

February 18, 1963

Special meeting.

Present: All commissioners, Senator J. Frank Raley, Jr., Mr. Henry Fowler, Delegate, and Mr. W. S. Donaldson.

Roads

The commissioners feel they should take advantage of the money available from the federal government in the amount of \$57,000, which must be programmed by June 30th. Roads selected for priority in order named are: Willows Road, Mattapanay Road, the Chaptico-Mechanicsville Road. The latter two have already had some work done on them. Senator Raley stated that Willows Road has the highest traffic count of any road in the county. He further stated that a list of exactly what roads are proposed by the SRC should be obtained, the county's list should be revised accordingly, and the list returned.

Mr. Burch said that a letter must be sent to the SRC requesting that Route 5 be completed from St. Mary's City to Ridge before completion of the road from Ridge to Point Lookout.

Appointment List

Senator Raley suggested the commissioners acquire a list of all appointed offices and boards. This list can be obtained from the Senator's office and this will be done.

Lexington Park Committee

It was suggested that a three member committee be appointed for the Lexington Park area to handle any problems there. Such action would let the people of Lexington Park know that they are being recognized by the commissioners. This should be discussed with the Lexington Park Chamber of Commerce.

Nursing Home.

Suggested that a committee of perhaps 5 people be appointed to study needs and problems involved with the nursing home. Mr. Burch said he would like to see Dr. Guyther head this committee, and have one member of the hospital board on it. Names suggested for this committee were Dr. Alan Houser, Dr. Hall, Mervell Dean, John Hodges, and one commissioner. Senator Raley wants the commissioners to do whatever they want to do pertaining to this matter.

Commission for the ageing discussion was tabled for the time being.

Citizens Group

Senator Raley met with the Negro Citizens Group on Friday, February 15th, in the courthouse. He pointed out that a lot of their problems cannot be changed by the iron fist of the law, but must be changed in the minds and hearts of men. A Human Relations committee could be formed, having both races represented, and this committee could work out any problems. If these things can be solved peacefully, it will be better for the community.

Mr. Fowler suggested setting up a Human Relations Committee consisting of about nine people. The method for appointing these people has not been discussed. These people accepted this as a first step forward, and were responsive to this idea.

Mr. Raley stated they will have their committee meet with him on Thursday night. If we could give them some legislative sanction this would help. They also mentioned that they think we should use negro truck drivers at the SRC.

It was suggested that one negro man be on the Nursing Home Board. Mr. J. Lanham, Mr. Walters, and Mr. H. Graves were mentioned for this position. This will be left up to the commissioners.

Rescue Squad

Mr. Raley said he was going ahead with the bill to increase the Rescue Squads allotment to \$1500, the sheriff's bill, and bills concerning the attorney's salary and the trial magistrate's salary.

Tall Timbers

Senator Raley stated that this whole matter has been badly handled from the very beginning and suggested the commissioners review this problem in detail. He suggested getting a committee formed of this group and see where you can go legally. There is going to be a day of reckoning on a lot of money and this problem must be solved.

This matter was tabled for the time being, but Mr. Guyther said he could meet with Mr. Sterling and find out just where matters stand. Mr. Burch said he would like to have this done as soon as possible and get this matter settled. Mr. Guyther suggested a letter be sent to Mr. Virnstein acknowledging the fact that the commissioners are working on this problem.

Slot Machines

Senator Raley said they had a proposed bill on the slot machines, and Mr. Burch said this bill should be put in. Mr. Fowler felt the bill should not be presented just yet and Senator Raley agreed with him.

Air Strip

Senator Raley said there has been considerable interest in an airstrip in St. Mary's County. He agreed that this is essential to any kind of development. The strip would probably be widely used, and if the aircraft companies had an available place for their planes, they might come down here. 50% of the money needed could be obtained from the federal government and 25% from the state (loaned), and the county would pay the remaining twenty-five percent. Legislation might be needed for this project.

Liquor Board and Inspectors

The idea of having one man to handle all county inspections was discussed. However, the problem is who would appoint him. This might be tried for two years, as no one knows what will happen with the slot machine situation. Senator Raley said such an appointment will require legislation and he is willing to go along with it.