

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Governmental Center
September 14, 1999**

Present: Commissioner President Julie B. Randall
Commissioner Joseph F. Anderson
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator
Mary M. Langley, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to accept the agenda as amended (defer Executive Session with Sheriff). Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to authorize Commissioner President Randall to sign the Check Register. Motion carried. (Referring to payment by DECD of a \$1,000 advertising invoice, Commissioner Raley requested a copy of the ad.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, September 7, 1999 as amended. Motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Present: Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator

* Draft Agendas for September 21 and 28, 1999.

Commissioner Mattingly requested that staff (Jim Haley and George Erichsen) present their recommendations for highway priorities in preparation for the September 28, 1999 presentation by the Department of Transportation's Annual Highway Tour. (The item will be added to the County Administrator's agenda on September 21, 1999.)

1. Office of Central Services
MD Regional Job Access and Reverse Commute Program

Also Present: George Jarboe, Transportation Supervisor
Catherine Williamson Hardy, Dept. of Social Services

Mr. Jarboe presented the Commissioners with a mock-up check for \$75,000 from the Federal Transit Administration; the grant was awarded to St. Mary's County as one of 21 successful nation-wide applicants for program funding to develop a regional approach to job access challenges.

STS, St. Mary's local public transit service, will use the grant to expand the weekday hours of service and to begin service on Saturday on its fixed routes. This expansion is estimated to provide approximately 12,000 trips annually. Mr. Jarboe noted that STS currently has four routes to serve local residents, including low-income workers, former welfare recipients, and senior citizens.

2. Office of Community Services
Highway Safety Plan

Also Present: Joseph Dick, Director, The Alliance

Mr. Dick presented the Highway Safety Comprehensive Plan (CTSP) for FY2000-2002 for the Commissioners approval, noting that the CTSP is a requisite of the Highway Safety Grant which will become effective October 1, 1999. Commissioner Randall observed that the Plan addressed the Commissioners concerns expressed at an earlier meeting (July 27, 1999).

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and sign the Highway CTSP as presented. Motion carried.

3. Office of Risk Management
Photo Identification Policy

Also Present: Mary O'Brien, Risk Manager

Ms. O'Brien indicated that the proposed Photo Identification Policy had been reviewed by the county's Safety Committee, Employee Association, department heads and the County Attorney and that their suggestions are included in the final draft. She indicated that she has completed approximately 80% of the badges for county employees and 60% for Nursing Center employees. The cost is minimal and the process is relatively quick and simple. Contractors with the county are expected to provide identification badges for their employees which will, in effect, differentiate them from county employees.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve the Photo Identification Policy as presented. Motion carried.

4. Office on Aging
Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Also Present: Jill Knott, MADS Program Manager

Ms. Knott noted that the grant provides \$39,000 in federal funding through the Maryland State Department of Education for partial reimbursement for the cost of meals and snacks for the county's Medical Adult Day Services Program. The Grant Application represents a routine annual renewal, and funding has been budgeted in the current budget.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the grant agreement as presented. Motion carried.

5. Board Committees and Commissions
Letters of Appointment

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to make the following appointments to the Procurement Policy Review Committee. Motion carried.

<u>Procurement Policy Review Committee</u>	<u>Terms to Expire</u>
Charlie Hayden	No Term
Rene Thomas	No Term
Joe Stone	No Term

Commissioner Randall noted that the appointments represent 3 of the 5 appointments they will be making to the Procurement Policy Review Committee.

6. County Attorney
Tudor Hall Project

Also Present: Alfred A. Lacer, County Attorney

As a follow up to the prior week's meeting, Mr. Lacer provided an update on his communications with Mr. Teel of Ferris Baker Watts relative to term conditions for a proposed loan by the county to Leonardtown Recreation Inc. (LRI) for the Tudor Hall Project. The Commissioners' offer to grant \$1 million toward the project, with no repayment obligation, and a loan of \$2 million, to be amortized over a 25- year period, had been communicated.

Commissioner Mattingly stated that he had spoken with Mr. Dan Burris, Chair of LRI, earlier in the day and had been informed that the Leonardtown Council had met the previous evening and voted unanimously to seek other financing sources. Commissioner Mattingly indicated that he was expecting an official confirmation from LRI and would provide copies to the Commissioners upon receipt.

The Commissioners expressed their on-going support for the project, which will bring 300 hospitality-related jobs and provide a much-needed hotel and conference center. It was noted that the 5% accommodations tax recently enacted by the Commissioners would generate as much as \$300,000 annually (\$337,000 based on 67% occupancy), providing the town the ability to finance repayment on the bonds whether or not they were provided by the county.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Tudor Hall Project

The Commissioners expressed their support and commitment to the Tudor Hall Project. Commissioner Raley stated that the County Commissioners included \$3 million in the capital budget, although it was very tight budget. The fact that the project is going to become a reality is the most important thing. It will be a plus for the Navy and for tourism; tourism is an area the Board hopes to develop in the years to come. Commissioner Anderson noted that the county provided a growth allocation for the project which also represented a significant contribution.

Strategic Plan

Noting that the Board has had a lot on their plates to deal with since they took office and detailing a few of their accomplishments, Commissioner Anderson requested that the Board now begin turning their attention to the Strategic Planning process. This is a critical need in light of the process they went through with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and will be going through with the Unified Development Code. Commissioner Randall agreed that the Strategic Plan would provide a baseline for the county's goals and objectives, noting that had there been such a plan, it would have made the whole process easier.

Elms Beach

Commissioner Anderson noted the beauty of the Elms Beach property, which encompasses over 1,000 acres of prime waterfront access, and requested information on the availability of the park to the citizens in terms of hours. Recognizing that the property has been set aside by the state for potential use as a power plant site, he requested that the Department of Recreation and Parks discuss its recreational use with them.

Nursing Center Board

Commissioner Randall indicated her interest in senior citizen issues and noted the serious employee retention problem at the Nursing Center, which presents continuity issues that

affect the residents and their families. She also mentioned Medicare and repayment issues. Commissioner Randall reported that she had asked County Administrator Mort Smedley, Medical Director Dr. Patrick Jarboe and the County Attorney Al Lacer to look into the establishment of a board of directors for the Nursing Center that would have the authority to oversee the operations of the Center. The current Nursing Center board serves in an advisory capacity but the issues faced by the Center require an administrative Board. She requested that the issue be put on the Commissioners' agenda within the next few weeks. The other Commissioners concurred.

Workforce Retention

Commissioner Anderson reported that an initiative on the workforce retention issue was started in conjunction with the Department of Social Services and the committee is close to announcing a plan within the next few days.

October Public Forum

Commissioner Anderson suggested that Steve King, Metropolitan Commission, and Dr. Hansen, Maryland Geological Survey, provide a presentation at the October public forum relative to the aquifer situation which is of critical concern to the region. Commissioner Randall requested that the presentation also include the Navy's interest in partnering with the county in dealing with this issue as it relates to the provision of adequate public facilities.

COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT / K1 THEATER BRIEFING

Present: Jean Hofmann, Chair
Alexis Zoss, Department of Social Services

Ms. Hofmann provided an Annual Report of the Council's activities, noting that the Council served a very important function in the 1980's to include the provision of counselors in the elementary schools. The Council was reorganized in February 1999 and the members are busily trying to get it back up to speed. They are attempting to coordinate efforts with mental health entities and the Local Management Board, which has also undergone reorganization.

Commissioner Mattingly noted that the Council's bylaws provide for 23 members representing various agencies, but a quorum requires the presence of only 5 members. He recommended that the quorum consist of 51% or more members. Ms. Hofmann indicated that they were trying to "resurrect" the Council and attract dedicated members, and Ms. Zoss stated that they have been working over the summer with a membership committee and would be presenting recommendations to the Commissioners within the next few weeks.

The Council's function is to monitor, review and evaluate programs and the allocation of resources related to mental health and substance abuse in St. Mary's County. They report to the County Commissioners, the local Health Officer, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and maintain liaison contact with the Community Health Advisory Committee.

Ms. Zoss reported that the Council has developed a matrix that they will be distributing to survey various agencies to determine duplication and gaps in services. She also invited the Commissioners to a performance on October 20, 1999 by the K1 Theatre entitled "My Sister's Sister," a drama about growing up and seeing the world and misplacing a sister who has schizophrenia.

PROCLAMATION CONSTITUTION WEEK

The Commissioners presented a proclamation for Constitution Week to representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**ST. MARY'S TECHNICAL CENTER
RENOVATION PROJECT**

The Commissioners departed to the St. Mary's Technical Center for lunch, followed by a tour of the renovation project at the facility.

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING
DRAFT UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE**

Present: Jon Grimm, Director
Frank Taylor, Chair, Planning Commission

In response to a request by the County Commissioners, Mr. Grimm provided three proposed timeline schedules for the review process of the Unified Land Development Code. The schedules included a joint meeting in September with the Planning Commissioners and the consultant (Dyett/Bhatia and Robinson and Cole), Community Workshops, and separate Joint Public Hearings on the Text and Map portions of the code.

As to the document's size, Mr. Taylor noted that the Unified Code was a compilation and merging of five development regulations; Mr. Grimm indicated that formatting changes alone would reduce its volume and make it easier to read.

