

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Tuesday, May 7, 1991

Present: Commissioner Carl M. Loffler, Jr., President
W. Edward Bailey, Commissioner
Robert T. Jarboe, Commissioner
John G. Lancaster, Commissioner
Barbara R. Thompson, Commissioner
Edward V. Cox, County Administrator
Judith A. Spalding, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday,. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Commissioner Bailey moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to authorize Commissioner Loffler to sign the Check Register as presented. Motion carried.

ALLIANCE ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION ACTION GRANT

Present: Joe Dick, Director, Alliance Alcohol/Drug Abuse Prevention
Walt Biscoe, Coordinator, "
Becky Stevens, Community Services Coordinator

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to advise that St. Mary's County Alliance for Alcohol/Drug Abuse Prevention has been awarded a \$34,332 ACTION grant. The federal grant will provide for increased participation in area fun camps run by the Department of Recreation and Parks, increased length of camp sessions, and provide for the establishment of two additional sites. The expanded summer fun camp program will promote a drug-free lifestyle in addition to the normal fun camp activities.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S ITEMS

Present: Edward V. Cox, County Administrator

1) **APPOINTMENTS**
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

Commissioner Bailey moved, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, and motion carried, to make the following appointments:

Adult Public Guardianship Review Board	Terms to Expire
Dr. Brady P. McKaig, M.D.	12/31/94
Building Code Appeals Board	
R. H. "Pete" Breck	06/30/92
Orville Lee	06/30/93
Herb Redmond, Jr.	06/30/94

APPOINTMENTS (continued)

Cable TV Advisory Committee

Ray Hanson 12/31/96

Commission for the Disabled

Susan Choffy 06/30/92

Commission for Women

Janice Berry-Chen 06/30/94/98

Commission on Aging

Helena A. Ditko Williams 06/30/93/96

**2) REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FEES
PUBLIC SCHOOL PROJECTS**

The County Administrator presented correspondence responding to Superintendent Burroughs' request for a waiver of fees for future public school projects. The letter indicates that absent another funding source, the charging of a fee for a county government-funded project results only in an accounting transaction. The letter further states that staff has been directed to develop an appropriate policy statement by which to waive these fees. Mr. Cox indicated that staff is currently doing a survey to determine if other counties are doing this and how it is done.

Commissioner Bailey moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to authorize staff to proceed with the development of a policy for waiver of fees for county government-funded projects. Motion carried.

3) MARYLAND AGRICULTURE LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

The County Administrator presented correspondence addressed to the Maryland Department of Agriculture recommending the reappointment of Ron Kreitner and W. Max Buckel to the Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation.

Commissioner Lancaster, moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to reappointment Mr. Kreitner and Mr. Buckel as recommended. Motion carried.

**4) BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 91-62
COUNTY ATTORNEY**

The County Administrator presented the referenced Budget Amendment recommended for approval by the Director of Finance with the following justification: To provide additional funds required for legal services (Advice to the Ethics Commission) - \$8800.

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to to approve and authorize Commissioner Loffler to sign the Budget Amendment as presented. Motion carried.

**5) BOARD OF EDUCATION
CATEGORICAL TRANSFER REQUEST**

As a follow up to the Board of Education's request for categorical transfers in the FY '91 Budget, the County Administrator presented correspondence for the Commissioners' signatures approving the request as follows:

BOARD OF EDUCATION CATEGORICAL TRANSFER REQUEST (continued)

Category	Present Authorization	Approved Authorization	Change + / (-)
Fixed Charges	\$5,364,107	\$5,253,907	(\$110,200)
Administration	2,916,498	2,961,498	45,000
Maintenance	2,113,559	2,178,759	65,200

Commissioner Lancaster, moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to sign and forward the letter as presented. Motion carried.

6) PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION FACILITY

The County Administrator presented a memorandum to the Board of County Commissioners recommending that the Commissioners officially postpone the construction of the public school administration facility because of other public school capital budget requirements.

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to accept this recommendation and that all proposers who were solicited to provide this facility be notified. Motion carried.

