

County Commissioners MeetingTuesday, February 24, 1970

Present: F. Elliott Burch, President
J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner
George R. Aud, Commissioner

Paul R. Raley, Administrative Assistant
Helen M. Bailey (Mrs.), Secretary, Recording

The Meeting was convened at 9:15 a.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting, which was held on February 10, 1970, were read, amended, and approved.

There was no meeting held on February 17, 1970. The County Commissioners paid a call on our Legislators at the Maryland General Assembly and were briefed on pending legislative matters pertaining to St. Mary's County.

Payments Approved

Payment of \$580.00 to Hugh W. Wilkerson and Associates for survey work done on Hermanville Road.

Payment of \$95.00 to J. R. McCrone, Jr., Inc. for preparation of landfill proposal and conferences concerning the Oakville Sanitary Landfill.

Payment of \$38.40 to Florence B. Rounsaville for transcription of the case of State vs. Joseph Lee Dyson, Docket Nos. 1881 through 1843.

Office of Civil Defense

Mr. Burch signed approval of request for second frequency for the Fire Board Channel, discussed at meeting held on Tuesday, February 3, 1970.

Travel Expenses (Sheriff)

Mr. Paul R. Raley submitted the expense accounts of the Sheriff and Chief Deputy covering their trip to San Francisco. The expense accounts were reviewed and approved by the County Commissioners.

Dog Warden

Mr. Wayne DeLozier appeared before the County Commissioners, at their request, to brief them on the procedures he follows on issuing warrants. It was the consensus that warrants should not be issued unless there were real complaints recorded from the public and that any violations observed should be handled by issuing warnings, or by actually picking up dogs at large. Mr. DeLozier was requested to use more tact and discretion in dealing with the elderly. Mr. DeLozier went over the list of pending warrants with the County Commissioners and it was agreed that his list was in keeping with the requirements of his position.

The subject of a new dog truck was introduced and Mr. DeLozier and Mr. Raley were requested to collect information on the source of supply for a truck similar to the one used in Charles County. A new truck would, of course, be equipped with a radio transmitter and receiver, and should be large enough to accommodate at least twelve cages for animals.

Sheriff Burroughs -- Merit System

The Sheriff appeared to advise the Commissioners that he was losing Deputy Joe Lee Somerville to the Maryland State Police and that he did lose Bruce Rafer to the State Police. The Sheriff stated that his employees were concerned about the lack of security on their jobs; i.e., they are not under any Merit System which provides benefits of any kind, especially retirement benefits. The Sheriff stated that he has discussed the desirability of putting the Deputies under the County Merit System with Delegate Henry J. Fowler, who was receptive to the idea. In answer to Mr. Bowles' query, the Sheriff responded that he contemplated a probationary period of one year for all new employees, since it would take about this length of time to train a Deputy and certify as to his integrity. The Sheriff said he had also talked with Senator Paul J. Bailey, who said he would be glad to introduce the Bill before the Maryland General Assembly.

Mr. Burch advised the Sheriff that the County Commissioners would take the matter under advisement and that the Sheriff would be apprised of their decision in the matter in the very near future.

Mr. Otis F. Wood, Emergency Operations Center, OCD

Mr. Otis F. Wood brought in a letter dated February 16, 1970 which he had received from Lieutenant E. M. Evans, Commanding Barrack "H", Waldorf, Maryland, and which is excerpted for the record:

"It is our opinion that when citizens call the Control Center on a telephone line that is listed to the Maryland State Police they are in effect requesting that the State Police respond to their call. It is therefore requested that you take the necessary steps to ensure that all calls received on the State Police lines be assigned to the State Police.

"It is not intended that this request affect the present policy for the assignment of calls which come in on other than the State Police lines; i.e., that criminal complaints coming in on lines listed to the Control Center be assigned to the Sheriff's Office and traffic complaints be assigned to the State Police. We, of course, would not presume to suggest how calls coming in on other lines be assigned other than to say that the State Police will readily accept any call for police service, regardless of source".

