

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
February 17, 1998**

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 Jr., County Administrator
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to meet in Executive Session to discuss a matter of Personnel (Human Resources Director position), as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1. Motion carried.

Personnel (Director of Human Resources Position)

Present: Commissioner Barbara R. Thompson, President
Commissioner D. Christian Brugman
Commissioner Paul W. Chesser
Commissioner Frances P. Eagan
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe

Authority : Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1

Time Held: 12:40 p.m. - 1:05 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed the candidates for the Human Resources Director position and agreed to take action in open session.

Follow Up to Executive Session

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser to direct staff to proceed as discussed in executive session and offer the County Human Resources Director position to the first candidate at Grade 18, Step 2. Motion carried four to one with Commissioner Eagan voting against.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Brugman to offer the Human Resources Manager position at the St. Mary's Nursing Center to the second candidate as discussed in executive session. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Chesser moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the minutes of Tuesday, February 10, 1998 as corrected. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Check Register. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to accept the agenda with the following amendments: to move discussion regarding the Local Management Board from 5 p.m. to County Administrator Items. Motion carried three to

two with Commissioners Thompson and Chesser voting against. Commissioner Thompson voted against the motion because she indicated that because of there was a number of people interested in the item it should remain at 5 p.m. as advertised. Commissioner Chesser voted against the motion stating that the Commissioners should evaluate all of the information.

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to add a discussion about the policies for setting the agenda. Motion carried three to two with Commissioners Thompson and Chesser voting against.

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried four to one with Commissioner Thompson voting against.

CONSENT AGENDA

Correspondence to:

1. Steve Grohsmeyer regarding T-hangar rental at the St. Mary's County Airport.
2. Director of the Maryland Office on Aging regarding the Colton Endowment funds.
3. Robert and Dorothy Joyner acknowledging receipt of recent correspondence pertaining to property purchased at tax sale.
4. Philip Dorsey, Esquire, regarding correspondence received from Robert and Dorothy Joyner.
5. Various letters to individuals regarding the proposed rezoning for First Colony: Christy Morgan; Oran Wilkerson
6. Alan Bingman regarding the "silent majority."
7. Department of Conferences of St. Mary's College regarding use of facilities for Project Graduation.
8. Various individuals regarding school bus drivers' pay scale and health benefits: Doris Johnson; Barbara Roth; Donna Bradburn

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS

Present: John J. Kachmar Jr., County Administrator

1. **Budget Amendment No. 98-28**
St. Mary's Public Schools
(Additional funding needed to award contract for the Leonardtown High School Tennis Court project - \$17,000)

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign Budget Amendment No. 98-28 as presented. Motion carried.

2. **Department of Public Works Items**
 - a. Public Works Agreement Addendum for Victoria's Grant Subdivision, Section 2, 8th Election District; backed by a Letter of Credit with Maryland Bank & Trust Company in the amount of \$42,000.

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

- b. Public Works Agreement Addendum for **Chestnut Hills Subdivision, Section 5**, 8th Election District; backed by a Letter of Credit with Crestar Bank in the amount of \$64,000.

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

- c. Public Works Agreement Addendum for **Westbury PUD Subdivision, Section 1**, 8th Election District; backed by a Letter of Credit with First National Bank of St. Mary's in the amount of \$652,300.

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Addendum as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Commissioner Eagan abstaining because she is on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of St. Mary's.

- d. Public Works Agreement Addendum for **Wildewood (Cherry Laurel) Subdivision**, 8th Election District; backed by a Letter of Credit with First National Bank of St. Mary's in the amount of \$36,000.

Commissioner Chesser moved, seconded by Commissioner Brugman, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Addendum as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Commissioner Eagan abstaining because she is on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of St. Mary's.

- e. Public Works Agreement Addendum for **Wildewood (Pepper Ridge)**, 8th Election District; backed by a Letter of Credit with First National Bank of St. Mary's in the amount of \$59,000.

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to approve and authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign the Addendum as presented. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Commissioner Eagan abstaining because she is on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of St. Mary's.