**7) FISCAL YEAR 1991 CRITICAL AREA GRANT AGREEMENT
AMENDMENT NO. 1 - REALLOCATION OF GRANT MONIES**

The County Administrator advised that correspondence has been received from the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Commission advising that the County's funding has been amended by an additional \$5,000 for a total of \$39,311. The additional funds were granted because the County had justified the increased amount of staff time.

Commissioner Lancaster moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to accept the Amendment No. 1 to the Fiscal Year 1991 Grant Agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Commission. Motion carried.

**1990 ANNUAL REPORT
RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD**

Present: John P. Harden, Chairperson
Hal Bishop, Vice-Chair
Pete Amole, Member
John Baggett, Director
Barbara Clarke, Recording Secretary

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to present the 1990 Annual Report of the Recreation and Parks Board. Mr. Harden reviewed the Statement of Purpose, FY '91 Fiscal Changes, Demographic Profile, Participation Figures, Projected FY '92 Revenues and Expenses, and Concerns of the Board. In conclusion Mr. Harden reviewed the achievements of the Board during 1990 and the Board's Focus for the future.

A copy of the report is on file in the Commissioners' Office.

**1990 ANNUAL REPORT
WICOMICO RECREATION COMPLEX BOARD**

Present: John Baggett, Director, Recreation and Parks
Hal Bishop
Mel Reed

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to present the 1990 Annual Report for the Wicomico Recreation Complex Board. Mr. Baggett reviewed information pertaining to the golf course (rounds of golf, greens fees, cart fees) financial statements for Fiscal Years 1989, 90, and 91 (anticipated), capital improvements through revenues and grants, and future major capital improvements.

A copy of the report is on file in the Commissioners' Office.

**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
FISCAL YEAR 1992 BUDGET**

Present: John Baggett, Director
Bill Ball, Supervisor of Maintenance

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to request the Commissioners consideration to reinstate the funding request for five maintenance workers that had been deleted from the 1992 Recommended Budget.

Mr. Ball reviewed the various maintenance facilities and equipment, maintenance to be performed, park maintenance, and areas assigned to each of the five maintenance crews. The requested \$63,290 funding would provide for five seasonal positions.

In response to inquiry regarding the use of prisoners for this type of work, Mr. Baggett stated that because of the park setting, there was inadequate supervision for the prisoners; however, they are used for special projects.

In closing Mr. Baggett stated that without these additional workers, there will be a decline in the amount of maintenance work at the various facilities and parks.

The Commissioners will consider this request during the FY 1992 budget deliberations.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Present: Dan Ichniowski, Director

**1) ADDENDUM TO PUBLIC WORKS AGREEMENT
INDIAN RIVER SUBDIVISION**

Mr. Ichniowski presented an Addendum to the Public Works Agreement between Ken Cross Construction, Inc. and Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's County extending the deadline for completion of improvements in Indian River Subdivision, Section IV, Fifth Election District, to April 15, 1992.

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to approve and authorize Commissioner Loffler to sign the Addendum as presented. Motion carried.

**2) OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL
ST. MARY'S COUNTY AIRPORT**

Mr. Ichniowski presented the plans for the obstruction removal for the St. Mary's County Airport and stated that FAA has approved \$400,000 for this project.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to approve and authorize Commissioner Loffler to sign the Cover Sheet for this project. Motion carried.

3) RECYCLING PROGRAM

Also Present: Dave Gerdel, Deputy Director
Students from Hollywood Elementary School

Mr. Gerdel advised that six gallon and fourteen gallon recycling containers will be available for purchase at area transfer stations Saturday, May 18. The containers cost \$3 and \$4 respectively.

Bob Cox, Cheryl Osborne, Missy Betts, and Kim Ewell, Fifth Graders from Hollywood Elementary School, each spoke to the Commissioners

regarding the school's recycling efforts and the importance of protecting our environment. Missy Betts requested the Commissioners to consider a way for citizens to recycle newspapers as this is one of Hollywood's major goals.

In conclusion the students requested each Commissioner to purchase recycling containers.

