reserving spaces for the upcoming 2004 season.

The meeting recessed at 12:08 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m. at the Department of Public Works and Transportation for the purpose of thanking all appropriate staff involved with Hurricane Isabel recovery efforts and ongoing snow removal.

Minutes Approved by the
Board of County Commissioners on _____

Kate Mauck, Senior Administrative Coordinator
to the Board of County Commissioners