

Board of County Commissioners' Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 1971

Present: George R. Aud, President
J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner
J. S. Guy, Jr., Commissioner
Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney
August H. Wagener, County Engineer
Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer
Helen M. Bailey (Mrs.), Admin. Asst., Recording

The meeting came to order at 9:43 a.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting which was held on January 12, 1971 were not read.

Payments Approved:

Tall Timbers Shore Erosion Project:

J. Moakley Mattingly, bulldozing-----	\$50.00
Mel-Don Co., backhoe work-----	224.00
Delahay's Pile Driving Service (1/11-15, 1971)-----	1,245.00
Delahay's Pile Driving Service (1/4-8, 1971)-----	1,025.00
Edwin A. and John O. Crandell, Jetties and Dredging on Kingston Creek-----	14,914.00
St. Mary's County Historical Society, quarterly payment for operation of tourist information center-----	1,250.00
Bussells and Company, Larredore Road Improvements, 210 hours office engineering @ \$8.50 per hour-----	1,785.00
County Commissioners of Charles County for St. Mary's share of Animal Shelter Expenses June 30, 1970 through January 1, 1971-----	1,224.24
Harry S. Lancaster, former Chief Deputy Sheriff, St. Mary's for expenses incurred in two Court Cases-----	57.20
Kirby's Glass Service Co., for repair of Pool Room Door; damaged by Sheriff's Department-----	246.76

Piney Point Bulkhead Bids
(Delahay's Pile Driving Service)

Mr. Ronald Delahay appeared to protest the method of advertising for bids for construction of a bulkhead at Piney Point and to contest the specifications which were prepared for the bidders' use. Mr. Delahay alleges that there was a misunderstanding in that his company understood that the Seawall was to be built in the following manner:

1. Pilings to be five feet apart, center to center.
2. Tybacks in the amount of 35.
3. Bolt rods with inside and outside nuts and washers on wall pilings and tyback pilings.
4. Every break in whalers not on wall pilings to be tied in with a butt block with bolts as fasteners.
5. Whalers, both top and bottom, to be bolted.
6. Every batten has a bolt at each end and one in the middle.
7. From center to center of wall piling, there will be a bolt to fasten the sheathing, whalers, and batten together between the wall pilings.
8. Want specifications stating that the seven articles here mentioned are so stated in the contract.

Upon inquiry from Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney, Mr. Delahay stated that the specifications were not clear; that the items he listed should be put in the contract; and that the job be re-bid. Mr. Delahay further stated that he bid on putting the poles in five feet apart, whereas his competitors bid on putting them in sixteen feet apart.

(Mr. Dick Myers of WKIK entered the Conference Room.)

Commissioners Bowles inquired of Mr. Wigginton, County Attorney, and Mr. Wagener, County Engineer, as to whether they could prepare detailed specifications so that the Board

could make an accurate determination as to what was expected of the contractor; so that the work could be inspected by the County Engineer to insure proper performance and adherence to the terms of the contract. Mr. Bowles further stated that he felt the bids on this job should be rejected, that detailed specifications be drawn up, and the project re-advertised for bid.

Commissioner Guy stated that he felt we should consult with the other bidders to determine the basis on which they bid prior to re-bidding the project. The County Attorney cautioned against negotiating outside of the bids, which, he stated, is not right and not fair to the other bidders. Mr. Wigginton stated further that it appears that the bidders did not have the same thing in mind because of the \$4,000 difference in range of bids submitted.

The Board of County Commissioners thanked Mr. Delahay for his appearance before them and advised him that the matter would be taken under deliberation prior to announcement of either the bid winner or a decision to re-bid the project under detailed specifications and contract.

Dukehart Creek

Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney, stated that during a discussion with Mr. Focer of Lorenzi, Dodds and Gunnill, Mr. Focer advised that there was no way in which he could determine the boundaries of Lot #4 on the Island owned jointly by the Toombs' and the Munchmeyers. Mr. Focer cannot find the monuments which originally marked the boundaries.

Commissioner Guy mentioned that there was some urgency in solving our problems with the Dredging of Dukehart Creek, since the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs had indicated that they would like to withdraw the funding since completion of the project was long overdue. Mr. Guy said that CBA had been persuaded to keep the allocation for this project on the books for a reasonable period in order to allow the Commissioners time to make a settlement with the Toombs.

It was agreed that Mr. Focer, in company with an appraiser, Spence Howard, would visit the site in order to make an appraisal which Mr. Wigginton can use as a basis for settling with the Toombs. If the offer is not acceptable to Mr. Toombs, Mr. Wigginton stated that the alternative is to go to condemnation proceedings.