ST. MARY'S WOMEN'S CENTER

Present: Susan Borneman
Ann Waring

As a follow up to previous discussions, the referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to present a Fiscal Year 1991 Financial Report through April 30, 1991, and to request the Commissioners' consideration for the balance of this fiscal year and for Fiscal Year 1992. Mrs. Borneman pointed out efforts made by the Women's Center to raise funds stating that \$19,084.80 has been raised through private donations, United Way, and Commission for Women; value of pro bono legal donations total \$132,000; in-kind donations from local business total \$24,270; and value of physical donations (computers, copier, desk, etc.) total \$9,700.

In closing Mrs. Waring advised that the Maryland Legal Services may be giving the Women's Center a grant, but the Center needs to show stability in order to do this. Funding from the County would provide this.

PROCLAMATIONS

The Commissioners issued the following Proclamations:

Tourism Week

Present: Cindy Woodburn, Tourism Coordinator
Betty Kohl, Tourism Committee

Designating the week of May 5 - 11

National Hospital Week

Present: Pete Lambert, Administrator, St. Mary's Hospital
G. Bradford Reeves, Hospital Board

Designating the week of May 12 - 18 as National Hospital Week.

National Nurses Week

Present: George Smith, Administrator, Nursing Center
Carolyn O'Dell, Nurse " "
Kathy Swart, " "

Designating the week of May 6 - 12 as National Nurses Week.

National REACT Month

Present: Eric Johnson

Designating the Month of May as National REACT Month

National Teachers' Day

Present: Chris Banks

Designating Tuesday, May 7 as National Teachers' Day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Edward V. Cox, County Administrator

Commissioner Bailey moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters of Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried.

Litigation

Also Present: Joseph Densford, County Attorney

Held from 11:35 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Personnel

Also Present: Charles Wade, Director of Finance
George Foster, Personnel Officer

Held from 12:05 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

STAFF MEETING

The Commissioners attended the regular monthly staff meeting held at the State Office Building Public Meeting Room.

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING

Present: All Commissioners were present.
Jon Grimm, Director
Joe Meinert, Deputy Director
Peggy Childs, Recording Secretary.

1. PUBLIC HEARING

SPEC #90-1828 - JOHNSON FARM ESTATES (Lots 1-5)

Also Present: Larry Day, applicant

Requesting change in Water Classification from W-6 to W-3 for 195 acres, zoned RPD, located at the southwest corner of Dr. Johnson Road and MD Route 242 in the 4th Election District; Tax Map 18, Blocks 20 & 21, Part of Parcel 128.

Owner: MD Bank & Trust
Applicant: Larry Day

Mr. Meinert advised the legal ad for this public hearing was published in The Enterprise on April 17th and April 24, 1991. The development proposal is for 65 single family lots, including the existing historical house on the property. Applicant owns an additional 700 acres adjacent to this property.

Staff, Health Department, and MetComm all recommend approval. On March 26, 1991, the Planning Commission heard the request and also recommended approval.

Commissioner Loffler opened the hearing to public comment; hearing none, testimony was closed, and the Commissioners instructed staff to bring back in two weeks for a decision.

2. DISCUSSION/DECISION

**SPEC #91-0121 - Metropolitan Commission Sewerage Projects
(Airedele Road, Tall Timbers/South Potomac Shores
St. George's Island)**

This public hearing was held on April 2, 1991. Staff, the Health Department, and MetComm recommend approval, as does the Planning Commission.

As none of the Commissioners had any questions or further comment, Commissioner Bailey moved for approval of the three sewerage projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lancaster and passed by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION

Sprinklers for Airport T-Hangars

Also Present: Art Bildman, Airport Developer

Mr. Grimm reported that he had looked into the BOCA Code and State Fire Code requirements as requested by the Commissioners two weeks ago. As he stated then, he said, the Zoning Ordinance does require that all structures greater than 15,000 sq. ft. be sprinklered as part of the Adequate Public Facilities provision. The State Fire Code requires that structures of greater than 12,000 sq. ft. in certain use groups - storage, factory, or mercantile - be sprinklered, as does the BOCA Code. However, both the Fire Code and BOCA Code allow that, if a true 2-hour fire wall is constructed, with an actual footer or foundation as part of it, the fire wall provides a separation of buildings for the purposes of calculating square footage. The Codes require either the 2-hour fire wall or automatic sprinklers.

