

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BUDGET WORK SESSION – DISCUSSION/FINAL DECISIONS  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
MARCH 26, 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  
Steven E. Welkos, Director of Finance  
Martha E. Jones, Budget Analyst  
Linda M. Shepherd, Recorder

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

Mr. Welkos stated that he had again reviewed the FY 1999 general fund revenue estimates and has revised the overall estimate by \$872,800. Estimates have been increased in eight revenue accounts, the largest being income tax, investment income, and recordation tax.

Staff reviewed with the Commissioners, the Departmental/Spending Unit Appeals to the FY 1999 Operating Budget. Decisions were made as follows on those Appeals:

**Office on Aging**

Concurrence by the Board to not provide the requested \$26,000 additional funding for the Senior Center Plus program.

**Ethics Commission**

Concurrence by the Board to fund the additional \$5,500 requested for contract attorney funding, with the stipulation that if outside counsel is to be hired, it must be in the RFP.

**Chamber of Commerce**

Concurrence by the Board to not provide the requested \$4,000 additional funding and indicating the Chamber and Economic Development make more of a collaborative effort. Staff was directed to inquire why county department heads must pay membership dues since the County provides funds to the Chamber.

**Women's Center**

**After discussion, Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, not to provide the \$7,735 additional request, but to provide an additional \$5,000 in funds to the Women's Center, and taking \$5,000 from the Three Oaks Center. Motion carried.**

(Commissioner Brugman left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.)

**Health Department**

Concurrence by the Board to reinstate \$40,000 in the Health Department budget with the stipulation that the Health Department continue to fund three school health nurses in their budget, which they had proposed to have the Board of Education fund in its budget. The \$40,000 could be utilized to either implement on a trial basis, a new dental services program, or to fund a portion of the costs for the three nursing positions, which have been State funded to date.

(Commissioner Brugman returned to the meeting at 11:12 a.m.)

**Sheriff's Department**

- (1) Concurrence by the Board to fund SWAT team protective body armor vests (\$13,500), a Corporal rank in the Corrections Division (\$3,673), and conversion of two (2) part-time Court Security Officers TPT-RPT (\$8,000) from realignment of FY 1998 Budget funds.
- (2) Concurrence by the Board to reinstate two Deputy Sheriff positions (\$66,549), two Drug Enforcement Rental Units (\$11,700), and a Surveillance Van (\$71,000) in the FY 1999 Budget.
- (3) Concurrence by the Board not to provide funds for one Property Technician position (\$38,212) and the second K-9 at the Detention Center (\$6,500), and deleting the Corrections Classification Specialist (\$23,443).

Total for reinstatement to the Sheriff's Department was \$54,806.

**Public Library**

Concurrence by the Board to provide an additional \$14,718 rather than the requested \$21,633. Funds could be used for the Assistant Children's Librarian and/or health benefit costs.

**Board of Education**

Commissioner Thompson and Mr. Kachmar indicated the school board would like to meet with the Commissioners on Monday, March 30. After discussion, there was concurrence by the Board to delay a decision on possible additional funding until the school board presented their budget priorities, as the Commissioners had previously requested. Individually, the Commissioners would contact a school board member over the weekend.

**STAFF REVIEWED WITH THE COMMISSIONERS FOR FINALITY, DECISIONS FROM PRIOR BUDGET WORK SESSIONS ON THE FY 1999 OPERATING BUDGET:**

**Hospice**

Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to provide County funds to Hospice if they remain a separate entity and do not merge with a larger structure of the community.

Commissioner Jarboe amended the motion to release the funds to Hospice on a quarterly basis. Both the amendment to the motion and the main motion failed with all Commissioners voting against.

Concurrence by the Board to increase County grant from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

**Historical Society**

Concurrence by the Board to decrease County grant recommendation from \$13,000 to \$10,000.

**Naval Air Test Museum**

Concurrence by the Board to decrease County grant recommendation from \$25,000 to \$20,000.

**Tri-County Youth Services**

Concurrence by the Board to delete staff recommendation to fund Family Center utilities in the amount of \$3,000.

**Community College**

Concurrence by the Board to reduce by \$70,637, the equipment funding level where County funds meet minimum maintenance-of-effort funding levels for FY 1999 (assuming the College can use \$345,793 June 30, 1997 fund balance).

**STAFF REVIEWED WITH THE COMMISSIONERS FOR FINALITY, OTHER BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR DECISIONS ON THE FY 1999 OPERATING BUDGET:**

**Circuit Court**

Concurrence by the Board to provide funding for a third judge for nine months rather than six months, requiring an additional \$52,672.

**Walden/Sierra**

Concurrence by the Board not to provide \$9,700 funding for van insurance.

