

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Thursday, December 26, 1974

Present: Commissioner James M. McKay, President  
Commissioner Ford L. Dean  
Commissioner J. Patrick Jarboe  
Commissioner J. Laurence Millison  
Commissioner John K. Parlett  
H. D. McGlade, Comptroller  
Judith A. Mullins, Recording Secretary

Also present were: Jack Kershaw, Enterprise, Patty Muchow, Guardian, Dick Myers, WKIK and Margaret Wanger, Beacon.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Commissioner President McKay.

READING OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 18, 1974 were read and corrected.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Millison made a motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 1974, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The following bills were approved by the Commissioners:

Melvin Construction Company, Payment No. 1 for Laurel Grove Shelter Building - \$4,981.00;

Barton-Aschman Associates, Invoice No. 14178 for professional services in connection with Golden Beach Road - \$6,550.00.

Commissioner Parlett made a motion to approve payment of the above bills, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

AMENDMENTS TO GROUP INSURANCE POLICY

Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to approve and sign the two amendments as presented last week by Frank Combs, Jr., Insurance Agent, John Hancock Insurance Company, one concerning continuity of

coverage and the other concerning employees reaching the age of 65, seconded by Commissioner Dean. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

LOCATION OF STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Present: Paul Raley, Administrative and Logistic Director

Mr. Raley stated that since the County Engineer and Land Use Office would not be moving immediately to Leonard Hall, he looked into several other possible locations for the State's Attorney's Office, until such time as space would be available in the Courthouse: Cross building at \$350 per month but would require extensive renovations, the old Sparling department store which would also require renovations and the O'Brien building with 1800 square feet for \$400.00 monthly rental and would require no renovations.

The Commissioners decided to look at the cafeteria building at Leonard Hall with the intent of moving the County Engineer's and Land Use Office to that location whenever it could be made available. Mr. Raley was requested to ascertain whether the O'Brien building could be put on a short-term lease for 90 days.

SMECO COURT CASE-SALE OF RAILROAD TRACKS AND TIES

Present: Joseph Weiner, County Attorney

Mr. Weiner appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the upcoming court case with SMECO concerning the sale of tracks and ties. Mr. Weiner inquired if the Board was interested in negotiating a compromise or continue with the suit brought by SMECO against the County. The Commissioners advised Mr. Weiner to continue with the case.

CENTER GARDENS TAX ABATEMENT

Present: Joseph Weiner, County Attorney

At this time the Commissioners discussed the tax abatement issue of Center Gardens with Mr. Weiner. Commissioner Parlett suggested that Mr. Weiner discuss the history and present status of the suit between Center Gardens and the Metropolitan Commission with the Metropolitan Commission's attorney. In addition, Commissioner Jarboe informed Mr. Weiner that Center Gardens had raised their rent \$25 a unit and that since they have an FHA mortgage, they are not allowed to raise rents without FHA approval and did



they in fact obtain such approval.

Commissioner McKay stated that the Center Gardens matter should be studied by the County Attorney and that the Commissioners from that district may want to discuss this with the attorney to see if additional taxes could be generated from that development. The Commissioners agreed that the matter should be pursued and deferred the matter until the first of the year.

DONATION OF LAND-AVENUE, MARYLAND

Commissioner Parlett stated he met with Mrs. Bernice Sherman who wished to donate land in Avenue to the County to be used as a recreational facility for the elderly. Mrs. Sherman had made a proposal for the donation of six acres of land in 1971 and again in October, 1974 but the past Board of Commissioners had turned down the offer on the basis of recommendations from John Baggett, Director, Recreation and Parks, and because of the restrictions Mrs. Sherman had placed on the property.

Commissioner Parlett stated that Mrs. Sherman has changed the offer in that she would donate five acres of land and would auction off another acre to help towards construction costs of the building.

The Commissioners requested that Mrs. Sherman be advised to put her proposal in writing and that it be referred to the Commission on Aging and Recreation and Parks for comments.

