

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Governmental Center
Tuesday, October 24, 2000**

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to authorize Commissioner President Randall to sign the Check Register. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION

The Commissioners issued a Proclamation designating the week of October 23 through October 31, as Red Ribbon Week in St. Mary's County

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, October 10, 2000, as corrected. Motion carried.

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, October 17, 2000, as corrected. Motion carried.

The Commissioners deferred approval of the minutes of the Department of Planning and Zoning portion (Ben Oak Subdivision) of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, September 26, 2000, until next week.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Present: Alfred A. Lacer, County Administrator

1. Draft Agendas for November 2 and November 14, 2000
2. St. Mary's Public Schools
Request for inclusion of grant awards in the FY 2001 budget
 - The Discipline of Students with Disabilities - \$57,660 from MSDE/IDEA
 - Promoting Inclusion of Student w/Disabilities - \$46,450

Present: Kathleen Lyons, Public Schools

(Areas of discussion included inclusion of disabled in social and after school activities)

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign the letter to the Board of Education approving the inclusion of the referenced grants. Motion carried.

3. Department of Public Works

Present: George Erichsen, Director

- a) Public Works Agreement Addendum for Willowbrook Subdivision, Section 1, 8th Election District, extending the completion date to August 1, 2001. The letter of credit provided by The First National Bank of St. Mary's in the amount of \$530,000 remains as posted.
- b) Public Works Agreement Addendum for Mayfaire Apartment Community Subdivision, 8th Election District, extending the completion date to September 1, 2001. The bond provided by the Fidelity & Deposit Company of Maryland in the amount of \$10,000 remains as posted.
- c) Public Works Agreement Addendum for Cedar Cove (Swash Bay) Subdivision, Section 5, 8th Election District, extending the completion date to August 1, 2001. The letter of credit provided by the Bank of America in the amount of \$45,000 remains as posted.
- d) Public Works Agreement Addendum for Wilderness, 3rd Election District, extending the completion date to October 1, 2001. The letter of credit provided by the Key Bank & Trust in the amount of \$37,000 remains as posted.
- e) Public Works Agreement Addendum for Forrest Farm Subdivision, Section 1, 3rd Election District, extending the completion date to September 1, 2001. The letter of credit provided by The First National Bank of St. Mary's in the amount of \$54,000 remains as posted.
- f) Public Works Agreement Addendum for Southern Pines Subdivision, Section 1, 8th Election District, extending the completion date to September 1, 2001. The bond provided by the Frontier Insurance Company in the amount of \$80,000 remains as posted.

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign Items (a)-(f) (Public Works Agreement Addenda). Motion carried.

- g) Road Deed accepting Pristine Way Court located in Section 1 of the Christmas Hill Subdivision, 2nd Election District.

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Guazzo, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign Item (g). Motion carried.

- h) Traffic Resolutions R00-09 and R00-10 establishing a stop sign and 25 mph speed limit on Pristine Way Court.
- i) Resolution R00-11 accepting John Wayne Court and Jessie Jane Place located in Section 2 of the John Wayne Estates Subdivision, 4th Election District, into the County Highway Maintenance System.
- j) Traffic Resolutions R00-12 and R00-13 establishing stop signs and 25 mph speed limit on John Wayne Court and Jessie Jane Place

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign Items (h) – (j). Motion carried.

4. **Department of Public Works and Transportation
Road Ordinance Revisions**

Present: George Erichsen, Director, DPW&T

Commissioner Guazzo moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve and authorize Commissioner Randall to sign Road Ordinance Revision #00-01 as presented. Motion carried.

5. **Department of Facilities Management
Washington Gas Easement
(on the county-owned property on Great Mills Road)**

Present: Joan Lolcama, Property Manager
George Ellis, Washington Gas

Prior to making a decision on approval of the Easement Agreement, the Commissioners requested responses to concerns they had including:

- whether location of the gas line through the County's five-acre property would jeopardize Program Open Space funding.
- concerns that the line is proposed to go through county property and not along the right-of-way corridor on Great Mills Road.
- that the vicinity map needs to be corrected (it did not show the property surrounding the site for the pipeline).
- how the price per acre was established.