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

Concurrence by the Board to provide \$10,000 grant match funding for site/engineering for the Family Center construction, and to provide \$3,800 for the Agriculture/Seafood Commission for training and materials cost for a Natural Resource Management course at the Technical Center.

**Recreation and Parks**

Concurrence by the Board to provide an additional \$1,000 for office supplies, \$1,000 for staff development, and \$2,300 for liability insurance for the St. Clement's Island tour boat.

**Management Information Systems**

Concurrence by the Board not to provide an additional \$83,244 for positions and PC workstations.

**Board of Election Supervisors**

Concurrence by the Board to provide \$4,348 for State salary COLAs.

**Potential Elected Officials Salary Increase**

Concurrence by the Board to take the cost of potential salary increases (County Commissioners, Orphan's Court Judges, County Sheriff, and County Treasurer) out of the Reserve fund, rather than include those costs in current departmental salary allocations (if and when the increases are passed in legislature).

**Alcoholic Beverage Board**

Concurrence by the Board to provide an additional \$484 for a pager for the investigator, advertising, printing, and tapes.

**MIC - Communications System**

Concurrence by the Board to provide \$700,000 (first-year cost estimate).

**Debt Service**

Concurrence by the Board to reduce Debt Service by \$500,000, with the assumption that the fall bond sale is able to be postponed until January, thereby delaying the interest payment until FY 2000.

**Office of Central Services**

Discussion on the vehicle maintenance issue, rather to remain in-house or contract out. The Commissioners would like to take a look at what national organizations have done.

**Wicomico Golf Course**

According to Mr. Welkos, there are two issues concerning the Wicomico Golf Course - achieving a balanced budget, and the irrigation system situation. The Wicomico taxing district issue is still being considered by staff. The Finance Department will make any necessary adjustments to balance the Wicomico budget.

(Commissioner Brugman left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.)

**Capital Budget**

The Board concurred with an appropriation of \$3,469,000 in funds for the closure of the St. Andrews Landfill.

The Board concurred with reinstating \$1,491,000 in funds for the POD Modifications at Spring Ridge and Leonardtown Middle Schools in FY 1999.

Several of the roads which were recommended for deletion in the capital program by the Planning Commission were of concern to the Commissioners. The Board concurred to keep these roads in the FY 2000 – FY 2004 capital program, with the understanding that the Public Works Director would be further refining the costs for these projects over the next year.

The Board concurred to not reinstate funds for the Firing Range.

The Board concurred with the Capital Budget and Program as recommended by staff, with the aforesaid changes.

(Commissioner Brugman returned to the meeting at 1:00 p.m.)

**Constant Yield Tax Rate**

**Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded Commissioner Jarboe, to direct staff to advertise the tax rate at the existing \$2.08 tax rate, and for staff to compile the FY 1999 recommended budget. Motion carried four to one, with Commissioner Chesser voting against.** Commissioner Chesser stated he felt the tax rate should be increased to \$2.10 so that we could fund the Board of Education, Roads, and the Sheriff.

**OTHER ISSUES:**

**Grant for State's Attorney**

**Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize Commissioner Thompson to sign a Domestic Violence Intervention Grant renewal with a County match of \$7,500. Motion carried.**

**Myrtle Point Park Plan**

**Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to include \$225,000 for the Myrtle Point project this budget year (FY 1999). Motion carried three to two, with Commissioners Thompson and Chesser voting against.**

Commissioner Eagan indicated the consultant presented three plans at the public hearing which included a motorized boat ramp as the Commissioners had instructed. However, due to a variety of reasons, the consultant felt it would be difficult to include a motorized boat ramp at Myrtle Point.

**In an effort to get the Myrtle Point project moving, Commissioner Eagan moved, seconded by Commissioner Chesser, to send a message to the Recreation and Parks Board that due to the opinion of the consultant of the difficulty of locating a motorized boat ramp at Myrtle Point, that the Commissioners allow them to remove that requirement from the plan. The motion carried three to two, with Commissioners Jarboe and Brugman voting against.**

Commissioner Brugman moved to inform the Recreation and Parks Board, since it was their original recommendation, to include in the plan an area for non-motorized boats and also to section off an area of the land for non-power boats. As there was not a second to the motion, the motion was withdrawn.

**Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Eagan, to inform the Recreation and Parks Board, upon their original recommendation, that a non-motorized boat ramp be included in the Myrtle Point master plan. Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Commissioner Brugman moved, seconded by Commissioner Eagan, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.**

Minutes Approved by Board of  
County Commissioners on \_\_\_\_\_

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Linda M. Shepherd  
Recording Secretary