

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
May 4, 1999**

Present: Commissioner Julie B. Randall, President
Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson (left the meeting following executive session to attend public informational meeting for Circle C Oyster Ranch wetlands application)
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo (arrived at Noon)
Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator
Mary M. Langley, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the agenda as amended (remove presentation of Alcoholic Beverage Board). Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to authorize payment of bills. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of Tuesday, April 27, 1999 as presented. Motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS

Present: Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator

- Draft Agendas for May 11 and May 18, 1997

During discussion of the draft agendas, it was determined that the June 1999 Public Forum would be devoted to the topic of the Lexington Park Library site.

1. **Grant Documents**

- a. Office of the County Administrator -- Application
Governor's Commission on Crime Control and Prevention
HotSpot Grant -- Year 3 of 3 year grant
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
(\$151,961 State Funding)

Also Present: Joseph L. Dick, Lead Coordinator for HotSpots

Mr. Dick noted that there will be a second HotSpot funding opportunity that will allow for a second zone or an expansion of the current one. Requests for RFPs are expected for release in July.

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and sign the Grant Application as presented. Motion carried.

- b. Office of Community Services -- Application
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
Combating Underage Drinking in Maryland Incentive Grant
2 year grant (\$27,500 State funding)

Also Present: A. Joseph Donick, Prevention Coordinator

Mr. Donick indicated that this funding is based upon an allocation to the county and will be incorporated into existing programs, thus providing an opportunity for refocusing efforts.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the Grant Application as presented. Motion carried.

- c. Office of the Sheriff -- Application
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Policing Services (COPS)
Universal Hiring Grant (two deputies) -- 3 years
(\$50,721 federal, \$16,907 local match -- first year; \$70,730 local funding requirement for uniforms, vehicles, communications equipment and other auxiliary equipment to equip both officers)

Also Present: Lt. Malone, Sheriff's Office

Mr. Smedley indicated that, upon grant approval, one officer will be placed in an existing high school security program with the second officer assigned to the HotSpot Communities Initiative in Lexington Park. As the next police-training program at the academy in Charles County will not begin until mid-October, the Commissioners expressed concern over coordination with the school year calendar and the possibility that a road patrol officer would be pulled to fill the temporary vacancy. The Commissioners agreed to defer consideration of the grant application until next week, and requested that the Sheriff present his workforce plan for the school officer.

- d. Department of Social Services -- Modification
Community Services Administration, MD Dept. of Human Resources
Service Linked Housing Program
(\$7,457 decrease in SFY99 funding in accordance with request of DSS)

Also Present: Alexis Zoss, Department of Social Services

Ms. Zoss explained that the funding decrease was due to the position being vacant from July through December and that the position is currently occupied.

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the Grant Modification/Termination as presented. Motion carried.

2. Department of Public Works Documents

- a. Agreement Addendum for Victoria's Grant Subdivision, Section 1, located in Eighth Election District, extending completion date to April 1, 2000; letter of credit provided by Maryland Bank & Trust is being reduced from \$220,000 to \$42,000.

- b. Agreement being revised for Rue Woods Subdivision located in Eighth Election District, changing the street names to Rue Woods Drive and Sylvan Court; letter of credit provided by First National Bank of St. Mary's in the amount of \$163,200 remains as originally posted.
- c. Agreement Addendum for Richneck Subdivision, Section 2, located in Second Election District, extending completion date to May 1, 2000; letter of credit provided by Maryland Bank & Trust Company in the amount of \$55,600 remains as originally posted.

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the Public Works Documents as presented. Motion carried.

- 3. SMECO Easement Agreement – St. Andrews Maintenance Facility
(To provide for the new electrical service to be installed at the facility)

Also Present: Jim Stirling, Office of Capital Projects

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the Easement Agreement as presented. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS

The Commissioners presented the following Proclamations:

- ❖ Life Insurance Week (deferred until later in the meeting)
- ❖ Mental Health Awareness Month
- ❖ Respect for Law Week

LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS

(Recognizing county employees with 15, 20 and 25 years of service)

The Commissioners recognized the following employees and presented length of service pins to those present:

15 Years of Service – Joy Farrell, Michael Harris, Samuel Haynie, Mary Langley, Theresa Mayor, Helen Nolan, Cynthia Phillips, Paul Wible, William Wood, and David Zylak.

20 Years of Service – Ellen Norris, Jeffrey McLane, Arthur Shepherd, and Deborah Zylak.

25 Years of Service -- William Ball, Margaret Childs, Barbara Dotson, Nancy Hutson, Jay McGrath, and John Rhodes.

CENTER FOR L.I.F.E. (Living Independently for Everyone)

(Introduction and announcement of opening of new satellite office in Charlotte Hall)

ALSO PRESENT: Barbara J. Hayden, Regional Director

Ms. Hayden informed the Commissioners that the Center for L.I.F.E. is a satellite office of MCIL Resources for Independent Living of Baltimore, Maryland. MCIL has other offices located throughout the state. The Center, a non-profit agency, is located in Charlotte Hall and will provide services to persons with disabilities of all ages who live and work in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties. Their mission is to empower persons with disabilities to lead self-directed, independent and productive lives in the community.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Leonardtwn High School Bomb Threat

For the benefit of the television audience, Commissioner Randall read a News Release from St. Mary's County Public Schools relative to a rumored threat against Leonardtown Middle School. The release indicated that a search was completed at 10:00 a.m. and no evidence of suspicious or threatening activity was discovered.