3. **Boards, Committees, Commissions**

- a. **Letters of Appointment
Emergency Services Committee**

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and sign letters of appointment to Joyce G. Downs (Mechanicsville Rescue Squad) and Donald Insley (Hollywood Fire Department). Motion carried.

- b. **Letters of Appreciation
Emergency Services Committee**

Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to sign and forward the letters of appreciation as presented. Motion carried.

4. **Local Management Board**

The County Administrator referred to correspondence from Alexis Zoss, one of the LMB Incorporators outlining changes made to the LMB Bylaws and Organizational Meeting minutes.

After discussion Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the by-laws and the Local Management Organizational Meeting minutes of the Local Management Board with the exception of Community Health Advisory Committee member and the change of the title of President. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser to approve and sign Resolution No. 98-12 - *Rescind Prior Local Management Board Appointments, and Designation of the Local Management Board of St. Mary's County, Inc., a Non-Profit Corporation to Serve as the Authorized Local Management Board in St. Mary's County.* Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION - AMERICAN HEART MONTH

The Commissioners presented a Proclamation designating February as American Heart Month.

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD FIFTH DISTRICT PARK EXPANSION

Present: Phil Rollins, Director
Kenneth Sothorn, R&P
James Burgan, Chair, R&P Board

The referenced individuals appeared before the Commissioners to request approval to pursue using county-owned land between Route 5 and Lettie Dent School for the development of soccer game fields and practice fields. Mr. Rollins pointed out that a part of the property is being used for a solid waste convenience center and another part was identified for a future park expansion in the Fifth District Park Master Plan areas. However, because of the need for athletic fields in this area, the R&P Board and Director recommend that the site be used for playing fields. Mr. Rollins advised that approximately \$40,000 remains from the FY '97 Fifth District park Improvement Project which could be used for the concept design and engineering work this Spring.

After discussion Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize Recreation and Parks to pursue the possibility of using the referenced county-owned property for the expansion of the Fifth District Park using the \$40,000 from the FY '97 Fifth District Park Improvement Project funds for planning purposes. Motion carried.

Mr. Rollins will return to the Board with a report on the findings and to receive further direction.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

1. Presentation of Comprehensive Plan

All Commissioners were present. DPZ staff present were Jon Grimm, Director; and Peggy Childs, Recording Secretary. County Attorney Doug Durkin was also present.

PLANNING COMMISSION PRESENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Present: Frank Taylor, Chairperson; Hal Willard, Vice Chair
Members Cheryl Ahearn, Jim Dexter, Bob Parkinson,
John F. Taylor and Bill Donaldson
Former members Shelby Guazzo and Joe Anderson

Planning Commission members came together to present their recommended Final Draft of the 1997 Comprehensive Plan Update, entitled "Quality of Life in St. Mary's County - A Strategy for the 21st Century," representing a consensus of the seven members who wrote the Plan after four years of public meetings and deliberations.

Commissioner Eagan said she has questions on the Plan but her concern today is whether the Plan was adopted properly by a motion, second, vote, and Resolution in accordance with Article 66B, so it would not be challenged in court. Chairman Frank Taylor replied that a vote was taken in the work session of December 12, 1997 to adopt the Plan. It was not forwarded by Resolution, but a Resolution is being prepared by staff for the Commission's action at its next meeting on February 23rd. The Commission often undertakes these kinds of projects in work sessions because its regular meetings are typically filled to the brim with other work. Following the joint public hearing on October 14, 1997, the Commission scheduled work sessions to address some concerns from the public hearing and to clear up some language, but there were no major changes that would have required a new public hearing. After many, many hours of work, the Commission feels this is the Plan that best addresses all the concerns and information received.

Discussion turned to the 74 rezoning requests received during the planning process. Mr. Taylor said the Commission considered the rezonings at the conclusion of its work on the Plan, applying the objective criteria compiled by staff to each request individually. The Commission's accepted position is that the Plan is acted upon first, followed by a separate review and public hearing on the rezoning requests. This prompted Commissioner Eagan's concern that this method, unless the Commissioners' decisions follow the Commission's recommendations, would require the Plan to be amended. Mr. Grimm replied that the boundaries of the Plan are conceptual and the Plan would not have to be changed if a boundary was moved by a small area one way or the other. However, if a broad area were to be changed, the action and the Plan would have to be consistent.

