

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
April 27, 1999**

**Present:** Commissioner President Julie B. Randall  
Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson  
Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo  
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.  
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley  
Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator  
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS/  
OFFICE ON AGING'S *Lunch with Your Commissioners***

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Commissioners attended the Special Olympics at Leonardtown High School and then attended the *Lunch with Your Commissioners* at the Chancellors Run Senior Center.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

**Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER**

**Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the check register, as presented. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, April 20, 1999 as presented. Motion carried.**

**COMMENDATION  
SPELLING BEE CHAMPION**

The Commissioners presented a Commendation to Julian Spiegler, the County's Spelling Bee Champion, who will be going on to the Nationals.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**Present:** Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator

- Draft Agendas for May 4, 1999 and May 11, 1999
- 1. **Grant Document**
  - a. Walden/Sierra  
Domestic Violence Grant Application  
(State funding: \$101,738)

Also Present: Kathy O'Brien, Director, Walden/Sierra

**Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the Application Motion carried.**

2. **By-Laws**

a. Recreation and Parks Board

Also Present: Phil Rollins, Director, R&P

Suggested amendments by the Commissioners include: election of officers to be made from membership; vacancies to be filled by 2/3 vote; "adding St. Mary's County" to "open meetings law;" and bylaw changes should be approved by 2/3 majority vote.

The Commissioners directed the suggested amendments be taken back to the Recreation and Parks Board for review and comments prior to approval by the Commissioners.

b. Commission for Women

Suggested amendments included: changing word "commissioners" to "commission members;" to delete provision for vote by absentia; amendments to bylaws to be done by 2/3 majority vote; notice should be given of proposed bylaws; instead of "two consecutive terms", it should read "two *full* consecutive terms; submission of more than one name for filling of vacancies; change "candidate" to "nominee;" add notification to officers of pending proposed removal; add under "special meetings" "or at the written request of a minimum of four members;" change "must be nominated" to "can be nominated" on page 3, Section 4;

The Commissioners directed the suggested amendments be taken back to the Commission for Women for review and comments prior to approval by the Commissioners.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' TIME**

**Farming in St. Mary's County**

Commissioner Guazzo stated that along the line of *Agriculture is Alive and Well* that corn planting is almost completed; soy bean planting will be done by next week; and that rain is needed for the tobacco crop.

**Perc Tests**

Commissioner Guazzo commended Tom Russell, Director of Environmental Health, for conducting 600 perc tests in four weeks.

**Letter of Clarification to Planning Commission**

Commissioner Raley submitted a draft letter to the Planning Commission clarifying items addressed in the Boards April 16 letter regarding the Comprehensive Plan. The proposed letter indicates that the Unified Development Code should be the first priority. The other issue was the method of addressing the areas to be addressed. Commissioner Guazzo suggested they be grouped (those that the Planning Commission agrees with and those that would require more review). Commissioner Raley will revise the letter for the Boards' consideration at next week's meeting.

**Rocky Gap/Tudor Hall Project**

Commissioner Mattingly advised that he attended a meeting in Western Maryland and looked at a facility similar to the Tudor Hall project proposed in Leonardtown. He said it was a beautiful operation, and the project is doing well, with the exception of the golf course (the golf course is relatively new).

**Special Olympics/Lunch with Seniors**

Commissioner Anderson expressed appreciation to those that put together the Special Olympics, the volunteers, and the participants. He also expressed appreciation for the luncheon meeting with the senior citizens at the Chancellors Run Senior Center.

**St. Clement's Museum**

Commissioner Randall indicated that terms of all the members on the St. Clement's Museum Board will expire in December. She said she had spoken with Senator Dyson, who is on this Board, and he advised the Board at its next meeting will be looking at staggering member's terms.

**Property Issues**

Commissioner Raley referred to rumors and misconceptions "floating" around the County concerning location of the Lexington Park Library, location of the pool, and various other property issues. He stated that he wanted to assure everyone that the County Commissioners are accumulating information and facts and that there will be public discussion.

