

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
Tuesday, February 15, 2005**

Present: 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 9:06 a.m.

DELETION OF ITEM FROM AGENDA

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to remove the Decision regarding a proposed amendment to the Water and Sewer Plan for case CWSP #04-120-016 Heritage Manor Subdivision, from the agenda, due to request for removal by the applicant. Motion carried, 5-0.

PROCLAMATION: CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WEEK

The Board of County Commissioners presented Proclamations to Great Mills High School, Leonardtown High School, Chopticon High School, and the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center, in honor of Career and Technical Education Week.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE UPDATE ON BRAC RELATED ACTIVITIES AND FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Present: Todd Morgan, President, Southern Maryland Navy Alliance
John Savich, Director, Department of Economic & Community
Development

An update on the activities of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance they relate to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process was provided. Fundraising efforts were outlined, and the Board of County Commissioners was asked to consider providing support in the amount of \$75,000, which would be directed toward contract support in order to handle essential BRAC concerns for the Navy Alliance. The need for financial

support was outlined in detail, and Mr. Morgan stated that support from local agencies would still be pursued.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, for staff to prepare a Budget Amendment, in the very near future, for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners, for contract support for the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance. Motion carried, 5-0.

Mr. Morgan invited the Board of County Commissioners to attend the Navy Transformation Day, hosted by Congressman Hoyer, and organized by Indianhead and the Navy Alliance on Friday, March 11th. Commissioners were asked to RSVP for this event.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH PRESENTATION: GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER ELEMENTARY

Students from George Washington Carver Elementary School provided a musical celebration in honor of African-American History Month.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for February 22 and March 1, 2005
2. **Department of Recreation, Parks, and Community Services**

Present: Phil Rollins, Director
Maxine Somerville, Director, Human Resources
Chico Rivers, Chair, Wicomico Shores Golf Course Committee

The Board of County Commissioners discussed the matter of the conversion of the Golf Course Manager position for the Wicomico Shores Golf Course from the status of contractual to merit position. A previous discussion regarding the matter took place on January 11th, and at that time, Commissioners directed staff to take the matter to the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Committee for review and a recommendation.

Information presented in the Commissioners' meeting packet addressed this issue, and the Chair of the Committee reported that members were in favor of changing the status from contractual to merit position. Discussion took place concerning whether or not the decision should be viewed as a personnel issue or a matter of policy.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the conversion of the Golf Course Manager position for the Wicomico Shores Golf Course from contractual status to merit position. Commissioners'

Mattingly, Dement, and Raley voted in favor of the motion; Commissioners' Jarboe and McKay voted against the motion. Motion carried, 3-2.

3. Department of Public Safety

Present: Patrick Walsh, Director
Timothy Bennett, Emergency Planner

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign Memorandum of Agreement, Notice of Award Documents for a \$496,000 Homeland Security Grant to purchase interoperability equipment for first responders in St. Mary's County. Motion carried, 5-0.

4. Department of Economic & Community Development - Housing

Present: John Savich, Director, Department of Economic & Community Development
Dennis Nicholson, Executive Director, Housing Authority
Tonja Frasier-Jenkins, Program Manager, Housing Authority

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign Emergency Shelter Grant documents in the amount of \$41,073 (DSS: \$5,200; Catholic Charities: \$10,917; Three Oaks Center: \$24,956) and Subrecipient Agreements, and to approve the Formal Process for Terminating the Emergency Shelter Grant Assistance Policy. Motion carried, 5-0.

5. Department of Aging

Present: Gene Carter, Director

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign Nutrition Services Incentive Program Grant Award and related Budget Amendment in the amount of \$2,893. Motion carried, 5-0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: GYPSY MOTH MONITORING AND SPRAYING PROGRAM

Present: Dr. Icenhower, Health Officer
Robert Tichenor, Jr., Chief, Forest Pest Management

Mr. Tichenor presented an overview regarding the Department of Agriculture's Gypsy Moth Monitoring and Spraying Program. Information provided included detailed mapping of targeted areas as well as gypsy moth defoliation throughout the State of Maryland, as well as continuing aggressive gypsy moth suppression programs.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Commissioner Jarboe

Reported that he and Commissioner Dement attended the Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad Installation of Officers event last weekend. The squad receives more than 2,000 calls per year, and is to be commended for the outstanding job they do. The many volunteers were thanked, and it is hoped that the Rescue Squad will be able to continue keeping up with the high volume of work they are providing to the community.