Commissioner Jarboe's concern was that he has a potential conflict on one of the rezonings; if the rezonings are considered separately from the Plan he could abstain from that one request, but if the rezonings are part of the Plan, he would have to abstain from voting on the Plan.

Commission members Bob Parkinson, Cheryl Ahearn, and Hal Willard stated their positions that the rezonings are a separate issue. Mr. Parkinson said, without the Plan, there could be no rezonings, so the Plan must be adopted first. Ms. Ahearn said she was told that there would be a public hearing in fairness to the applicants, to allow them to present new testimony. The Commission could then reevaluate its recommendations. Mr. Willard agreed that the rezonings were considered based on the draft Plan, and said further the Commission considers the Plan a living, breathing document, which can be changed as we go along. The way the county is growing, Mr. Willard said, we can't wait 6 years to amend it, but we need to have a Plan in effect to be able to do that. Regarding the rezonings along 235 from Route 4 to Town Creek, Mr. Taylor said the Commission recognizes that 235 is a commercial corridor but their concern is the access issue. Mr. Willard stated if those properties are zoned commercial now, every one of them could max out their commercial development, and we would have the biggest mess you ever saw. The Commission is working diligently to have a highway corridor overlay in place first, to prevent that situation.

Attorney Doug Durkin said the Commissioners have two options - (1) consider the comprehensive plan and, before it is voted upon, consider the rezoning requests, bringing them forward at the same time; or (2) adopt the Plan and then consider the requests but, if they require amending the Plan, the whole 66B 3.07 process must start all over again. Mr. Durkin charged also that it was fundamentally wrong to use mapping guidelines as rezoning criteria, because that turns it into a quasi-judicial process. Mr. Grimm said staff had worked up a set of guidelines that would apply to how zoning maps would be drawn pursuant to the Plan. He asked the Commissioners to look at the guidelines, saying there must be a relationship between the zoning action and the comprehensive plan, and in his opinion as a professional planner and as someone who cares about the future of this county, there is nothing wrong with doing that.

Mr. Donaldson asked if there isn't a way to incorporate a goal for zoning the 235 area commercial over time, with milestones; e.g., feeder roads, etc. Mr. Taylor responded that that is a good topic for discussion at the highway corridor overlay meeting next Friday. The Planning Commission has concluded that there are enough policies already in the Plan to support the highway corridor overlay.

The discussion was concluded at 3:50 p.m. Mr. Grimm distributed to the Commissioners the minutes of November and December work sessions on the Plan.

2. **Fast Track Review**
Lexington Park Hampton Inn

Present: Tom Waring
Billy Mehaffey, of Mehaffey & Associates

This request, along with recommendations from the Director of DECD and the Planning Director, were forwarded by memorandum dated February 10, 1998. Mr. Grimm said this project exceeds each of the requisite components of the Fast Track Resolution and is the most detailed application received to date. He said he had been very pleased to see a concrete schedule showing the ability of the project to meet an expedited review process.

Stating that NAS has been pushing for hotel space in Lexington Park, Commissioner Eagan moved for approval of the fast-track application on the basis that we need hotel space quickly to accommodate people who are coming here. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chessier.

Commissioner Brugman commented that he was originally inclined to vote against the application because he is displeased with the process itself. There is a citizen in the county who has been trying to get his property rezoned for years and it has yet to happen, and he said he doesn't want to convey the impression that the Commissioners are putting businesses ahead of citizens. However, he feels he can't vote against this application because it will benefit the county and the Navy, and it is much needed.

Commissioner Jarboe said he has consistently voted against the fast-track process because he thinks we should have economic development within planning and zoning to fast-track all the business projects and he will continue to do so, although he hates having to do so in this situation.