The Easement Agreement will be resubmitted to the Board after the information is received.

In conclusion Commissioner Raley commended staff, under the leadership of County Administrator Lacer, for negotiating the current agreement which was an improvement over the initial proposal. The redrafted agreement includes language regarding possible future need to develop the property, that relocation of the line would be at the cost of Washington Gas; and language as to what can go on top of the line.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SITTING AS THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Present: Dr. Ebenezer Israel, Health Officer
Victor Krasnokutsky, Assistant Director, Environmental Health
Mary Wood, Administrator, Health Department

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to recess as the Board of County Commissioners and convene as the Board of Health. Motion carried.

Dr. Israel appeared before the Board to provide an update on various health-related issues.

Hepatitis A Breakout

Outbreak appears to be over; three restaurants implicated and with corrective action the danger has passed; Intern is making rounds to show restaurant workers proper hand washing.

The Commissioners commended the Health Department in the efficient handling of this situation.

Colon Cancer Screening Campaign

St. Mary's County was the first to submit application for funding and received the entire requested amount. St. Mary's Hospital is having a kickoff campaign on November 3. With current technology, colon cancer can be prevented.

West Nile Virus

50 birds have been diagnosed in Maryland with the virus; however, Dr. Israel indicated that he did not believe that the birds are catching the virus locally, but that affected birds, probably infected in the New Jersey, New York areas, are migrating south through this area. West Nile Virus is generally a very mild illness and most people that were diagnosed in New York were not aware they had it. In February the County will be prepared on how to proceed in handling it and will open it up for public discussion.

Draft Hand Washing Policy and Video

Video was prepared by Harry Lundeberg School and is being distributed to restaurants. In addition the Health Department developed a Hand Washing Policy and will be accepting comments on it.

Influenza Vaccine

Health Department did get its shipment of vaccine, and the hospital has received its vaccine and will be working with the Office on Aging.

Vaccines will be available from the Health Department on October 30 and 31 at the Leonardtown Health Department to individuals 65 years or older and those with certain illnesses (diabetes, heart disease, etc.)

Breton Bay Sewage Spill

The Advisory was lifted last week and now waiting for the group, led by County Administrator Lacer, to get together to develop methods of better communication and how to prevent a reoccurrence.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to adjourn as the Board of Health and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners. Motion carried.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Tri-County Community Action Committee's 35th Anniversary

Commissioner Anderson reported that he attended the 35th Anniversary of the Tri-County Action Committee. He stated that this agency has been addressing significant education, housing, and workforce development training issues in the community for 35 years, for the most part under the leadership of Dana Jones. TCCAC has been promoting self-sufficiency and working with individuals who need assistance to get "back on track." During the event, the board of directors recognized acknowledged the efforts and support of this Board of County Commissioners with regard to the Head Start program and the Family Service Center.

Lexington Park Rotary – Oyster Festival

Commissioner Anderson congratulated the Lexington Park Rotary on the successful Oyster Festival held this past weekend. The proceeds from the event assists the club in helping with community programs.

PEPCO – Pipeline Upgrade Procedures

Commissioner Mattingly reported that he attended a meeting on October 23 with the Southern Maryland Delegation, representatives from ST Services, and PEPCO regarding PEPCO's plans to upgrade the pipelines. PEPCO would like to come before the Board to make a presentation on its "Return-to-Service Action Plan," which includes pipeline repair and replacement. (It has been scheduled for the November 14 public forum).

Domestic Violence Summit

Commissioner Guazzo advised that she attended the Domestic Violence Summit on October 12 which was presented by the Commission for Women and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. She pointed out that the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council consist of 11 members representing various appropriate agencies (including DSS, Women's Center, State's Attorney, Walden/Sierra, NAS, Family Service Center, Mental Health Authority, St. Mary's Hospital, Commission for Women, State Police, and the Sheriff's Department). Commissioner Guazzo recommended that the Council give a presentation to the Commissioners at the December 12 public forum. The Commissioners agreed and requested the secretary to draft a letter of invitation for their signatures.

**Southern Maryland Agricultural Commission
Infrastructure Committee**

Commissioner Raley reported that the referenced committee will be meeting on October 30, 7 p.m. at the SMECO building in Hughesville with regard to the tobacco buyout program. The committee will be looking at making grant awards for infrastructure so that when tobacco is no longer grown, there will be something else in its place. Commissioner Raley pointed out that there appears to be a lot of interest in the community.

**Point Lookout State Park
Annual Ghost Walk**

Commissioner Raley advised that each year during this season, there is a ghost walk at Point Lookout State Park, and tickets have been sold out (1,000 tickets for Friday night and 1,000 for Saturday night).

**Maryland Association of Counties
Legislative Committee**

Commissioner Randall pointed out that the MACo Legislative Committee has been meeting to prepare for the upcoming legislative session, and has developed four priorities to present during this session, and one issue in particular is that the current funding formula for schools is insufficient. The Thornton Commission is working on this issue but will not have recommendations in time for the 2001 session. MACo will be working with the Senate and House to look at drafting "bridge funding" bills.

Appreciation Comments

Commissioner Anderson expressed appreciation to Commissioners Randall and Raley for all the time they put into serving on the various committees.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, 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 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
Alfred A. Lacer, County Administrator
Patrick Murphy, Acting County Attorney (*attended from 12:55 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.*)

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

Time Held: 12:55 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed matters of personnel and gave direction to staff.

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
Alfred A. Lacer, County Administrator
George Erichsen, Director, DPW
Joan Lolcama, Property Manager
Judith A. Spalding, Recorder

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

Time Held: 2:40 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Action Taken: The Commissioners discussed a matter of property acquisition and gave direction to staff.

AMENDMENT TO TODAY'S AGENDA

Due to an unanticipated overrun in Executive Session, **Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Raley, to amend the agenda to defer the Draft Resolution - Comprehensive Plan Implementation Policy agenda item. All voted in favor of the motion.**

**PINEY POINT AQUACULTURE CENTER
UPDATE AND REPORT ON EXPANSION PROJECT**

Present: Stanley Tomaszewski, Facility Administrator
Brian O'Roark

Mr. Tomaszewski appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to give a presentation on the Piney Point Aquaculture Center and to provide information concerning a permit filed with the Maryland Water Management Administration. Highlights of the presentation included:

- The permit would allow for an increase in existing water appropriation and use from an annual daily average of 100,000 gallons of water per day and a maximum daily withdrawal of 164,000 gallons to 1,200,000 gallons per day and 1,820,000 gallons, respectively. The water would be withdrawn from St. George's Creek for aquaculture processing.
- Update on the oyster recovery project, the renovation that has occurred, and equipment being utilized at the Center.
- Presentation of overhead slides detailing the Maryland Oyster Reef Sanctuaries and Choptank River Project Sites.
- That the Center works closely with the St. Mary's County Public School system to include all middle school students in participation at the Center, and efforts are being made to educate the community, which includes scouting events and the employment of individuals in the community as technicians.
- Information on the water-filtering system, reproduction of organisms, flushing rates, and quality control measures taking to protect St. George's Creek.

CALLAWAY STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT

Present: Jon Grimm, Director, Planning and Zoning
Hal Willard, Chair, Callaway Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. Grimm and Mr. Willard appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to present an update on the status of the Callaway Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Grimm submitted a chronology of the events that had taken place since the appointment of the Committee, and also included the resolution, minutes and other materials that had been reviewed by the Committee since April of this year. A community workshop had been successful and another one is tentatively scheduled for November 16th.

Mr. Willard and Mr. Grimm announced that a Committee Draft Plan had recently been received and would be presented to the Callaway Citizens Advisory Committee on October 25th. ***The Board of County Commissioners directed Mr. Grimm to provide copies of the Committee Draft Plan for their review.***

Mr. Willard stated that the Draft Plan appears to be a good one, and the response and input from the community had been outstanding. The Committee has doubled-up on their meeting schedule, and is now meeting twice a month. Mr. Grimm further outlined the process that would be followed, which should allow for joint Planning Commission/Board of County Commissioner hearings to occur in January 2001. Changes in the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance should occur simultaneously during this process and would also be addressed at the public hearings.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Randall about the status of the Charlotte Hall plan, Mr. Grimm stated that the Board of County Commissioners would first need to appoint an advisory committee in order to move forward. As this Committee is the first of its type in the County, **Commissioner Randall requested that both the Committee and Staff provide a future debrief on "lessons learned" and recommendations on how to improve the process for future committees. In addition, Commissioner Anderson asked that recommendations include information concerning any impacts the Callaway project may make on the rest of the County.**

JOINT MEETING

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/BOARD OF EDUCATION

Present: Elaine Kramer, St. Mary's County Director of Finance
Patricia Richardson, Superintendent of Schools
John Parlett, Jr., Chairman, Board of Education
Mary Washington, Member, Board of Education
Jeff Koehler, Member, Board of Education
Stephen Kracinovich, Member, Board of Education
Michael Hewitt, Member, Board of Education

After welcoming remarks were made, Commissioner Anderson, in conjunction with Ms. Kramer, provided a detailed presentation concerning the Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence, more commonly known as the Thornton Commission. Commissioner Anderson pointed out that the results of work completed by the Commission should be viewed as interim, and he requested input at today's meeting to take back to the Commission. Recommendations discussed at today's meeting may be revised based on public comment and input at public hearings. The main topics explored were:

- The charge of the Commission;
- Understanding of the impact of the Commission's report/recommendations on St. Mary's County Public Schools and St. Mary's County Government;
- Identification of key issues to be covered at public hearings;
- Encouragement of public participation;
- Collaborative efforts to promote an understanding of and meet the needs of student in public schools in St. Mary's County;

- Preparation for the public hearing to be held on November 8, 2000 at the College of Southern Maryland in LaPlata, Maryland;
- The Commission's findings and recommendations on special education and transportation for disabled students and State funding gaps as they relate to these two main topics that were explored by the Commission:
- Key questions;
- Draft Interim Report as of 10/19/2000 on the estimated financial impact on St. Mary's County Public Schools. The total estimated increase for FY2002 is \$2,116,579;
- Commission's recommendations on FY2002 programmatic budget enhancements for the Maryland Academic Intervention and Support Program, Teacher Mentoring, Full-day Kindergarten, Early Childcare and Education Enhancement—Judith Hoyer Centers, Reconstitution Eligible Schools, Student Support-Positive Behavioral Interventions, Instructional Leadership Development for School Principals, Baltimore City Remedy, and funding that expires in 2002;
- Proposals deferred for further consideration in 2001 interim, and
- Next steps that need to be taken, including the undertaking of assembling a panel of experts to look at adequate funding and models of successful school systems.

Dr. Richardson pointed out that a broader transportation problem is occurring than was addressed by the Thornton Commission. The entire St. Mary's County Public School transportation cost is utilizing 7.2% of the budget and approximately 96% of the students in the County are transported by bus. It was determined that a major challenge that will need to be addressed at the public forum is to ask that the State consider reviewing the rural status of this County as it relates to transportation funding.

Other main concerns expressed were:

- The enormous cost of going to a full-day kindergarten program in the County – Dr. Richardson estimated between \$6.5 to \$15 million for the first year;
- Concerns that the Thornton Commission expressed support of the State's program initiatives instead of dealing with the current problems in St. Mary's County;
- Lack of concern for the overall transportation issue;
- Grant writing for St. Mary's County Public Schools – larger jurisdictions have full-time departments for the writing of grants. In this County, staff must take on grant writing and tracking in addition to their already full workload in other areas;
- Getting the word out to our Delegates, Charles County, Calvert County and the Tri-County Counsel concerning the problems discussed and the upcoming public hearing;
- Seriously addressing the necessary expansion of the basic state formula for funding;
- Explore bridge funding – Commissioner Randall pointed out that the need for interim funding for schools is one of only four initiatives established by MACO;
- Teacher's salaries and compensation remains a primary concern; and
- Bus owners and bus drivers need health benefits and increased salaries.

Commissioner President Randall asked for Dr. Richardson to work closely with Mr. Lacer and Ms. Kramer to split up the topics between the Board of Education members and the Board of County Commissioners, which will be addressed at the November 8th public hearing so that all concerns will be heard.

Ms. Kramer presented the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners with an outline for the FY 2002 Budget Process that was requested at the joint meeting held on September 12, 2000. A detailed proposed timeline was presented and discussed, with the budget process beginning earlier than it has occurred in the past, and the process to end with a finalized, approved budget release in June.

It was determined that multi-year budgeting would be brought in for consideration as part of the process during the upcoming budget process planning.

Dr. Richardson asked for the Board of County Commissioners to consider submitting a letter of support to the State that had been submitted to the Commissioners for consideration and approval. Commissioner President Randall stated that it was in today's Consent Agenda for signature, and would be delivered to Dr. Richardson for submission to the State at the conclusion of today's meeting.

It was determined that the next joint meeting should occur in the January time frame. Commissioner Randall requested that both the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education provide input as to what should be discussed at the next meeting, in addition to more discussion on the budget process.

Mr. Parlett announced that this would probably be Mr. Hewitt's last meeting with the Board of County Commissioners. Expressions of thanks were made by all for the time and effort Mr. Hewitt has given to the St. Mary's County Public School system and the citizens of the County.

PUBLIC MEETING
2001 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

Present: Senator Roy P. Dyson
Delegate John F. Wood, Jr.
Delegate John Bohanan

(Also present from County Staff: Patrick Murphy, Acting County Attorney; Sheriff Richard Voorhaar; Donna Sasscer, Agricultural Seafood Specialist; Elaine Kramer, Director of Finance; Jon Grimm, Director, DPZ; George Erichsen, Director, DPW)

The St. Mary's County Legislators and County Commissioners conducted a public meeting on the 2001 Legislative Package.

Prior to commencing the review of bills, Senator Dyson outlined the schedule for submission of bills noting that the absolute latest date for the legislators to submit a bill is March 5. Delegate Wood informed the public that if anyone wishes to submit an item that pertains to the County, it should go through the Board of County Commissioners prior to it being submitted to the legislators.

The package contains the following proposals, which at this time enjoy no endorsement by the legislators and Commissioners at this time:

1. **Executive Sessions**
To permit executive sessions to receive advice from Counsel
(Submitted by Legal Department)
2. **Tobacco Barn Tax Credit**
To allow landowners who participated in the Tobacco Buyout Agreement to continue to be eligible for the property tax credit imposed on real property that was formerly used as a tobacco barn.
(Submitted by DECD/Agriculture Seafood Specialist)
3. **Sheriff's and Deputy Sheriff's Salaries**
To increase the Sheriff's salary equal to the salary of a State Police Lieutenant Colonel, Scale 59, Step M; and to increase the Deputy Sheriff's salary, based on rank and length of service, to correspond to the MSP salary schedule.
(Submitted by Sheriff's Department)

(Ms. Sasscer also reminded the legislators about the transfer tax for forest land that had been sent for summer study.)

(After to responding to questions and comments, Sheriff Voorhaar indicated that he would be willing to remove the Sheriff's Salary from the legislative proposal.)

4. **Sidewalks – Construction, Repair and Maintenance**
To require State Highway Administration, rather than a political subdivision, to maintain and repair sidewalks constructed by a developer and sidewalks constructed by SHA as part of an urban highway project.
(Submitted by Department of Public Works)

5. **Special Road Taxing Districts**
To provide for a 75% majority of the property owners in lieu of the current 51%; and to establish that 100% of the owners, having fee simple interest in the right-of-way sign the petition to ensure a deed to the r-o-w can be transferred to the County following establishment of the District.
(Submitted by Department of Public Works)

6. **Eminent Domain**
To include St. Mary's County under the Eminent Domain section of the Maryland Constitution to allow the County to acquire property through condemnation in proceedings upon payment of appraised fair market value.
(Submitted by Department of Public Works)

(The Commissioners and legislators implied that they did not support this legislation.)