Attended the Science Fair at Great Mills High School, with more than 150 students exhibiting projects at the event. Commended Ms. Claudia Wortman, Supervisor of Instruction for Science, for her promotion and coordination of the event. Many students that won this event will go onto the Maryland State Science Fair in Prince George's County, and then possibly onto the National Science Fair, which will be held in Phoenix, Arizona. Expressed congratulations to all the people who won, and also to those that participated, including the parents, whose efforts should be recognized.

Commissioner Raley

Along with Commissioner Mattingly, attended the Leonardtown Rescue Squad Installation of Officers event. The squad receives a tremendous amount of calls, and they have additional impact that other squads may not have, due to the location of Cedar Lane Apartments and the St. Mary's Nursing Center within their call area. They are struggling with meeting demand as well as other issues, and it is also noted that they have many young people as volunteers for their organization.

Attended the Ribbon Cutting event for Griffins Flooring Max Grand Opening Celebration on Route 5 in Leonardtown. The store was rebuilt after a fire occurrence, and the showroom is excellent. They are wished the best.

Stated that last week's bills included medications, and medical and/or dental bills for correctional inmates. Asked for discussion to take place at either a budget work session or as an agenda item on this subject, to include information from staff regarding any reimbursement paid by the State of Maryland on any portion of these medical bills.

Reported that some of the Commissioners would be traveling to New York for the remainder of the week in order to visit bond-rating companies.

Commissioner Dement

Reported that he attended both the Leonardtown and Mechanicsville Rescue Squad events, that the Ladies Auxiliaries at Mechanicsville have been very involved, donating more than \$75,000 this past year toward the purchase of a vehicle for the squad. Also noted that many young people are involved.

Reported that last Thursday, along with Commissioner President McKay and Commissioner Mattingly, presented a proclamation at the 50th Anniversary Celebration event for William and Lorraine Callaway.

Reported that he will be the lone representative for the Board of County Commissioners at events throughout the County, while the other Commissioners are in New York for the remainder of the week.

Commissioner Mattingly

Reported that in addition to the celebration event at Griffins Flooring Max, the store would be holding its Grand Opening event on February 19th.

Stated that the rescue squads and fire departments throughout the County are all looking continually for new members in the community, and encouraged citizens to volunteer, if they possibly can, as both young and old are needed, even if only for an hour or for a hundred hours.

Attended, along with other Commissioners, the recent Christmas in April Banquet. They are gearing up for their annual renovation of homes, and they are wished great success this year, especially after a long history of great successes in helping families throughout the County.

Attended the recent Friends of St. Clement's Island event at the Museum, and they are looking forward to having the opening of the Piney Point facility so that it can be open for the summer, as well as the relocation of the gift shop.

Expressed congratulations to his granddaughter, Kaylee, who celebrated her 4th birthday last Sunday. Lots of fun was had at her celebration, with many of her little friends.

Asked staff to fast-track recommendations and also to have discussion and dialog with the Planning Commission regarding TDR's, specifically, text amendments as they relate to the RPD. Commissioner Mattingly would like a proposal from our staff, Donna Sasscer, and the Planning Commission.

Commissioner President McKay

Announced closings for St. Mary's County Government on Monday, February 21st, due to the President's Day holiday.

Reminded the public that an evening public forum will be conducted tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the Charlotte Hall Library, encouraging citizens to attend.

Invited the public to join the Commissioners on their tour of St. Mary's County Government facilities in Leonardtown.

The Board of County Commissioners recessed at 11: 24 a.m. in order to tour the Board of Elections, Alcohol Beverage Board, and Housing Authority offices, located on Tudor Hall Road, Leonardtown.

PUBLIC FORUM – CHARLOTTE HALL LIBRARY

Present: Denis Canavan, Director, Land Use and Growth Management
Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks, and Community Services

Gene Carter, Director, Department of Aging
Jennie Page, Deputy Director, Department of Aging
Kathleen Reif, Library Director, and Library Staff
John Norris III, County Attorney
Delores Lacey, Public Information Office
Mark Curtis, Public Information Office
Kate Mauck, Recorder

The Board of County Commissioners conducted an evening Public Forum at the Charlotte Hall Library, 37600 New Market Road. Commissioner President McKay welcomed the audience, and introduced County staff members that were present. The public forum was then opened for public comment, with the following individuals speaking:

Pat Meyers – President, Northern Senior Center Council – Discussed the Northern Senior Center and reported that plans for the Center are moving along very well. Asked about the projected target date for opening the Center, and also asked for information about how staffing needs will be filled.