The motion passed by a vote of 4-1. Commissioner Jarboe voted against in accordance with his statement.

THE EDDIE MAHE COMPANY

Present: Douglas Thompson

Mr. Thompson appeared before the Commissioners to present the results of the survey of citizen attitudes in the County toward county government and county officials. The survey was a three-phase operation: Interviews of the St. Mary's County Commissioners and department heads; random personal telephone interviews of 80 citizens, and a survey conducted by The Tarrance Group, of 300 registered voters on January 13 - 14, 1998. The information was then analyzed by The Eddie Mahe Company and the results compared against surveys from other counties and municipalities. Areas of the survey included attitudes toward development and growth; traffic issues; Patuxent River Naval Air Station expansion; source of information (newspapers, tax issues; county agencies/departments (Planning and Zoning, Health Department, Public Works, Health Department, Recreation and Parks, Nursing Center, Sheriff's Department, public schools); etc.

The Report included the following recommendations:

- * St. Mary's County Government needs to show county residents that they are serious about comprehensive county planning.
- * St. Mary's County Government needs to expand and increase its communications with residents.
- * St. Mary's County Government needs to emphasize the value of citizen input.

In conclusion County Administrator Kachmar suggested that he set up a meeting to go over the information and develop recommendations to get information to the public.

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

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Stauffer Fire

Commissioner Jarboe referred to the Stauffer House fire in the Mennonite community and commended Laura Clark in the Department of Planning and Zoning for her efforts in assisting the family in the rebuilding of the home. County Administrator Kachmar offered expressions of appreciation to Jon Grimm, Director of Planning and Zoning and Keith Lackie, Deputy Director, as well for their efforts in assisting the family. The Commissioners directed staff to draft a letter of appreciation to the Department of Planning and Zoning.

County Commissioners' Agenda

Commissioner Brugman referred to changes in the agenda after the presentation of the "draft" agenda over the past several weeks and proposed that the "draft" agenda be the official agenda for the following week.

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, that the draft agenda presented on Tuesday become the official final agenda for the following week.

During discussion of the motion Commissioner Thompson stated there were times when items needed to be added or deleted to the agenda when it is finalized on Thursday, and she expressed concern that if the motion carries, items will be added to the County Administrator's time instead of being listed as a separate agenda item.

After discussion Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Eagan, to amend the main motion that nothing can be added but items can be deleted. Motion carried three to two with Commissioners Thompson and Chesser voting against.

Vote on the amended main motion was three to two with Commissioners Thompson and Chesser voting against.

PUBLIC HEARING SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ALTERNATIVES

(Held at Carter State Office Building)

Present: John J. Kachmar, Jr. County Administrator
George A. Erichsen, P.E., Director of Public Works
Steven E. Welkos, Director of Finance
James P. Haley, Manager, Office of Central Services
Lt. Col. Rich Richardson, Chairman, SWAC
Melanie Johnston, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. Mr. Erichsen read the Notice of Public Hearing as published in The Enterprise, indicating that the proposed cost of stickers was re-evaluated and reduced to \$80 under Alternative #1 and to \$71 for Alternative #2.

Mr. Erichsen stated that on January 12, 1998, the Department of Public Works issued a notice to all of the landfill users stating that the St. Andrews Landfill should reach capacity within the next 30 - 60 days and, at that time, residential and commercial users would no longer be permitted to dispose of MSW at the facility. The notice also advised that the rubble fill operations will continue as they have in the past. Mr. Erichsen advised that the County now has a Rubble Fill Inspector at the site as mandated by the State to determine what is and is not acceptable.