The Commissioners expressed disappointment with the administrative draft provided for their review, noting that the consultant, by his own admission, stated in the transmittal letter that more could be done to make it more graphically assessable. They questioned whether this was the document that they and the public should review and expressed a desire for a more graphically accessible and streamlined version. The Commissioners questioned the terms of the contract pertaining to the delivery of the draft, objectives to be met, and whether there would be a test/peer review to include legal sufficiency. They determined to draft a letter to the consultant indicating that the document does not meet their expectations and request a response from the consultant as to its format prior to committing to their attendance at a meeting of its review on September 20, 1999.

**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
NORTHERN COUNTY PARK FACILITIES**

Present: Phil Rollins, Director
Wayne Taylor, Chair, Recreation & Parks Advisory Board
Jim Stirling, Office of Capital Projects

Mr. Rollins provided a report regarding northern county park facilities and an assessment of current needs for additional athletic fields. Improvements to the Laurel Grove and Fifth District parks have been delayed for a number of years while the county investigated potential land acquisition to meet the recreational needs of the growing community. Years of negotiations fell through, while the need continued to increase. The need is now critical. Mr. Taylor stated that the Recreation & Parks Board is recommending that a planning consultant provide site analysis and concept plans for the development/ enlargement of both the Laurel Grove and the Fifth District Parks. Mr. Rollins advised that money is in the budget (\$10,000 - \$15,000 for each site) for this purpose. **The Board gave their consensus to proceed having determined that a motion would not be necessary.** The Commissioners stressed the importance of continuing to focus on land acquisition for a regional park in the northern end to meet future needs and requested that Mr. Rollins and Mr. Stirling continue to investigate potential properties.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel, as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1 . (Commissioner Mattingly was not present for the vote.) Motion carried.

Personnel – Vacant Positions

Present: Commissioner President Julie B. Randall
Commissioners Joseph F. Anderson
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley
Mortimer L. Smedley, County Administrator
Susan G. Wilkinson, Dept. of Economic & Cmty. Dev.
Judi Johnson, Human Resources

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

Time Held: 4:20 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed vacant positions and gave direction to the County Administrator.

**PUBLIC FORUM
YOUTH RELATED ISSUES**

The Commissioners conducted a public forum focusing on youth-related issues and invited public comment, noting that all comments on any topic were also welcome.

Charles Lynch, Hollywood Shores. Has to take his kids out of the county for a place to skate—1-1/2 to 2 hour trip. A local skateboard park would keep the kids off the street and keep them safe.

Gary Mayberry, Leonardtown. Tries to skate at the Wildewood Center and Leonardtown Center but keeps getting kicked out. Kids need a skateboard park; they are going to skate somewhere.

John Sexton, Leonardtown. Kids need a skateboard park and a place to dance. He as been chased away from everyplace he has tried to skate locally. Has to go to Radford, Virginia Beach or Washington DC to skate.

Ian Weaver, Lexington Park. He has been skating everyday for about 4 years. Has been kicked out of all the places he has tried to skate in the county and has had his skateboard taken away several times. He skates because he loves it. The kids are here tonight begging you for a place to skate locally.

Scott Price, Leonardtown. Need a skatepark. Also an open stage so groups who have bands can play.

Michael Malone, Lexington Park. A center for kids only (the teen center at the regional park is used mostly by senior citizens); needs to be close by and easy to get to.

Great Mills High needs a football field with lights so kids can play at night. They have to travel to Lettie Dent to play football at night; the team has to go to Leonardtown or Chopticon to play their home team games.

Brandon Coleman, Leonardtown. Underage club for 18 and under. Teen center with a tennis room and pool table and outdoor field. There is not a lot to do for kids in the county. Center would give them a place to hang and something to do.

Justin Norris, St. Mary's Association of Student Councils. St. Mary's is a place of history--need a modern building for teens. Teens can help raise money for the center.

Ryan Eglinton, Piney Point. There is no place to go for kids who do not have base privileges or someone to drive them. Need a local club.

Candice Vallandingham, Mary Ball and Alisha Russell. Need a 13 and under club. Suggested a skate station and nightclub combination. A place to dance. They have been to the nightclub for youths at Ocean City; it is very successful and generates a lot of revenue. Kids would also like a community pool. Only kids who have base privileges get to use the pool there.

Glenn Somerville, Youth Service Corps. A group of youth from YSC spoke about the benefits they received by participating in the educational activities of the club, guided by Coach Rockwell. They need more funds to continue their activities. Invited others to join.

Leslie Lewis. Moved here about 5 years ago from a place that had a lot of places to go and things for youth to do. There is nothing here for youth.