Commissioner President McKay, as well as Gene Carter, responded to questions regarding budgetary requirements and alternatives for meeting the staffing needs.

Barry Lewis – Mechanicsville – President, Northern Soccer League – Outlined reasons for the existence of the nearly 1,000 member league, and asked for lighting to be provided at the 5th District Park so that games can be played at night. Outlined the overwhelming need for playing space availability, and asked that a small piece of land be provided closer to areas region where most families live in the northern portion of the County. Stated that the league would provide all the work necessary by submitting requests for grant funding, if only the County could provide the land. It is possible that a national park service may be able to pay for the necessary land improvements in full, if funding comes through as anticipated. Also stated that only two public basketball courts are available in the northern portion of the County, and asked that lighting be provided to these.

Commissioner Jarboe reported that the Veteran's Home previously had property available, and that property might be available for soccer usage. In addition, he stated that a Master Plan would outline goals for the northern portion of the County in the upcoming future.

Commissioner Mattingly reported that the Chaptico Park will become a major regional park, and that the future vision for the Park will provide more adequate services for this part of the County; and that it is currently only in the 1st phase.

Kathleen McFean – Charlotte Hall – Asked where the Master Plan is and what is the status of the Plan.

Mr. Rollins responded with information regarding the property and the Master Plan.

Lisa Bradford – President, Southern Maryland BMX – Outlined progress made on the track for the Southern Maryland BMX organization, which has been extremely expensive as well as laborious. Outlined costs as well as the history, background, status, building material list, and information on the construction agreement and future plans. Asked the Commissioners to consider funding the remaining material costs.

Mr. Rollins was directed to work with Ms. Bradford in order to have the matter of funding for material costs for Southern Maryland BMX placed on an upcoming agenda for consideration.

Phil Dorsey – Provided background information on Senate Bill 705, which has recently been introduced by Senator Roy Dyson. Reported that no one in the County has heard about the sponsorship of this bill, and outlined potential implications involved for the County, the Naval Base, construction and building trades, and citizens in St. Mary's County, should this bill be passed. Stated that the bill is a poison pill and a disaster in the making, and that it threatens the defense industry's perception of safe schools, etc. in St. Mary's County. Encouraged citizens, the Planning Commission, and the Board of County Commissioners to become involved in this process, and also encouraged citizens to contact Senator Dyson and ask questions about the proposed Senate Bill 705.

Alan Cecil – California – Addressed problems with Senate Bill 705, stating that it is a Draconian bill in its implementation and its effects. Stated that we need to be constantly vigilant and proactive and not reactive in Annapolis or in Washington D.C. Stated that a county council type of government should be considered in the future, and that the County should consider a full time legislative liaison. Also asked the Commissioners to talk with the County Attorney to have him touch base with the Department of Legislative References regarding the need for a fiscal note, and also encouraged them to communicate with Senator Dyson personally. Suggested that perhaps someone requested that Senator Dyson sponsor this bill. Also suggested that Commissioners create a resolution asking the Senator to pull the bill.

Kathleen Reif – Library Director – Outlined changes that are in progress at the Charlotte Hall Library, and invited citizens to attend the Annual Friends Book Sale on March 11-13, 2005.

Barry Lewis – Mechanicsville – President, Northern Soccer League – stated that he would ask members of the league to contact Senator Dyson regarding Senate Bill 705. In addition, clarified remarks regarding the need for local soccer playing fields, stating that travel leagues go all over the State every weekend, and that young families commute to work enough during the week, finding it difficult to travel on the weekends as well, just to find playing fields.

Commissioner Mattingly reported that the Assistant County Attorney has a great deal of legislative experience, and continually monitors the process as well as the hearing

schedule in Annapolis, reporting to the Board of County Commissioners as issues arise. He also stated that information was in the proposed bill that reportedly started a rumor regarding Commissioner Mattingly, and that he was unaware of the bill until brought to the attention of all the Commissioners by the Assistant County Attorney.

As there were no other citizens present to speak, the Commissioner President closed the public forum.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Kate Mauck, Senior Administrative Coordinator