7. **Revolving Loan Fund (Loan Process)**
To revise the language of the Code to reflect the intentions and practice of the Board of County Commissioners with respect to the process for approving loans made from the revolving fund as well as the treatment of interest/investment earnings on both the revolving loan fund balance and any loans outstanding.
(Submitted by Emergency Services Committee and Finance)

8. **Revolving Loan Fund (Fund Increase)**
To request authority to increase the revolving loan fund provided for fire fighting equipment and facilities in St. Mary's County from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000.
(Submitted by Emergency Services Committee and Finance)

9. **Transfer Tax – Removal of Sunset Provision**
To request authorization for the County Commissioners to delete the sunset provision on the transfer tax law.
(Submitted by Commissioner Raley and Director of Finance)

10. **Public Facilities Bond**
To request authorization for the County Commissioners to borrow not more than \$x.xxx.xxx (amount to be determined at a later date) for Public Facilities Bonds, to finance future capital projects.
(Submitted by Director of Finance)

11. **Alcoholic Beverage Board – Property Owners Signing Certificate**
To provide in St. Mary's County persons owning real estate within five miles of the premises for which the license is sought and who are registered voters shall be among those persons signing the certificate.
(Submitted by Alcoholic Beverage Board)

12. **Alcoholic Beverage Board – Change of Name**
To change the name of the Board of License Commissioners in St. Mary's County to *Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County*
(Submitted by Alcoholic Beverage Board)

(There was no representative present to speak to Items 11 and 12.)

13. **St. Mary's River Watershed Project – State's Participation**
To request the State's participation in the St. Mary's River Watershed Project
(Submitted by Commissioner Mattingly and Director of DPZ)

14. **St. Mary's County Commissioners' Meeting Requirements**

To amend the current requirement for four meetings a month by either eliminating the requirement or setting a specific number per year in order to provide more flexibility in the scheduling of meetings.
(Submitted by Commissioner Randall)

After a review of each of the items by staff, the meeting was opened for public comment.

Mike Bridges – Stated that since the Commissioners and Legislators had appeared to express opposition to the *Eminent Domain* proposal, he no longer needed to speak.

Mary Edwards (President School Bus Contractors Association)

(Kitty Barnes) (School Bus Contractor)

Requested consideration for use of State surplus funds for health insurance for school bus drivers. She pointed out that there is a crisis in trying to hire and retain school bus drivers and the contractors cannot afford to provide the health insurance.

(Senator Dyson agreed to contact other counties in the same situation in order to develop a group proposal.)

Jim Conlon (President, FOP) – Requested consideration for the submission of the Sheriff's proposal for pay parity for the deputies.

John Bartlett, Jr. (President, MD FOP) – Supported the pay parity for the St. Mary's County deputies.

Clare Whitbeck – Requested state funding for additional Maryland Department of Environment enforcement agents; stated there were only 13 inspectors for the State of Maryland (Delegate Wood pointed out that the difficulty is getting people to fill the positions and that the same problem also exists with the Fire Marshall's Office.
(Legislation not required.)

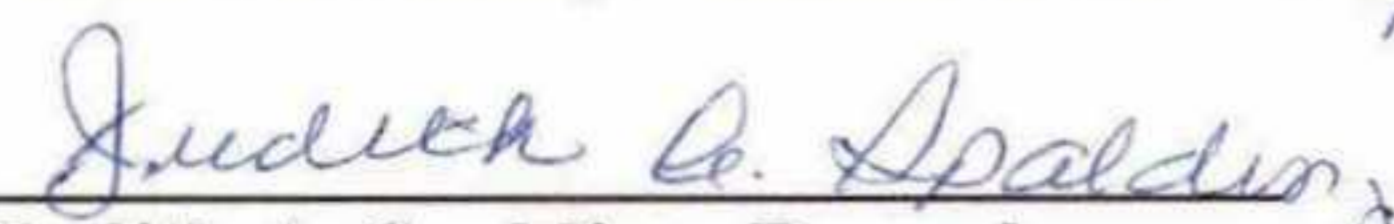
Ken Hastings – Requested clarification regarding the executive session proposal. It was explained to him that the current Open Meetings Law does not allow the Attorney to counsel the Commissioners in executive session unless it was under one of the allowed provisions.

Mr. Bob Lewis was not present, but had submitted a request for reconsideration of HB 733 from last year (disclosure of sewage sludge on certain agricultural lands). Senator Dyson indicated he would contact Mr. Lewis with regard to this proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**Minutes Approved by the
Board of County Commissioners on 11/2/00**


Judith A. Spalding, Recorder