

Board of County Commissioners' MeetingMonday, January 25, 1971

Present: George R. Aud, President
J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner
J. S. Guy, Jr., Commissioner
Helen M. Bailey (Mrs.), Admin. Asst. (Recording)
Dr. Robert E. King, Jr., Superintendent, Board of Education
Mr. Harry Ocker
Mr. Kennedy Abell
Mr. Henry Kanowicz
Mr. James K. Raley

The meeting convened at 9:10 a.m.

At the request of the Board of Education, their members appeared to report impasse to the Board of County Commissioners on the 1971 Negotiated Teachers Agreement. The Board of Education holds to a salary at entrance level of \$7,150 with \$350 annual increments. The Teachers Association position is held at \$7,300 with a 5% index for annual increments. Included in the Teachers' requests are such items as insurance, major medical benefits, disability income protection, and tuition reimbursement.

Mr. Kanowicz indicated that the total 1971-72 budget coming from the Board of Education would be approximately \$9 million. In addition to the mandated budget as required by law, there will be a supplemental budget request to the County for an additional \$1,300,000. Mr. Kanowicz advised the Board of County Commissioners that the Teachers Association had questioned the capital cash on the County balance sheet in the amount of over \$1.5 million in the banks and takes the position that this money should be made available to meet their demands.

At this point in the meeting, the Director of Finance, Mr. B. Harris Sterling, was asked to join the Conference. Mr. Sterling gave a summary outline of the fiscal planning to the Board of Education and set forth the basis on why this amount of money is held in reserve to meet disbursement requirements during those months of the year when there are lean revenue incomes.

Mr. Kanowicz also stated that the Teachers Association had asked about the \$12,000 item on the County balance sheet which was labeled as an expenditure for a Board of Education "study". Mr. Sterling explained that the amount was expended in conjunction with the routine audit performed by David M. Gruber and Company in order to acquire additional information for the use of the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Sterling stated that Gruber and Company had reviewed the Federal subsidies in detail and the methods used by the Board of Education for acquiring the maximum amounts available from the State and the Federal. Further, Mr. Sterling stated that the report made back to the Board of County Commissioners was highly favorable.

After reviewing the Teachers Association requests in detail, it was the consensus of those present that the Board of Education would announce to the State Board of Education that St. Mary's County had reached impasse.

\$4.5 million Bond Issue

Dr. King then introduced the subject of the \$4 million bond issue for school construction and remarked that the bond market was good at this time. Dr. King said there were three schools in their request -- one high school and two middle schools.

Mr. James K. Raley, Board of Education Engineer, joined the Conference. Mr. Raley stated that the Board of Education was in the process of trying to get these schools into the architectural and planning stage. They are planning on a middle school in Park Hall, a High School in Leonardtown which they would like to put on the Technical Center grounds, and on an 8th District Middle School which will probably be north of Lexington Park. Mr. Aud pointed out that they should consult with the Metropolitan Commission re getting a package treatment plant approved for Park Hall unless they could wait for the construction of sewage lines.

Commissioner Bowles said that he realized the condition of the bond market would have to be considered and asked if it would not be to the best advantage if the Board of Education gave the County a projected construction date for all the schools they anticipate building, or are authorized under this bond issue, whereby the County could establish a date or dates for the sale of these bonds; that it might be to our mutual advantage not to sell all the bonds authorized

at one time. Mr. Bowles stated that he had a three-year spread in mind because it would be impossible to build all these schools in one year; if we could sell the bonds over a period of time, perhaps we might save some drastic increases in taxes at one time and still accomplish the construction program.

Dr. King concurred and stated that the Board of Education would be glad to do that.

Commissioner Guy stated that he felt the problem was that by going to the full bond issue at one time, it would put us at 9.9% indebtedness, whereas the State law requires us to stay within 10%. Mr. Guy stated that we have many other services to provide for the County such as landfills for which land must be purchased and which we would incur indebtedness; and that it would be preferable to come up with a staggered proposition so that the County would not have to hit the "limit" of its authorized indebtedness. Mr. Guy requested that the Board of Education supply him with some detailed information pertaining to the number of schools, number of students -- some basic elementary information for his personal study and perusal.

Discussion was held on the availability of land near the Technical Center -- the Board of Education has 87 acres there -- and Mr. Aud stated that he would prefer to forestall using any of the County land there in the near future since there are problems concerning municipal development, etc.

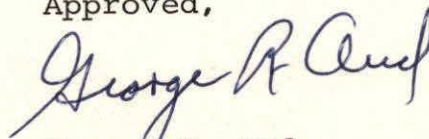
Mr. Bowles inquired as to whether they had ascertained the route of the Leonardtown sewage system and suggested it might be extended from Ryken to the Technical Center site.

Mr. James K. Raley stated that he was working in an attempt to save on architect's fees by using standard designs.

It was left that the Board of Education would keep the Board of County Commissioners fully apprised of their progress in drawing up a full-fledged proposal of school construction.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Approved,



George R. Aud
President