

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, October 23, 2012**

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Sue Sabo, Acting County Administrator
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Russell called the business meeting to order at 9:00 am in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the minutes of October 16, 2012 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

PROCLAMATIONS WERE PRESENTED FOR:

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
NATIONAL PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY WEEK
RED RIBBON WEEK**

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agenda for October 30, 2012. There will be no meeting on November 6, 2012.

2. **Department of Emergency Services and Technology** (*Steve Cooper, Deputy Director*)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Emergency Medical Dispatch Training Grant award, Project MD1356, from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services & Technology for training of Communication Specialists in the amount of

\$1,300 and the related budget amendment to decrease the project budget by \$1,200. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the award of scholarship applications in concurrence with the Emergency Services Committee's endorsement. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Department of Recreation and Parks (*Brian Loewe, Director; David Guyther, Parks Manager*)

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the FY13 Waterway Improvement Fund Application and Project Agreement for the Piney Point Public Landing Pier Replacement Project in the total amount of \$99,000 and the related budget amendment. Motion carried 5-0.

APPOINT MACO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE FOR 2013

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to appoint Commissioner President Jack Russell as a member and Commissioner Cindy Jones as an alternate to the MACo 2013 Legislative Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events attended over the past week and upcoming events.

Commissioner Jarboe noted correspondence received this week requesting that the County post a MIA flag below the American flag. All Commissioners agreed to the request.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE – SOUTHERN MARYLAND RELIABILITY PROJECT

Present: Joe Slater, President and CEO, SMECO
Ken Capps, Senior VP of Engineering and Operations and COO
Tom Dennison, Government and Public Affairs Manager

SMECO representatives provided an update on significant events that have happened over the last year, government regulations that will impact rates, the Southern Maryland Reliability Project to upgrade service to Patuxent River Naval Air Station and southern St. Mary's County, and the Solar Farm under construction in Hughesville.

Two historic storms within 15 months of each other (Hurricane Irene in August 2011 and Derecho Storm in June 21012) caused severe widespread system damage throughout the tri-county area resulting in more than 170,000 outages. SMECO's response time to each storm was a shorter duration than other utility companies in the state. Although SMECO's outage restoration is one of the best in the state, the Maryland Public Service Commission has proposed new regulations to improve reliability for all electrical providers which would cost SMECO approximately \$7M over the next few years.

SMECO's Reliability Project is underway to loop Calvert County and St. Mary's County to meet the service demands for the growing population in the two counties. The project, which will connect Holland Cliff Station in Huntingtown with Hewitt Road Station in Lexington Park, consists of two additional circuits, 28 miles of overhead transmission lines, 2 miles of underground transmission lines (Patuxent River), and a new station in Lusby. It is anticipated the project should be completed by early 2015 and will improve the transmission system to ensure continued reliability.

The State has mandated that renewable energy sources (wind, solar, methane, etc.) be implemented by all retail electricity sales in the State by electrical suppliers. Penalties will be assessed to utilities who do not meet the requirement. SMECO is constructing a Solar Farm in Hughesville which will satisfy this requirement. The Solar Farm could supply enough electricity for 650 homes when the sun is shining; however, weather conditions in this area are not always conducive to this type of energy so it is anticipated it may only work at an 18 ½% capacity factor over 20 years. The Farm will consist of 23,000 panels on the 50 acre site with a projected cost of \$20M which will be 30% grant-funded.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)