**Lexington Park Library Task Force**

Commissioner Randall requested that a letter be drafted to the Lexington Park Library Task Force indicating that the Commissioners appreciate the efforts of the Task Force in development recommendations; stating that the intention to purchase of property adjacent to Great Mills High School is additional data the Commissioners are gathering; and that no decision has been made by this Board as to the location of the library. The Board needs all information (location, costs, and schedule) before making a decision.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters of Property Acquisition and Personnel, as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a)11, and Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1, respectively. Motion carried.**

**Personnel**

Present: Commissioner President Julie B. Randall  
 Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson  
 Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo  
 Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.  
 Commissioner Daniel H. Raley  
 Mortimer Smedley, County Administrator  
 Melvin "Mac" McClintock, Director, Human Resources  
 Martha Beavers (left at 4:02 p.m.)  
 Nannette Davis ( " )  
 Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

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

Time Held: 3:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed a vacant position and agreed to conduct interviews.

**Property Acquisition)**

Present: Commissioner President Julie B. Randall  
Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson  
Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo  
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.  
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley  
Mortimer Smedley, County Administrator  
George Erichsen, Director, DPW  
Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation and Parks  
Jim Stirling, Director, Capital Projects  
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)11

Time Held: 4:23 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed property acquisition issues and gave direction to staff.

7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**FISCAL YEAR 2000 RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

**(Held at Leonardtown High School Auditorium)**

Present: Commissioner President Julie B. Randall  
Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson  
Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo  
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.  
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley  
Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator  
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder  
Steve Welkos, Director of Finance

**Constant Yield Tax Rate**

The Commissioners conducted a public hearing on the Constant Yield Property Tax Rate as required by the State if the County intends to exceed the Constant Yield Rate. (\$2.02 is the constant yield rate; \$2.08 is the proposed FY 2000 tax rate, which would generate approximately \$1,106,000 in additional property tax revenues than the \$2.02 constant yield rate).

Mr. Welkos read the notice of public hearing, after which the hearing was opened up for comments from the audience.

Doug Ritchie – Requested that the tax rate be at the constant yield rate of \$2.02 rather than the proposed \$2.08.

Steele McGonegal – Requested to keep the tax rate at the constant yield rate.

**Fiscal Year 2000 Budget (All Spending Units Except Board of Education)**

The Commissioners conducted a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2000 Recommended Budget.

The hearing was opened for comments from the audience.

Linda Hill (St. Mary's American Little League) – in support of Recreation and Parks budget and agreed to work with the County in getting improvements to fields.

Art Casale – in support of funding for Sotterley foundation.

Mary Ann Tomasic – in support of locating new library in Lexington Park.

David Triantos – (1) should use funding from franchise fee to fund Channel 12; (2) in support of having skateboarding and rollerblading facilities located in park.

Sandra Wheeler – in support of additional Office on Aging senior facilities and services.

Rev. Phillip Ayres – in support of 100% funding for Sheriff's Department for additional programs; invited Commissioners to attend a summit of local clergy at Mt. Zion Methodist Church on May 18.

Lynn Fitrell – In support of Women's Center's programs.

Joan Marsh – In support of libraries.

Chris Wilson/Lanny Lancaster – in support of Three Oaks Center.

Phil Ryan/Mike Marlay – requested support of funding for oyster festival/cookoff budget.

Steele McGonegal – tax rate/piggyback tax—that county should use surplus to give tax cut.

Randy Geis – 1) instead of raising tax rate six cents, raise it three cents (constant yield); (2) libraries are in need of more computers with internet connection; (3) library should be built on property already owned by County; (4) County should have its own animal shelter.

Fred Powledge – need for security system at libraries and more funds for supplies (additional \$17,000).

Cecilia Meisner – in support of Historical Society.

Clare Whitbeck – requested Commissioners to consider increasing impact fees.

Becky Stevens – expressed appreciation for inclusion of Family Resource Center in budget.

Roger Davis – (1) county should not put library at Great Mills School, it should be in Lexington Park; (2) trash haulers should be taxed; (3) questioned county operating nursing center; (4) transportation and maintenance budgets should be looked at more closely.

Lavert Queen/Kathleen Fean – requested senior site at northern end of county.

Mary Ann Chasen – requested that \$17,000 be added to library operating budget.

Sheriff Voorhaar – expressed appreciation to Commissioners for support of Sheriff's Department.

Karen Lewis (Student at Chopticon) – requested funding for women's lacrosse team.

Valentino Johnson – in support of Youth Services Coordinator position.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**Minutes Approved by the  
Board of County Commissioners on 5/4/99**

*Judith A. Spalding*  
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder