MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
ST. MARY’S COUNTY METROPOLITAN COMMISSION
MARCH 25, 2010

The meeting commenced at 3:03 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Werner, Lancaster, St. Clair, Barthelme, Tudor, Owen, and Oliver (On behalf of Captain Stephen Schmeiser, Commanding Officer, NAS Patuxent River); MetCom staff Meiser, Ichniowski, Schick, Frederick, Sullivan, Fehn, Edwards, and Comeau-Stanley.

MOTION TO APPROVA AGENDA

Commissioner Tudor moved to approve the Agenda as presented by staff. Commissioner Barthelme seconded the motion and approval was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner St. Clair moved to approve Minutes of the Regular Session, dated March 11, 2010. Commissioner Barthelme seconded the motion and Commissioner Tudor abstained, while all remaining Commissioners voted in favor of approval. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner St. Clair moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, and to hereby approve all matters contained upon the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and approval was unanimous.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. Task Force Update

Ms. Meiser announced she and County Administrator, John Savich, reviewed flow charts for the Task Force Members at the March 12, 2010 Meeting. These flow charts identify all MetCom processes which involve the County at some level, to include budget approval process and development review process. There will not be an April 1, 2010 meeting, due to a number of issues. The next meeting will be the April 14, 2010 meeting, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. The Task Force has invited members of the Metropolitan Commissioner to attend that meeting. Ms. Meiser asked members to notify Ms. Stanley if they will or will not be able to attend. Commissioner Werner indicated that she and Ms. Meiser discussed the possibility of requesting that the meeting be conducted at the College of Southern Maryland, specifically the same room used for the Joint meetings with the Board of County Commissioners. Members agreed that this location would allow a more interactive setting. Commissioner Werner will make the request to the Task Force Co-Chairs.
B. EDU Meeting

Ms. Meiser announced that she, along with Mr. Ichniowski and Ms. Debbie Settle, met with Director Derick Berlage and Deputy Director Phil Shire, along with other staff at Land Use and Growth Management (LUGM), to discuss the EDU allocation process and how EDU’s will be handled and tracked. Ms. Meiser indicated that this was a very productive session. Beginning in April, the two agencies will conduct monthly meetings every fourth Wednesday to make sure that both are aware of EDU allocations and terminations and allow for a more collaborate effort in keeping track of EDUs.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

A. St. George’s Beach/Sheehan Subdivisions Public Information Meeting Update

Mr. Frederick provided the Commissioners with a brief recap of the St. George’s Beach/Sheehan Subdivisions Public Informational meeting, conducted on March 16, 2010, at the Valley Lee Volunteer Fire Department. There were approximately 30 in attendance, along with Commissioners Werner, Tudor, Lancaster and Tudor, staff from MetCom, LUGM, and the Environmental Health Department. Ms. Meiser led the presentation and fielded questions from the audience. Mr. Frederick indicated that MetCom has in its Capital Budget a water and sewer plan for the area and we have a completion date of Fall of 2014. Between now and Fall of 2014, there are 8 homes existing that are still on septic. Those property owners would be allowed, if they so choose or have a failing system, to connect at any time. There are 29 other properties that have been issued an EDU, some that have and have not been developed, and those 29 would also be allowed to connect. Those who already have existing wells would have to abandon their wells when the water service came through. Most in the audience were receptive to the plan, while others took exception. Mr. Frederick believes that having staff from County Agencies on hand to explain matters and answer questions, specifically Daryl Calvano, Environmental Health Director, allowed us to present a County approach.

Commissioner Tudor noted that there seemed to be some confusion and disconnect amongst many in the audience. Specifically in viewing MetCom as a stand-alone utility that is not supported by County taxes. Commissioner Tudor noted that we need to reinforce to the public that MetCom is a customer supported utility, which is rate payer based and not a County agency. Additional discussion ensued amongst members about the timeline of project completion and connection requirements for property owners.

Ms. Meiser indicated that Mr. Frederick drafted a letter to LUGM yesterday, which confirmed the 8 property owners with existing homes that could connect, along with the 29 other properties with EDUs, who could also connect. Apart from those two groups, there wouldn’t be any other potential connections permitted, as the existing system can’t handle it until the comprehensive system comes in. Commissioner Werner commented on the nice job by Ms. Meiser in presenting the information at the meeting.
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Barthelme moved to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:26 p.m. to discuss property acquisition and potential litigation. Commissioner Tudor seconded the motion and approval was unanimous.

The meeting readjourned into Regular Session at 4:53 p.m.

Commissioner Lancaster moved to approve Minutes of Executive Session, dated February 18, 2010. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and Commissioner Tudor abstained, while all remaining Commissioners voted in favor of approval. Motion carries.

COMMISSION MEMBERS’ TIME

Commissioner St. Clair announced that in light of the lack of media mention about Maryland Day this year, he wanted to wish everyone a very happy 376th birthday.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **Commissioner Owen moved to adjourn at 4:56 p.m. Commissioner Tudor seconded the motion and approval was unanimous.**

Daniel F. Ichniowski, Secretary