(Mr. Jack Kershaw of the Enterprise entered the Conference Room.)

Kingston and Little Kingston Creeks

Edwin A. and John O. Crendell Company has offered to dredge approximately 250 feet to a depth of four feet on the inside of Kingston Creek and four feet in the Patuxent River, for the sum of \$1,500.00 since they presently have their equipment located in the area. Mr. Guy moved, Mr. Bowles seconded and it was carried by Mr. Aud to contract for these services without delay in order to realize the savings.

Sheriff's Department -- Paddy Wagon

The advisability of providing the Sheriff's Department with a Paddy Wagon to provide transportation of prisoners to the various State institutions, and to the St. Mary's County Jail (whenever groups are involved), came under discussion. The Sheriff was requested to submit his recommendations and specifications for such a vehicle to the Board for their further consideration.

Dog Warden's Vehicle

The Board of County Commissioners unanimously agreed to advertise for bids for a 3/4 ton pick-up truck, for which a body must be designed, to accommodate the transportation of dogs and cats to the Tri-County Animal Shelter, or otherwise. The Humane Society will be contacted with regard to their recommendations on body specifications.

Drug Action Steering Committee

Commissioner Bowles motioned, it was seconded by Commissioner Guy and carried by the President, Mr. Aud, to appoint an Emergency Steering Committee on Drug Abuse in St. Mary's County for the purpose of aiding the diminution of drug abuse in St. Mary's County. The Steering Committee is to be comprised of the present members of the Drug Action Committee of St. Mary's County, as follows:

James D. Adams, Chairman
 Mrs. Margaret Burch, Vice-Chairman
 Mrs. Mildred K. Pinkerton, Secretary
 Mr. Ronald Clark
 Mr. John Eaton
 Mr. William R. Kreitzer

Mr. Harry Lancaster
Mr. James Lanham
Mrs. Mary Jane Pembroke
Mrs. Dorothea Rees
Mrs. Nancy Rowe
Mr. Robert Russell
Father Francis J. Veith

The Board of County Commissioners also authorized an expenditure up to \$1,000 for expenses and the Chairman is authorized, with the counter-signature of one other member, to certify payment of such expenses as proper and just charges for operating expense.

Sara King -- Pension

Mr. W. Stanley Donaldson suggested to the Board of County Commissioners that they may wish to consider a pension increase for Mrs. Sara King who is now receiving \$100 per month under the authorization contained in Section 148 of the St. Mary's County Code. Section 148 authorizes the Board to award retirement benefits in an amount not to exceed \$125.00 per month. Mr. Donaldson suggested that an increase for Mrs. King might be appropriate at this time due to the cost of living increases, etc. The Board took the matter under advisement.

Emergency Committee to Study Sources of County Revenue

Commissioner J. Wilmer Bowles expressed his concern regarding the necessity for broadening the authority of the Board of County Commissioners to develop and assess new and additional sources of revenue to increase the income of the County, so that the Board could prevent continuing increases in real estate taxes. Mr. Bowles stated that we must develop the authority we need and request it in time to get the necessary legislation through this Session of the Maryland General Assembly. Mr. Bowles stated that we should formulate an emergency committee consisting of the Board of County Commissioners, Mr. W. Stanley Donaldson, Consultant, Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance, our Legal Counsel Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, and selected citizens to study the income of the County, its sources of revenues, and to explore and study the possibility of new sources of revenue in an effort to increase the income of the County, in order to have the money to provide the additional services required from the inhabitants, and thereby untie ourselves from complete dependency upon real

estate taxes and the need to annually increase property taxes. Mr. Bowles stated that he did not suggest that we may be able to complete this study in time; but that we should make an immediate attempt to formulate a type of legislation needed to give to St. Mary's County Commissioners the authority to assess and tax new areas which they would deem appropriate, once the studies were completed. Another reason for this study would be to more equally assess the county population because real estate tax is limited to taxation of approximately 27% of the residents. Commissioner J. S. Guy, Jr. concurred.

President George R. Aud stated that the Board should have a meeting later this week, on Thursday or Friday, with Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, Mr. W. S. Donaldson, Mr. B. Harris Sterling, and Paul R. Raley to discuss the framework for accomplishing the task and to make recommendations as to the composition and goals of the Emergency Committee. The date for a meeting on this project was set for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 21, 1971.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Approved,



George R. Aud
President