Mr. Grimm said he spoke with Harry Bradley, of the State Fire Marshal's Office, who stated that he has reviewed the hangar plan and believes the hangars can be approved with a side-swing type door and the true 2-hour fire wall, and a fire door with a self-closing mechanism and the same 2-hour rating. He stated it is acceptable to subdivide the areas into less than 12,000 sq. ft. increments for the purpose of passing the Fire Code, with 1-hour fire partitions within the hangar stalls. These requirements will be checked by the Fire Marshal's Office at C/O stage.

Commissioner Loffler stated the Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan were created by the County Commissioners at the recommendation of the Planning Commission, so the Commissioners could make the decision whether they would follow BOCA or create our own versions of the codes, and said he was never apprised that he was voting for other than the BOCA interpretation of the Fire Code. Commissioner Loffler stated he thought the Planning Commission had done right regarding the T-Hangars, based upon the fact that it is a 15,000 sq. ft. building, but said if it were resubmitted and done differently he might take a different interpretation.

Mr. Bildman has asked for reconsideration of the sprinkler requirement and also as to whether the Airport has vested rights under #78-43. Mr. Grimm said he has checked with the County Attorney and the approving Resolution has not been signed yet, but, according to the Resolution, it is the Commissioners' intention that the Airport be grandfathered under #78-43. Mr. Bildman stated that structural drawings showing the fire wall separation had been submitted to DPW but not to Planning & Zoning, and asked that the Commissioners approve it with the Fire Marshal's recommendation, however he did agree to redesign and resubmit the plan and return to the Planning Commission on Monday, May 9.

The Commissioners felt that a joint meeting should be held with the Planning Commission, and directed staff to schedule a meeting for Tuesday, May 14 or May 21.

**MARYLAND YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL
SENIOR WRITING CONTEST AWARDS**

Present: Floraine Applefeld, Director, Md. You Are Beautiful
Kathy Lopez, Md. You Are Beautiful Program
Gene Carter, Director, Office on Aging
Jane Kostenko, Office on Aging
Sister Sara Ann Abell, Judge
Viola Gardner, "

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to present the winners for St. Mary's County for the Fourth Annual "Maryland You Are Beautiful" Senior Writing Contest. The theme is "Maryland: Through Your Eyes"

Honorable Mention

Mildred Colliflower	George J. Wetherstein
Hugo Lopez	Elinor Cofer
Glen Martin	William Tucker

Third Place Winner

Elaine Ormond

Second Place Winner

Dr. Ira Fowler

First Place Winner

Dorothy O'Neal

In conclusion First Place Winner Dorothy O'Neal read her entry to the Commissioners.

ETHICS ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS REVIEW

Present: Charles Mander, Chairman, Ethics Commission

Mr. Mander presented a memorandum dated May 7, 1991 addressing comments made at the April 16 public hearing on the amendments to the St. Mary's County Ethics Ordinance.

During discussion Commissioner Loffler reiterated his concerns regarding the requirements in the filing of financial disclosure forms the identification of any person other than the filer having interest in the property be listed. Mr. Mander indicated that this is a requirement in the State Ordinance and stated further that the proposed definition of "person" would include a business entity, which is defined as a corporation or partnership or other organization, etc. He advised, therefore, that it would not mean the listing of each individual stockholder.

Referring to the Ethics Commission Memorandum of March 4, the Commissioners reviewed with Mr. Mander each recommended amendment:

**I. Section 158-3
Paragraph B.**

1. Amend definition for DOING BUSINESS WITH as contained in March 4 memorandum.

The Commissioners concurred.

ETHICS ORDINANCE REVIEW (continued)

2. Add definition for HONORARIA

The Commissioners concurred.

3. Add definition for PERSON

II. Section 158-4 - Ethics Commission

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Loffler to separate out the second sentence of Paragraph G to be a separate paragraph. Commissioners Bailey, Jarboe and Lancaster voted against the motion. Motion defeated three to two.