Negotiations for Acreage in Great Mills

Commissioner Randall indicated that there was some confusion as to the purpose of the Commissioners' negotiations with Mr. Waring to purchase 19.165 acres of land adjacent to Great Mills High School on Great Mills Road. She read from the Commissioners April 22, 1999 Information Release which indicated that the acreage would provide land to meet future citizen requirements for county facilities and services. She noted that the Waring property is just one of the sites being evaluated for the placement of the new library.

Charles County Police Training Academy

Commissioner Raley shared that he had visited the academy and noted the sense of cooperation between the tri-county sheriff agencies and the efficient operation of the facility. May's class has just started, and St. Mary's County has sent 11 of the 19 students.

Year 2K Presentation

Commissioner Anderson advised that he attended a meeting the previous evening at the Patuxent Assembly of God relative to the Y2K issue along with Paul Wible—the Director of the Emergency Management Agency—and Joe O'Dell—Acting Manager of M.I.S. Other regional businesses and agencies participated including the electric cooperative, hospitals and banks. The outcome was the sense that the region is in pretty good shape; although some things still need to be addressed, everybody is working proactively.

Lexington Park Library

Commissioner Anderson indicated that the Commissioners are sending a letter to the Library Task Force relative to siting of the library and that access to Nicolette Park is an issue with that site. The Commissioners stated their commitment to the building of a new library to replace the current one in Lexington Park and to communicating to the public the siting options available. June's public forum will be devoted to that topic.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to meet in Executive Session to discuss Property Acquisition, as provided in Article 24, Section 4-210(a)11. Motion carried.

Present: Commissioner Julie B. Randall, President
Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson
Commissioner Shelby P. Guazzo
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator
George A. Erichsen, Public Works
James S. Stirling, Capital Projects
Philip D. Rollins, Recreation and Parks
Mary M. Langley, Recording Secretary

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)11
Time Held: 12:00 Noon – 1:15 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners considered property acquisition relative to various sites and projects throughout the county and provided direction to staff. They agreed to take action in open session pertaining to one of the sites discussed.

FOLLOW-UP TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to have staff proceed with the disposition of Whites Neck Creek right-of-way to the boat ramp. Motion carried.

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARINGS

Present: Donna K. Sasscer, Agriculture Specialist, DECD
Applicants

The Commissioners conducted the following Public Hearings related to property owners' applications to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, Maryland Department of Agriculture, for the establishment of Agricultural Land Preservation Districts (ALPD) and Sale of Development Rights Easements for:

- ❖ ALPD #99-0633, Edwin P. Johnson Estate, Third Election District, 111.34 acres, Tax Map 32, Block 7, Parcel 163.
- ❖ ALPD #99-0668, Samuel Franklin, Fourth Election District, 102 acres, Tax Map 13, Block 7, Parcel 94.
- ❖ ALPD #99-0667, Herbert N. Redmond, Fourth Election District, 70 acres, Tax Map 13, Block 7, Parcel 203.
- ❖ ALPD #99-0705, James N. Norris Trust, Eighth Election District, 114.167 acres, Tax Map 42, Block 21, Parcel 33.

Ms. Sasscer read the public hearing notice for the record, and the Commissioners opened the hearing for comments from the public. Ms. Sasscer displayed a map provided by Mr. Ray Alvey that indicated the current ALPD sites throughout the county. She indicated that the ALPD application process takes approximately two years to complete and represents a 5-year commitment relative to the sale of development rights easements. Funding is provided by proceeds from the Agriculture Transfer Tax, and an additional \$250,000 from the tax is included in the proposed FY2000 budget. Hearing no comments from the public, the hearing was closed.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo, to approve the ALPD applications and to authorize Commissioner Randall to sign a letter to the Maryland Department of Agriculture indicating such approval. Motion carried.

LITERACY COUNCIL OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Present: Patrick Kohli, President
Kathy Weigel, Lexington Park Library
Nerissa Guensch, Office Manager

Mr. Kohli provided an overview of the Council's function noting that the effort began some 20 years ago by Sister Sarah Ann Abell and other countians. Today the Council addresses the literacy needs of the county's residents (approximately 15% are at level 1 literacy, the highest of the tri-county area), providing assistance through volunteer tutors in learning to read and applying reading skills to various functions in life. The Council receives referrals from such agencies as the Marcey House, local libraries, nursing homes, and the Vocational Rehab and GED programs.

The Council is currently housed in Leonardtown in the Dorsey building and receives donations from the United Way. It recently received \$10,000 from a regional grant for the period from January to June 1999 which they are using to fund a marketing campaign and office manager position and are seeking financial support from the county to continue their efforts. The Council stated they are also looking for permanent office space, approximately 200-300 sq. ft., suited to their needs and indicated that the new Lexington Park Library would be ideal. The Literacy Councils of Charles and Calvert counties receive support with Calvert County providing a \$15,000 allocation and office space and Charles County providing office space.

The Commissioners concurred that the Library would be an ideal location and encouraged the Council to approach the Local Management Board (LMB) for assistance with obtaining any grants that might be available.

The County Commissioners presented the Council with a proclamation declaring May Literacy Month.

MARCEY HALFWAY HOUSE TOUR

Commissioners Randall, Anderson and Raley departed for a tour of the Marcey House facilities in Leonardtown, Maryland

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes Approved on 5/11/99
by Board of St. Mary's County Commissioners

Mary M. Langley
Mary M. Langley, Recording Secretary