History

Mr. Kachmar gave a brief history of solid waste management over the past year, including the issuing of RFP's for a transfer station. A Technical Evaluation Committee was formed consisting of the County Administrator, County Attorney, Director of Public Works, Director of Finance, the County's Purchasing Agent and Lt. Col Richardson, Chairman of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). The Committee reviewed the proposals and felt none of the proposals were cost effective for St. Mary's County. The Committee made a recommendation to the Commissioners that the landfill be closed, the convenience centers continue to be operated by the County, and waste from the convenience centers be taken out of the County and disposed of in Calvert County or wherever the price is best. Mr. Kachmar advised that the only waste to be transferred by the County will be the approximate 14,000 tons generated at the convenience centers. The Committee also recommended that the rubble cell be kept open and the fees lowered in order to fill the cell faster. Mr. Kachmar said the reason for this recommendation is because the laws for rubble fills are changing and it doesn't make sense to keep the rubble cell open any longer than necessary. The Board of County Commissioners accepted these recommendations and is moving forward by holding this meeting. Mr. Kachmar stated that the existing landfill needs to be capped, and the County has chosen not to invest in a new landfill because of the \$8 - \$12 million cost of a new facility. The County doesn't feel it can compete in the open market.

Mr. Erichsen stated that the volume of solid waste from commercial entities have been about 39,000 tons per year; from convenience centers has been about 14,000 tons/year; the rubble is about 12,000 tons/year (6,000 from residential self-haul, 5600 from commercial). In 1996, 476,663 vehicles entered our convenience centers; in 1997, almost 500,000 vehicles entered the convenience centers. A survey was conducted in May, 1996 and out of 9,076 vehicles surveyed, 74% of those surveyed wanted the convenience center hours to remain the same, 15% had no objection to changing the hours and 11% were interested in closing the centers one or two days a week. In February, 1997, the County performed a physical survey at the landfill to better determine when the landfill would most likely reach capacity. The landfill was actually full in November, 1997; however, the County has an MDE approved contingency plan, which could extend operations through March of 1998. The rubble cell will most likely be filled by February, 2000 if the County continues accepting rubble at the current rate. If the fees for rubble are lowered, the County may get additional rubble and could close the rubble cell within one year. At the present time, we have about one month left in our MSW landfill, and if the County turns away all the commercial and institutional users, the County could get another four months of life (until July 1).

Mr. Erichsen briefly certain aspects of decisions by prior Boards, as follows: 1971 - A fee of \$100.00 per truck was assessed to commercial trucks; 1989 - A proposal of \$40/ton was proposed, but the fee was set at \$18/ton, with the County subsidizing the remainder; August, 1987 - Recommendation was made to assess a \$130 per household and \$250 per commercial entity environmental fee (the recommendation was not approved). August, 1991 - The tipping fee was raised to \$40/ton and \$5/pick-up load. A sticker fee of \$75 per year was proposed, but rejected. August, 1996 - The tipping fee was lowered to \$35/ton and increased to \$158/ton for tires. It was noted that tire disposal decreased dramatically after the tire disposal fee was increased.

Mr. Erichsen noted that the County renegotiated the scrap metal contract and is now seeing some revenue. Approximately \$28,000 was received last year for scrap metal. Approximately two (2) weeks ago the Commissioners approved cardboard recycling at the convenience centers, which will result in considerable savings in tipping fees. The County is currently considering reducing the convenience center hours to reduce operational costs.

Financial Overview

Mr. Welkos presented a financial overview of the County's budget, noting that solid waste costs are paid out of the general fund and amount to about 2% of the County's expenditures; however, revenue from the tipping fees, etc., makes up for only about 1.5% of the fund. Mr. Welkos demonstrated how the cost of solid waste will continue to increase, with the revenues from solid waste continuing to fall. A comparison of other County tipping fees, environmental fees and income taxes was shown. Commissioner Thompson noted that one thing to consider is that the assessable tax base in other counties is larger than that of St. Mary's County, consequently, each penny on the tax rate brings in more money in other counties. The sticker price was calculated to offset only the operating costs of the convenience centers, including the tipping fee incurred at Calvert County for the convenience center waste, but not any other solid waste costs. The sticker price would be \$80 per year with the current operating hours at the convenience centers and \$71 per year if the operating hours are reduced. These fees are determined by the cost of operating the centers divided by the estimated number of households using the centers (10,500). Mr. Welkos added that if the operating hours are reduced, the County will have to buy additional equipment to store solid waste when the Calvert facility is closed. Commissioner Jarboe explained that these alternatives are basically what it costs for an individual to dispose of waste at the convenience centers and does not include recycling costs.