Paragraph J. - Replace period with comma after "privacy" and add "and"; replace period with comma after "service" and add "and further"

III. Section 158-6 Financial Disclosure

Paragraph C - Delete language and replace with language contained in March 4 memorandum.

Paragraph D - Revise as contained in March 4 memorandum.

Paragraph F - Revise 1) Interests in real property as contained in March 4 memorandum and revised (2) Interests in Business Entities as contained in May 7 memorandum.

The Commissioners concurred.

With regard to the April 10 memorandum from the County Administrator regarding the amendments to those positions required to file Financial Disclosure Forms, Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Loffler to accept the recommendations with the exception of the Chief, Permits and Inspection and the Plumbing Inspector, who will be required to file. Commissioners Bailey and Jarboe voted against. Motion carried three to two.

REGIONAL TOURISM

Commissioner Loffler referred to April 4 correspondence from Calvert County Commissioners regarding the date that the regional tourism program would be transferred to the Tri-County Council and indicating that Calvert County approved requesting Tri-County Council to extend the date from January 1, 1992 to June 30, 1992.

Discussion ensued as to the membership of the Committee, and Commissioner Jarboe stated that Tri-County Council has recommended two additional voting members from each County, which would result in a nineteen-member committee (15 voting members and four non-voting members). He stated that he believed that the additional members are needed to broaden to include private sector tourism industries.

Commissioner Loffler suggested that no specific transfer date be set, but that it be reviewed after a certain amount of time to see what the Committee is doing. He further pointed out that increasing the membership by two members would make too large of a committee.

After discussion Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Bailey to forward correspondence to Tri-County Council to recommend extending the transfer date of the Regional Tourism Committee from January 1992 to June 30, 1992 and further to approve expansion of the membership as recommended by Tri-County Council. Commissioner Loffler voted against the motion. Motion carried. four to one.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND WOOD TREATMENT PLANT

The County Administrator presented a memorandum dated May 2 recommending the appointment of an oversight group of citizens and professionals to monitor the clean-up efforts at the Hollywood Treatment Plant. The memorandum set forth the membership, the charge of the group and designating a proposed chairman.

The Commissioners directed the County Administrator to proceed as outlined in his May 2 memorandum.

FISCAL YEAR 1992 BUDGET

Present: Charles Wade, Director of Finance

Mr. Wade appeared before the Commissioners to distribute information that will be items of discussion at next week's meeting pertaining to the FY '92 Budget. The handouts included: Projected General Fund Revenues (which Mr. Wade stated indicated an amount \$633,835 lower than what had previously been projected; listing recommended capital projects; listing of budget reconsiderations and additional budgetary requests; and calculations showing the 1991 fund balance.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Mr. Wade presented Budget Amendment Nos. 91-63, 64, and 65 which would provide funding for Fiscal Year 1992 step increases for county employees.

Commissioner Lancaster moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner Loffler to sign the Budget Amendments as presented. Motion carried.

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES BOARD RETREAT

Commissioner Jarboe presented a memorandum to the Commissioners regarding the June 13 and 14 MACo Board retreat to be held in St. Mary's County. Activities include a tour of St. Mary's City and a boat ride to a dinner at Swann's Pier. Estimated cost for the boat trip with light catering service is \$550. If the Commissioners concur a budget amendment will be presented next Tuesday.

The Commissioners gave their concurrence.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Edward V. Cox, County Administrator
Charles Wade, Director of Finance

Commissioner Bailey moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to meet in Executive Session to discuss a matter of personnel. Motion carried. The Session was held from 5:35 to 5:55 p.m.

7:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

AMENDMENTS TO SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE AND RULES AND REGULATIONS

Present: Dan Ichniowski, Director, Public Works
Dave Gerdel, Deputy Director

The Commissioners conducted a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Solid Waste Ordinance and Rules and Regulations. Mr. Ichniowski explained the purpose of the public hearing and discussed the establishment of the tipping fees which were implemented February 1989.

Mr. Gerdel reviewed the operational, capital, and other costs related to solid waste disposal.

