

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### BUDGET MEETING

January 13, 2003

Present: Board of County Commissioners  
Elaine Kramer, Director of Finance  
Jeannett Cudmore, Deputy Director, Finance  
Al Lacer, County Administrator  
George Erichsen, Director DPW&T  
Richard Rohrbaugh, Director, Facilities  
Robin Finnacom, Director Lex Park Plan  
Donna Sasscer, Ag & Seafood Coordinator, DECD  
Phil Rollins, Director Rec & Parks  
George Forrest, Deputy County Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

#### Debt Capacity

All numbers are based on fiscal year end.

The assessable base is \$2.3B and 5% of that base is the legal debt limit or \$116,133,650. This is the max amt of debt allowed. Estimated balance at the end of the fiscal year will be \$108,350,211. Potential borrowing will be at \$20M.

Debt per capita is 9.8%. The consultant said 12% is affordable. The BOCC said to stand at 10% for 2003.

#### Capital Project Review/Close-out

There are \$5.2M capital projects funded through FY03 which have limited activity scheduled.

There are 28 budget amendments funded for capital projects (25 are budget amendments that close out projects) that can be swept to free up funds for other purposes. The swept funds total \$540,000. The mapping project increase (\$15,000) will allow a fly-over of the county. \$50,000 more is needed for College of SoMD – humidity issue.

Commissioner Raley asked if we were going to refinance bonds and Miss Kramer responded there is a small amount we are able to do refunding on.

Commissioner Mattingly asked about a pay-go transfer to the operating budget. Ms. Kramer said it would increase overall operating budget requiring a public hearing. There are better options.

County Code says that if there is no activity in three years, the project should be closed out.

#### FY03 Capital Projects Discussion List

Some county funds are unexpended and unencumbered with little activity anticipated within the next 60 days. Without direction, the plan will move forward with letting contracts, etc. Mr. Lacer recommended the Board suspend design phase of contracts unless confirmed to proceed this year.

The old Lexington Park library is ready to go to bid for government offices.

Ms. Kramer suggested a short briefing on 1/27 and/or 2/3 for each of the capital projects indicated on the pink sheet. Commissioner McKay suggested some may not go forward at all.



#### Development of Capital Project Requests

Refer to buff paper, Chapter 27 of the procedures, page 620, 2<sup>nd</sup> column. It specifies how the Capital Projects list is to be made up. In December, the CIP group was convened consisting of the SMC Board of Ed, county depts., Lex Park Plan. A request list for FY04 was transmitted to the Planning Commission for their consideration and response on 1/27. The Planning Commission's recommendations are expected in early February and they look for consistency with the comp plan and whether it is integrated with the strategic planning process.

Commissioner McKay asked why this goes to the PC. His interpretation of "At whatever times the BOCC may direct,...." may not be interpreted correctly. The way it is done now, staff sends it to the PC then they forward it to the BOCC. The BOCC should make the direction of whether or not to send it to the PC initially. "Staff should reflect this government - [the BOCC] should not reflect staff." Commissioner McKay requested other opinions on this issue.

Ms. Kramer stated that ideally, during a multi-year plan, if you settle on a 4-5 year plan, there shouldn't be much new activity in either case. (But only a 4 year plan will be consistent.)

Commissioner McKay suggested looking at a budget manual for next year.

#### Spreadsheet

Ms. Kramer stated '04 to '09 have been summarized by request and year. The 6 year total is not necessarily the total for that project. Categories are identified on page 5. Bolded lines represent new or a change to '03 budget.

Phil Rollins identified/discussed his projects.

George Erichsen identified/discussed his projects.

Meeting was adjourned.