At this time, the Commissioners opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment/Questions

Robert Adams (Hollywood): Is a transfer station attendant in Ridge. Said that since 1995, vehicles and use of the recycling bins has tripled. Favored building a new landfill. Asked what guarantee the County has that Calvert will not increase their fees and if we could get a long term contract and, if so, for how long. Concerned about people dumping trash along the roadside.

Ken Hastings (Mechanicsville): Stated he is a member of SWAC and stated that SWAC had absolutely nothing with what is going on tonight. Said he had hoped there would have been more public involvement in the process. Stated a lot of options that have been discussed have not been presented for discussion. Stated that it is difficult to make an objective decision when the data keeps changing; prior to this, the County estimated that each household disposes of a ton of trash per year, which would mean there are 14,000 people using the convenience centers, not the 10,500 the County is now using. If you use 14,000 as the number of households using the facilities, the sticker fee would go down to \$71. Suggested that the cost be assessed to all taxpayers in the County, which would prevent a drop in recycling and more illegal dumping. Asked that a Commissioner explain why the County wants to reduce the rubble fee when they are already losing money on it. Recommended the County back off of this proposal.

William Reed (Great Mills): Uses the transfer station once a month and dumps one bag of trash. With the proposed sticker fee, it will cost him over \$4 a bag. Would support a tag-a-bag program. Asked the Commissioners to think of the elderly.

In regards to reducing the rubble fees, Commissioner Jarboe stated that the County now has to have a rubble inspector and the costs for a rubble fill have gone up. He stated that at \$24/ton, there will be more people dumping and it will get the County out of the rubble business faster.

Larry Taylor (Lexington Park): Stated there are people in the County that can't buy food, much less a \$95 sticker. Stated that the County is going to drive the trash over the bridge, dump in on a concrete pad, and Calvert will reload it and drive it back over the bridge. Believed that the County should build their own concrete pad and take care of their own waste.

Commissioner Thompson asked if the RFP included a County transfer station. Mr. Kachmar stated that they did; one was \$325,000 and the other was approximately \$1,000,000, both required investing on infrastructure. The County has one large hauler that has 65% of the waste and does not have control over where that waste is taken.

Ken King (Leonardtown): Concerned about the elderly, illegal dumping. Stated it is incumbent upon the Commissioners to aggressively pursue the people that dump illegally.

Vaughn McCall (Lexington Park): Concerned about what will happen if the bridge closes again. Asked why today's position was not made known to the citizens when the rubble landfill was proposed for the northern area or when St. Mary's Disposal wanted to sort solid waste at their facility. Asked what would happen to our mandated recycling rates, who would pick up illegal dump sites. Concerned about air quality when citizens start burning trash. Asked what the dismissal or reassignment of employees will cost. Asked what happened to the land the County cleared next to St. Andrews Landfill, where the money will come from to close and cap the existing facility. Stated the County should continue to provide convenience centers and study getting into the business of storing and transporting waste, and the services should be funded by the tax base.

Commissioner Thompson stated the County will not charge for recycling.

Brandon Munday (Great Mills): Asked about the surplus the County has in its budget. Stated that the convenience centers should not be closed on weekends. Would be in favor of the County handling their own trash. Concerned that if the County starts charging a fee, the use of the centers will drop. Concerned about illegal dumping. Suggested that the Commissioners put the issue on a referendum on the ballot in November. Does not feel that the issue has gotten the attention it needs.

Commissioner Brugman stated that the survey indicated the least busy days at the convenience centers are Wednesday and Thursday, not the weekends.

Larry Pinto (Community Preservation Coalition): Speaking for the Coalition and is concerned about increased trash burning, illegal dumping and decreased recycling wastes. Felt that \$95 or \$84 was too much money and recommended that a \$39/sticker fee be instituted for one year while tonnage and usage data are collected. Suggested the Commissioners consider a single load fee or tag-a-bag. Suggested a public education program with all different options be implemented and volunteered his organization's assistance with same.