Mr. Ichniowski reviewed the proposed Ordinance, Rules and Regulations, and fee schedule for the St. Mary's County solid waste acceptance facilities as well as the proposed hours of operation of the landfill and transfer stations.

The meeting was opened for comments and questions from the audience. Comments and concerns were raised as follows:

- Fee is needed but \$70 is too much; suggested fees included \$10/year; \$1/month
- Imposition of the \$70/transfer station fee and \$10/landfill fee would create additional littering problems along roadways.
- Paying twice for services - \$70 sticker and if a person uses landfill, \$10 for each load.
- Questions regarding how calculations were done to arrive at the \$70/year sticker price.
- Fee is an additional burden to taxpayers
- How will non-residents be handled
- Commercial haulers who have fines are using transfer stations saying it is trash coming from their homes.
- Growth in population will increase revenues--will county be stockpiling these funds? (Costs are cost recovery and for capital improvements to landfill and transfer stations; increased growth has been factored into the model.
- Questions regarding geotechnical fabric, leachate
- Requests that the County not close landfill/transfer stations on Sundays; suggestions that they be closed on other day during the week or on alternating days during the week.
- Stressing the importance of recycling; need to take care of waste problems now for the future of the children
- Whether recycling would bring in revenues to the County
- Recycling contract with the County
- Money will never be made on recycling; we will have to pay for recycling in a few years
- Costs for bringing in recyclables (None)
- Estimated life of landfill (current landfill - 5 years; additional land adjacent to current landfill will add 17 years)
- County government is competing with private industry
- Costs and logistics in administering sticker system; suggestions to use driver's license and commercial hauler receipts.
- Time from for County's acceptance of trash from Naval Air Station

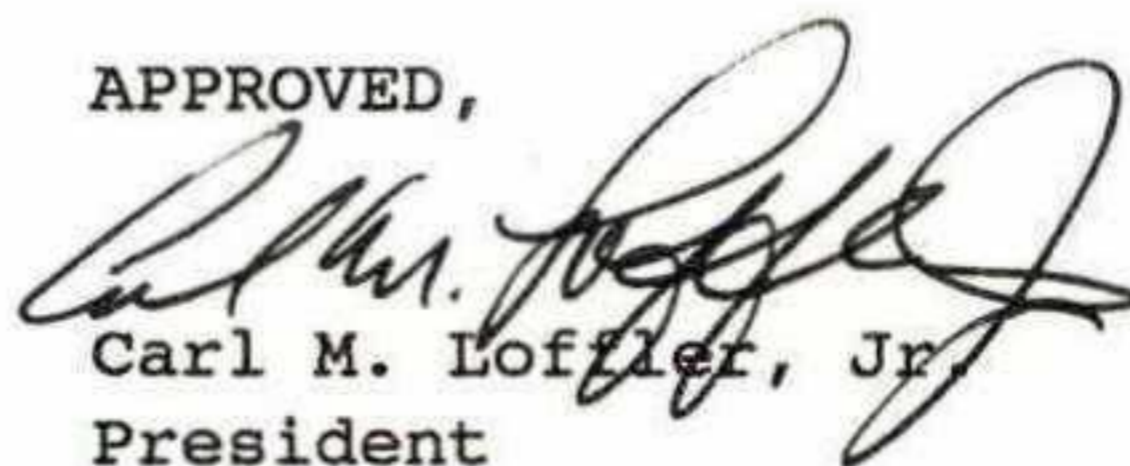
- Mechanism to prevent a person having to pay if they have a commercial hauler and want to take something to the dump that commercial hauler will not accept (bicycles, old typewriters). (Mr. Ichniowski will investigate whether these items could be considered "white goods")
- Using the term "appliances" instead of "white goods"
- Whether burnable items (trees, limbs, leaves) should be charged a fee
- \$40 a ton for commercial haulers is too much and should be re-evaluated.
- Theft of service
- Businesses in Lexington Park that do not have disposal permits and want to use landfills for free or they dump it in other businesses' dumpsters.
- County should look into material recover system
- County should look into joint ventures with other counties
- \$23,000 study conducted by consultants
- What will become of St. Andrews Landfill when it closes- (housing development, a park)
- Assessments and taxes higher, but level of services continue to decline.
- County needs to stop illegal dumping of trash
- How can a citizen prosecute someone from illegal dumping.
- Whether methane gas from landfills is going into the air or underground.
- 40% of what we take to dump is packaging; counties should get together to make companies reduce packaging.

