

County Commissioners' MeetingTuesday, May 19, 1970

Participants: F. Elliott Burch, President
 J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner
 George R. Aud, Commissioner
 David M. Williams, County Attorney
 Paul R. Raley, Administrative Assistant
 Helen M. Bailey (Mrs.), Admin. Asst. (Recording)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting which was held on May 12, 1970 were read, amended and approved.

Payments Approved

\$234.00 to Southern Maryland Concrete Products for road pipe for Ridge Rescue Squad.

\$507.65 to H. M. McCoy, for Engineering Services performed at the Oakville Sanitary Landfill.

\$8,755.72 to Bell Motor Co., Inc., for four 1970 Chevrolets, Sheriff's Department.

\$158.04 to Bell Motor Co., Inc. for four radios, Sheriff's Department, for above cars.

\$9,800.00 to Dean and Beavers, construction on St. Andrews Church Road.

Proposed Septic Tank Ordinance

Dr. Alan D. Houser and Walter E. Raum of the St. Mary's County Department of Health outlined a plan for determining the suitability of a given soil to absorb sewage effluent. Certain soils have the physical ability to give satisfactory test results during the drier months of the year; yet they will not support a sub-surface sewage disposal system during the time time. It is the opinion of the local Department of Health that percolation tests should be performed on soil that falls mainly within certain areas in St. Mary's County during the periods of the year when the ground conditions and water tables are at their wettest, in order to insure the fullest protection to those citizens who will be using the systems. An ordinance regulating the seasons during

which percolation tests would be conducted would also obviate some other problems, such as requests for variance from developers to put in a package treatment plant, which variances have a ruinous affect on our Master Water and Sewage Plan. Mr. Raum stated that the general attitude on package treatment plans is that they should be used only as an interim tool for accommodating a specific problem, and that the Health Department is looking for another tool to do a more accurate job on those areas in the County which have a very high water table in late winter. Mr. Raum stated that the Soil Conservation Service had identified those areas from the 7th District from Clements down to Colton's Point, Medley's Neck to Valley Lee, and everything from St. Inigoe's Creek to Hermanville down to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station as being in the "wet" area and which should be tested only in late winter when the Water Table is the highest.

Mr. Raum stated that he had indications from the main Health Department office in Baltimore that the present State regulations could be strengthened by the passing of local ordinances.

The Soil Conservation Service has offered to train the St. Mary's County Sanitation Engineers to identify the soils into technical groups so that they would know whether they could be tested at any time or within a specific time period.

Mr. Burch stated that the County Commissioners would seek legal advice on the constitutionality of adopting such an ordinance and asked Mr. Raum to submit a copy of an ordinance, such as he proposes, which has been adopted in another County. Mr. Aud mentioned that we would need sufficient time to publicize the adoption of such an ordinance and he would suspect six months' advance notice to the public would be required.

Dr. Houser said that the Public Health Law does authorize the Commissioners to adopt ordinances so long as they are more strict than the existing State Laws or Regulations. The only thing you cannot do is to adopt an ordinance that is weaker than the existing law. Dr. Houser suggested that the appropriate time to announce such a new ordinance would be the first of January, 1971.

The Board of County Commissioners took the matter under advisement until such time as Mr. Walter Raum submits a sample ordinance, or appropriate search material, from another County and legal counsel has been received.

Budd's Creek Drag Strip and CATV

Mr. Williams, County Attorney, reasserted his position that the County Commissioners are legally within their right to levy a 10% tax on the Drag Strip and that the same right exists under the law to tax CATV. So far as CATV is concerned, Mr. Williams stated that under the law we would be required to give them sixty days notice before effecting the tax so that they can set up the machinery for collecting.

Messrs. Burch and Bowles voted to retain the 10% tax levy on the Drag Strip; Mr. Aud abstained.

Mr. Burch motioned to negotiate for a 5% levy on CATV. The motion did not carry.

H. M. McCoy, Sanitation Engineer

Mr. H. M. McCoy appeared to advise the County Commissioners that Senate Bill No. 382 goes into effect the first of January, 1971, and it involves the planning of the Counties and Regionals for the Maryland Environmental Service. He said that the State is going to take over all the Waste Disposal facilities at some time between now and 1974 and then run both the waste water and sewage and solid waste disposal facilities. This will require all the Counties and municipalities to obtain and adopt a long-range plan. Mr. McCoy would like to be considered to conduct such a study for St. Mary's County and stated further that he was convinced there would be Federal Grants available for this purpose. In answer to Mr. Burch's query, Mr. McCoy stated that he would be interested in doing it on a Tri-County basis, since he is very familiar with the geography and topography. Mr. McCoy, at Mr. Burch's suggestion, said that he would talk the matter over with Dr. John H. Mills, Executive Director of the Tri-County Council. This suggestion was made due to the inference that Federal Grants would be forthcoming on a Regional basis.

McKay's Beach Shore Erosion Project

Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Office of Finance, was requested by the County Commissioners to make application to set McKay's Beach as a Shore Erosion Project.

Xerox 720

Approval was given by the County Commissioners for Mr. Paul R. Raley to contract for the rental of a Xerox 720 in lieu of the Xerox 914 Copier presently in use in the County Commissioners' Office.

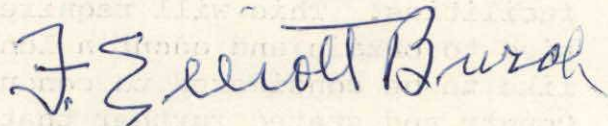
Recreation and Parks

Mr. John Baggett, Director of Recreation and Parks, obtained two signatures for routine approval of projects at St. George's Park -- an application for BOR complying with contractor's rules and regulations; and also a compliance with the Civil Rights law.

Mr. Burch asked Mr. Baggett if he had written up his job description since his six-months' probationary period is now up and he is eligible to come into County employment under the Merit System. Mr. Baggett replied that he had not written up his job description, nor had he taken an examination; that the State was supposed to do it. Mr. Baggett was requested to take the necessary steps, in cooperation with the Office of Finance, to bring his employment status into order.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Approved,



F. Elliott Burch
President