Martha Hebb, Rakeshia Thomas, Dineasha Stewart, Erica Halm, LaShanna Scriber, LaNessa Stewart, William Wade, Steve and Mike, QUAD. Youth from the QUAD area, comprised of four housing communities in Lexington Park (Lexwood Apartments, Joe Baker Village, Great Mills Court, Patuxent Woods), spoke of the need for a community playground and a lighted basketball court and a volleyball court.

Minhlann Nguyen, Leonardtown. Although she is not a skateboarder, she knows there is a need for a skateboard park. In addition, she suggested a rock climbing wall and an arcade.

John Sexton, Ian Weaver. Belong to a band and would like to see an outdoor stage for bands. Ten bands are now playing to raise money for building a skate park. If the Commissioners build a skate park, the kids will help with fundraising.

Lt. Malone, Sheriff's Office. There is a lot of interest in youth activities in the county. He has had unfortunate contacts with youth; activities keep him from having to deal with youth on a professional basis. If kids are involved, learning, having fun, they won't be elsewhere getting in trouble.

Ray Rogers, Coach. He has coached sports for 10 years. If a kid doesn't play sports, or play in a band, or like to dance, there really is not much to do in this community. Kids are willing to support the Commissioners in provision of activities. Judges and police officers will agree that this is the first step in helping kids to stay out of trouble. Help kids who are sitting on the fence fall off on the good side.

Petition. A petition, signed by 153 individuals, was presented in support of an in-line/skateboard park for St. Mary's County so there will be a legitimate place for this activity to be practiced.

Neil Moore, Tomorrow's Child. Need to satisfy the actual needs of children, not just do something to please them. There is a need for youth activities in this county.

Kristie Bauman, Great Mills. Transportation is a big problem; no way for kids to get back and forth to school activities. Need an after-school bus; can STS arrange something?

Clare Whitbeck. Spoke concerning the need for soil/sediment erosion control and requested that the Commissioners ask the Department of Planning and Zoning to assist the state in identifying sites not complying with building regulations, which they are not currently doing because there are not enough inspectors, and the state doesn't provide funding to assist.

Ed Gallow, Tall Timbers Association. Spoke concerning the proposed erection of a 499' WETA tower. Is collecting signatures on a petition against. Questioned why the county does not have a policy on towers. Commissioner Randall indicated that a tower policy is being included in the land development code.

Gwyn Banks. Asked that all the youth of the county be kept in mind when determining the establishment and placement of youth activities.

John Springer, Wildewood. Has seen the rapid development of businesses in the county, but not seen anything being built for the kids. Nothing is happening with Myrtle Point or Willows Road Park. Kids need a pool, waterpark, skateboard park. A 12-screen theater proposed by First Colony is not the answer—it will mostly keep the sheriff's department busy dispersing the youths looking for a place to hang out.

Bonnie Elward, Tomorrow's Child. Offered assistance in bringing the various agency resources together to provide activities for all of the county's youth.

Bill Eglinton, Piney Point. Like to see a task force developed to explore the suggestions raised at the public forum to see if they can be made to happen. The county has great assets that can be coordinated—STS buses, volunteers, two colleges in the community.

Sharon Eglinton, Piney Point. Kids really are not looking to stir up trouble, they just need a place to call their own. Teen Center is important. There is a gap between Recreation and Parks' camp activities and High School sports that needs to be filled.

Leanna Norris. The county needs to do something for kids before they get in trouble; need to give them a break.

Candice Vallandingham, Ridge. Need a place like the base drill hall. Use it for many activities--outside have a skating rink.

Alisha Russell, Ridge. Noted that the Commissioners had received many ideas and asked which ones had a chance.

Commissioner Randall indicated that Commissioners are trying to do as much as they can, and reach as many youth as they can. The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board provides recommendations, to include a skateboard park which is in the county's capital budget for FY2001. The Advisory Board has also recommended an indoor recreational facility. Commissioner Mattingly noted that the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board as discussed many of the activities mentioned to include an under 18 club and joint public/private partnerships.

Minnie Russell. Noted that the county parks are not full; the county also needs to provide injury insurance when providing facilities for youth; provide for parent participation in activities; transportation is needed.

In addition to those speaking at the public forum, the Commissioners received 49+ **telephone calls** from youth and parents. Support was noted for a skateboard park, under-18 club (include 11-13 in the under-age club), pool hall, boys' clubs, YMCA, more recreation centers with counselors, BMX track, playgrounds, community pools, waterpark, more practice fields for soccer, football and baseball, roller derby, horseback riding park, facility like the base drill hall with a pool, and anything that would give kids something to do.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes Approved by the
Board of County Commissioners on 9/21/99

Judith Spalding (for)
Mary M. Langley, Recording Secretary