The Public Hearing was closed. Commissioner Loffler announced that the record will remain open for ten days.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

APPROVED,



Carl M. Loffler, Jr.
President

9:30 P. M.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Commissioners conducted the regular monthly Public Forum accepting questions and comments from the audience.

James Owens

Reiterated his concerns about neighbor blocking road with logs (Commissioners informed him it was a civil matter)

Dusty Harnden

Questioned items in budget and tax rate

Jim Smith

Re Boatel California - Boat slips without permits; no pump-out for sewage; no gasoline tanks; washing, waxing, and sanding of boats on property causing contamination of creek; rip rap has not been done; house never taken down; residential area being used as a commercial site; Boatel is where septic field is; building foundation borders on residential property and have not been removed; requirement of site plan for fences and barriers not complied with.

Phil Dorsey

Because of increased assessments and increased revenues county should not need to increase tax rate; county is in good financial condition because of its many volunteers; indicated his concern about county denying financial relief (\$150) to his client, a volunteer injured while on duty as a volunteer and that the law provides for such relief. (Commissioner Loffler indicated that this individual is receiving workmen's compensation, the premium of which has been paid for by the County.)

Ann Haskell

Questioned the Hollywood School complex (concerns about the safety of the road and its proximity within the Calvert Cliffs plume area, purchase price; forward funding and funding mechanism for project; increased indebtedness of county by going out on bonds. Questioned the rationality for the County to move ahead with this project during these troubled times. (Commissioner Loffler responded that it would cost substantially more if the County waited and the Hollywood facility is currently inadequate.) Raised questions about proposed uses for school when vacated, absence of routine maintenance of the schools. Pointed out that library roof of Great Mills High School fell in. Questioned Metro Program for students (program provides assistance to students needing help). (Commissioner Bailey suggested that Board of Education have public forums in order to address these and other questions from citizens). Requested Commissioners to not exceed \$2.19 constant yield tax rate.

Roger Chandler

Presented additional petitions requesting the Commissioners to not exceed \$2.19 Constant Yield Tax Rate. (Commissioner Loffler advised that he met with the Supervisor of Assessments, who will be looking to see if adjustments are needed in the formula for determining assessments.)

Minnie Russell

Requested decisions on growth allocations; inquired as to how surveyors could be made to keep copies of plats for history; questioned various price rates for getting copies - Tax Office \$1.00; \$2.00 for other information. (These were state offices - county charges \$.03 for each copy); questioned whether it was legal to get a copy of someone else's worksheet from the Tax Assessment Office; Inquired what would happen if the County cancelled all tax-exempt property. (Commissioners advised that it could not be done because the majority of it is state and federal government property); Inquired regarding public hearing held April 30 on Zoning Ordinance amendments and cited article from Today newspaper. (A copy of the minutes from that meeting will be sent to Mrs. Russell).

Ken Heikkinen

Concerned about growth of county government; property taxes are increasing and he doesn't see cost consciousness in county government. (Commissioner Loffler stated that the administrative part of St. Mary's County operates at the lowest per capita revenue of any jurisdiction in the State. Certain mandates of state and federal government have cost the county millions of dollars.)

Doug Ritchie

Questioned the 2020 Plan and suggested that three acres be used instead of 20.

Ann Haskell

Questioned why the Critical Areas was put to summer study like the 2020 Plan and the Linowes Report. (Commissioner Loffler responded that it is already law; however, it is continually updated and the County can continue to offer comments.) Inquired as to the prognosis to get acreage reduced for her property, which is in the Critical Area. (County Administrator Ed Cox advised that there is an annual process for growth allocation)

Fulton J. Letourneau

There may need to be a Proposition 13 in St. Mary's County

The public forum concluded at 10:55 p.m.