

**SPECIAL MEETING  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1996**

Present: Commissioner Barbara R. Thompson, President  
Commissioner D. Christian Brugman  
Commissioner Paul W. Chesser  
Commissioner Frances P. Eagan  
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe  
John J. Kachmar, County Administrator  
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

**SOLID WASTE ISSUES**

Present: George Erichsen, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works  
John Thompson, DPW  
Amy vonGoren, Recycling Coordinator  
Melva Abell, Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Bill Mattingly, "  
Rich Richardson, "  
Tom Tudor, Past Member, "  
Doug Durkin, County Attorney

As a follow up to the July 23 public hearing, the Commissioners held discussion regarding solid waste issues.

Mr. Kachmar began the discussion by reviewing funding alternatives/methodologies including the Solid Waste Task Force's recommendations and the four alternatives that had been previously discussed (including: volume-based fee; residential disposal sticker fee; special impact fee/tax assessment; modified residential disposal fee) as well as a fifth alternative that had been presented in February 1996 which included lowering tipping fee; charging user fee at transfer station; environmental fee for all households, increasing tire disposal fee).

Mr. Kachmar and Mr. Erichsen further presented various financial information regarding solid waste including: annual solid waste and transfer station activity; potential loss of revenues for certain scenarios; estimated loss of revenue due to St. Mary's Disposal taking trash to Calvert County; closure/capping costs; debt service costs; costs for new landfill. Included in the presentation were tipping fee comparisons at other locations; landfill alternatives (including reduction in leachate pretreatment/expansion site); solid waste financing structures prepared by Smith Barney; and impact of recent events on solid waste (May 1994 Carbone Decision; and January 1996 Congressional Vote).

Areas of discussion included:

- \* current landfill has .78 (9 ½ months life left)
- \* method of covering costs of capping current landfill including debt service
- \* cost/savings for county to export trash to Calvert County
- \* acceptance of out-of-county trash (the County Attorney cited a Supreme Court decision overturning a decision to prohibit out-of-county trash as is set forth in the County's Solid Waste Ordinance)
- \* whether to charge a sticker fee at transfer stations or an environmental fee to all residents
- \* recycling costs and benefits

- \* contracting out/privatizing landfill and transfer station activities
- \* whether the transfer stations in St. Mary's County were actually "transfer stations" or "convenience stations."
- \* The need for another public hearing to do anything beyond setting tipping fee and tire disposal fee (i.e., charging to use transfer station).
- \* whether there were funds in DPW budget to cover some of the losses.

**After lengthy discussion Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to amend the Tire Disposal Fee rate from \$40 per ton to \$158 per ton. Motion carried.**

**Commissioner Chesser moved, seconded by Commissioner Brugman to amend the Tipping Fee rate from \$40 to \$35. Motion carried four to one with Commissioner Jarboe voting against.**

The Commissioners directed staff to look at ways to develop funding savings to address the revenue loss.

The majority of the Commissioners did not agree to go to public hearing at this time to look at charging fees at transfer stations.

#### **Cardboard Recycling**

Ms. vonGoren requested the Commissioners consideration to use income from scrap metal for cardboard recycling. The Commissioners requested that prior to making a decision that Ms. VanGoren provide cost breakdown using the scrap metals funds to do this.

#### **Next Work Session**

The Commissioners set Thursday, September 5, 1 p.m., Carter State Office Building, Public Meeting Room, as the next work session to discuss long-term solutions to the solid waste issues.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

**Minutes Approved by Board of  
County Commissioners on 8/13/96**

*Judith G. Spalding*  
**Recording Secretary**