The following points were considered during the discussion period: (1) Telephone Directory listing; (2) the Sheriff's letter to Superintendent Lally of the Maryland State Police dated June 19, 1968; (3) Definition of responsibility in Art. 88B of Annotated Maryland Code, which pertains to the authority of the Maryland State Police; and (4) the advisability of inviting Lieutenant Evans in to discuss the matter with the Commissioners and/or the Sheriff. It was determined that it would be beneficial to invite Lieutenant Evans to elaborate on his request and an appointment was made for 3:30 p.m.

At this point, the members of the Press were called in and Mr. Burch advised them as follows: "We have just had a discussion with Mr. Wood about procedure in the Control Center, since there was a communication from the Lieutenant in Charge at the Waldorf Barrack. We have planned a discussion at 3:30 with the Maryland State Police and the Sheriff which will be in Executive Session. There was some change in procedure suggested and we thought it would be well to have a round-table discussion as to whether some improvements are in order. We having nothing else on the Agenda for this morning -- nothing until the Roads Meeting at 1:30 p.m."

Roads MeetingChancellor's Run Road - Mr. James Dobry

Mr. James Dobry stated that he really appreciated the type of maintenance that was being conducted on Chancellor's Run Road by the SRC, such maintenance being the only reason the road was still passable. However, he stated, we cannot continue with just patching it up. The problem, in his estimation, was the original construction, which was faulty. The road has no shoulders, falls off abruptly to a ditch edge, which crumbles when wet, since the water cannot run off. Mr. Dobry inquired whether (1) the road is to be rebuilt, or (2) at least, can some shoulders be put on the road. Mr. Dobry stated that sufficient right-of-way was given, originally, to provide for shoulders, but that the road was not built that way. Proper drainage should also be provided. Mr. Burch requested Mr. Bond to get measurements on Chancellor's Run Road and to make recommendations for the County Commissioners to review at their next meeting. Mr. Dobry stated further that whatever is done to the road, a weight limitation should be put on it; and that any gravel used should come up to SRC specifications so that a minimum of sand is distributed. It is the sand content in the gravel that is causing difficulty when it washes off into the ditches.

Mr. Bond submitted his surface treating schedule for the fiscal year 1970-71:

1st District

Millers Wharf Road
 Snow Hill Road
 Rosecroft Road 1.65 miles

2nd District

Flat Iron Road
 Readmond Road 4.3 miles

3rd District

Sears Road
 Rose Bank
 Lynch Road
 Camp Calvert
 St. Clements Shores Streets
 St. Joseph Graveyard
 Parsons Mill Road 8.2 miles

4th District

Knottingly Hill 1.1 miles

5th District

Ryceville Road
 Locks Crossing
 Paul Bailey Road
 Morganza Corner
 Mechanicsville-Chaptico Road 7.5 miles

6th District

Lela Abell Road
 Half Pone Point 3.2 miles

7th District

Grampton Road
 Burch Road
 Mattingly Road
 Olin Mattingly Road
 Waterloo Road
 Broomfield Road
 George Lawrence Road 6.1 miles

8th District

Old Rolling Road
 Seven Gables Road
 Millstone Landing Road
 Hermanville Road
 Belvoir Road
 Filmore Road
 St. Andrews Lane
 Parkview Drive 8.01 miles

This is for a grand total of 40.06 miles.

Mr. Bond was given the following complaints:

Yates Road -- The County Commissioners requested a status report on the progress made toward getting this road into the system.

Col. Peak -- below Miss Abell Road in Hollywood. Reported citizens were making a new dump in the area and a "No Dumping" sign was needed.

Rev. H. W. Mills -- 1st house off Route 235 on Hermanville Road. Ditches are needed near his property so that water can run off.

Willard Long -- Route 235 -- culverts are blocked up at his entrance. It is a trailer court near the A & W.

Mrs. DuBerry -- 817 Bellwood Lane, St. Clements Shores -- states CHILDREN AT PLAY signs are needed. Her request for a 20 mph zone was denied.