Tim Bratton (GB&B): Stated he is a waste management consultant and stated there are two fundamental problems: (1) What is the most reasonable and cost effective thing to do with the solid waste generated in the County and; (2) How does the County pay for solid waste now and in the future? Historically, solid waste has been funded through property taxes, however the trend is now towards user fees or assessments, which follows the principle of paying for services you use. With property taxes, people with higher valued property pay more than others, but that doesn't mean they generate more waste. Said that with the Supreme Court decision in 1994, which invalidated flow control ordinances, it has caused growth in the megafills and the County would be hard pressed to control and direct waste. If the County built its own landfill, it couldn't assure that the existing waste would continue to flow to the landfill. The Calvert County facility may provide a regional solution, but issues such as the bridge will come up.

Richard Scott (Lexington Park): Asked what happened to the \$12,000,000 surplus. Stated the Commissioners had not raised the property taxes, but raised the piggyback tax, which cost him \$150. Asked what he gets for his taxes. Said he came from a town that had a school system, a full-time police force, paid fire department, trash pick-up twice a week and a landfill. Cannot understand how the County is losing money in recycling.

Richard Long (Lexington Park): Feels he already pays a user fee in that he separates his recycling. Concerned about those people on fixed incomes and handicapped. Stated that many people throw things away that should not be thrown out. Asked why the County doesn't get more money back from recycling; said that people who have their trash picked up don't separate the recyclables. Stated he is not going to recycle if he has to buy a sticker.

Melva Abell (California): Asked if households would get more than one sticker. Mr. Erichsen said that the proposal is for two stickers per household. She would be in favor of keeping the St.

Andrews Transfer Station open seven days a week. Concerned that one proposed fee was advertised and a different one is being discussed at the hearing. Stated she would like to see some solid numbers. Stated she was disheartened that the SWAC was not involved in this issue.

Daphne McGuire (Mechanicsville): Stated that what the County calls transfer stations are actually convenience stations. Asked if St. Andrews Landfill site was considered as a transfer station and asked if that will be pursued, as it seems to be the perfect solution. Verified that the rubble site at the northern end of the County that Mr. McCall referred to was not the stump dump (it was Persimmon Creek). Asked if people would be rewarded for recycling and stated she was concerned about people who could not afford a sticker.

Commissioner Thompson replied that there are ways of dealing with people who cannot afford stickers. She added that she thinks the solution could be a pay-as-you-throw system.

Bob Fleming (Avenue): Works at St. Andrews Transfer Station. Stated that the County can't afford to cut back to five days because they have a difficult time handling the volume now.

Viki Volk (The Enterprise): Clarified that the County would issue two stickers/household, not base the number on the amount of vehicles owned. Commissioner Thompson stated it would be two stickers/household.

Dora Zimmerman (Mechanicsville): Asked where the County's trash would go while the Commissioners are deciding what to do with it. Commissioner Thompson stated that the haulers will take their trash to Calvert and the convenience centers will go to the landfill. Commissioner Jarboe stated that the trash will go to Calvert or Virginia.

Richard Scott (Lexington Park): Stated there is an illegal dumping area at the end of Forest Run Road off of Pegg Road and asked what will happen when the County starts charging a fee.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she attended a tag-a-bag seminar and found that when other places instituted the system, there was a slight increase in illegal dumping.

Larry Pinto: Asked if the Solid Waste Plan needs to be amended when these changes are made. Commissioner Thompson stated that there is some leeway being given to us by MDE to do what we have to do and then amend the Plan.

John Vincent Curtis: Stated he saw a blue truck with flashing lights this morning near Pegg's View Apartments, and a man in striped pants got out with a pitchfork and threw trash over the silt fence.

Bob Fleming: Stated there needs to be an education process, as people do not know what waste is hazardous and what can be taken to the landfill.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Minutes Approved by Board of
County Commissioners on 2/24/98
Judith A. Spalding
Judith A. Spalding
Recording Secretary