Town Creek Citizens Association, Inc. -- requested speed bumps, traffic light and erosion repair, by letter dated February 7, 1970. The County Commissioners decided that this letter should be forwarded to the District Engineer of the State Roads Commission at Prince Frederick.

Happy Land Road -- it was voted to make this road a 40 mph zone. (Route 249 to St. George's Church).

Petition for County Maintenance of Road off Hatchet Thicket Road in the 7th District, near the dump, was referred to the County Engineer for investigation. Received from Mrs. Mary L. Tennyson, Avenue.

Complaints from Mrs. Erva Davis:

1. Side post going into dump and saw mill are still missing.
2. Route 238, just past Erva Davis' apartment house, ditch is washing out -- could it be tarred and chipped?
3. Below Old Chaptico garage, across from Mrs. Fuller's house, an overflow of cistern or well. Road is overflowing with water. May be drain is clogged up. Has been reported several times to the State Roads Commission.
4. Bush hog in 4th District - Chaptico area.
5. Trucks on blocks at Springers.
6. Warning signs and stop signs.

Maryland State Police and Sheriff

At 3:40 p.m., Lieutenant E. M. Evans, the Sheriff, Chief Deputy Sheriff, Mr. Otis F. Wood, and David M. Williams, Attorney for the County Commissioners, met to discuss the State Police request "to ensure that all calls received on the State Police lines be assigned to the State Police".

In response to Mr. Burch's request that the MSP problem be presented, Lieutenant Evans stated that "the only issue the Department (MSP) is concerned with, and this applies at all installations throughout the State where we have telephone lines assigned to us, is that all calls that come in on MSP lines should be handled by the Maryland State Police or the MSP should refer to another Agency those calls pertaining to their function. That is the entire reasoning behind the letter".

The Sheriff stated his position which was, in essence, that the present method of dispatching at the EOC was satisfactory to him and his Deputies; i.e., that all criminal complaints be handled by the Sheriff's Department unless the Maryland State Police were specifically requested. The Sheriff indicated, however, that the emergency listings on the inside cover of the telephone book should be changed to show a telephone number for the Sheriff of St. Mary's County.

It was the general concensus that the telephone book listing should be altered, effective with the next issue, and that a discussion should be held with Mr. S. W. Hobbs, Manager, C and P Telephone Company, for the St. Mary's area. It was agreed that any changes in the directory listing should include a number for the Sheriff and a number for the Emergency Operations Center.

The County Commissioners agreed that:

1. The double entendre and tenor of the discussion, as well as the attitudes of the law enforcement officials, concerning the dispatching method in effect in the Emergency Operations Center creates a need for further reflection and investigation;
2. The question of primary, original and concurrent jurisdiction must be clearly examined and resolved;
3. That any forthcoming decision in this matter must in no way place either the Sheriff's Department nor the Maryland State Police in a supervisory position over the other.

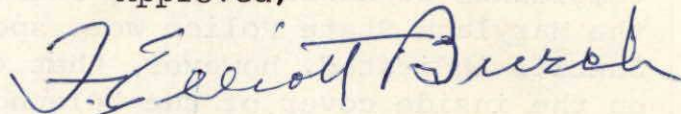
For the foregoing reasons, the County Commissioners agreed to make no change in the method of dispatching at the Emergency Operations Center at the present time, or until such time as they are fully satisfied that an official conflict does, in fact, exist and interfere with the efficient performance of the duties of the Maryland State Police and/or the Sheriff's Department.

St. Mary's River Watershed

The County Commissioners requested Mr. Paul R. Raley to sign a form, FHA 447-2, submitted by the FHA, Department of Agriculture, which certified that F. Elliott Burch, as President of the Board of County Commissioners is the person authorized to execute documents on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners with the Farmers Home Administration. This document was attested by Mr. Raley, since he was the initial attesting officer on the original documents pertaining to this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Approved,



F. Elliott Burch
President