COMMUNITY CORRECTION CENTER

Present: Clark Gravelle, Criminal Justice Planner, Tri-County Council, George Sanger, Sheriff

Mr. Gravelle presented a letter dated December 26 in which he responded to the questions raised by the Commissioners in their letter of December 3 to the Community Corrections Task Force with regard to the Community Correction Center.

The State has substantially agreed to the conditions as set forth in the December 3 letter.

Mr. Gravelle stated that there might be reverted or uncommitted funds from the GCLEAJ that could be used for the County's share of the pre-trial facility construction cost, and

verbal approval is needed from the Commissioners that if the County would apply for these funds and thus commit themselves to the project. No County funds are involved.

With regard to the Commissioners' request for a feasibility study, Mr. Gravelle stated that since comparative cost data for the present jail is with the County, the County would be in a better position to do this study.

Commissioner Dean made a motion to give preliminary approval to Mr. Gravelle to proceed with the project, subject to the conditions as set forth in his letter of December 26, 1974 (copy of which is on file in the Commissioners' Office), seconded by Commissioner Jarboe. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

Commissioner Millison stated that he expected Jessup to be brought up to the standards that our County jail is required to be brought up to.

Commissioner Millison requested Mr. McGlade to obtain figures on the cost of converting the County jail to a lock-up facility and the approximate cost of presently running the jail.

#### COMMISSION ON AGING-NUTRITION PROGRAM

Present: Janet Martin, State Commission on Aging  
Joseph D. Carter, Acting Chairman, Commission on Aging  
Judge Clarence Dodge, Commission Member

Mrs. Martin explained the history and purpose of the Nutrition Program under Title VII. \$66,000 was made available to the three Southern Maryland counties and only St. Mary's County participated in the Project which began in June, 1974.

Mrs. Martin said that the bill that would increase the amount of money for Title VII is in Committee in Congress and it is hopeful that \$100,000,000 will be provided for the Nutrition Program nationwide and \$20,000,000 additional to help alleviate inflationary costs.

Mrs. Martin stated that Title III has allocated \$35,000 for St. Mary's County for transportation support to the Title VII program and to provide transportation for senior citizens. Participation in Title III would require a 25% match from the County.



\$60,000 has been made available to St. Mary's County under Title VII for calendar year 1975. State Commission on Aging has applied for a grant of \$200,000 from the Department of Employment and Social Services under Title VI and the Governor has given his promise for these funds. St. Mary's County's share would be \$13,300.00.

After discussion concerning the Executive Secretary, the Commissioners agreed that as soon as an Executive Secretary has been appointed, that they were hopeful the Program would be re-instated.

Commissioner Millison suggested that a letter be forwarded to the Congressman and U. S. Senators requesting approval of the \$120,000,000 as soon as possible for calendar year 1975. The Commissioners agreed to this and in addition that a letter be forwarded to the Governor urging that the Title VI funds that are to be allocated to the State Commission on Aging be approved as soon as possible.

In closing, Judge Dodge mentioned there would be a training session for Project Directors January 24 in Philadelphia and that it would be advantageous to have our Executive Secretary on Board by that time.

#### OFFICE SPACE FOR JUVENILE HEARINGS

Present: Michael Davis, President, St. Mary's Bar Association  
Marvin Kaminetz, Juvenile Master

Mr. Davis stated that at the last St. Mary's County Bar Association meeting a Resolution was passed that he and Mr. Kaminetz would come before the Commissioners to request space for a Juvenile Court Room that would provide a private hearing room with a separate waiting area. The present facility being used, District Court, is inadequate for their needs. Mr. Kaminetz added that this room would not only be used for Juvenile Court but could be used throughout the week for other types of hearings.

Commissioner McKay stated that the Commissioners were considering relocating the Engineer's and Land Use Office at Leonard Hall and then moving the State's Attorney's Office upstairs and perhaps this space could be used jointly by the State's Attorney and for Juvenile Court. He stated that the Commissioners will do everything possible to expedite the move to provide these facilities.



APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

Commissioner Dean made a motion to appoint Joseph Ernest Bell, II as Attorney to the Board of County Commissioners, effective January 1, 1975, at an annual salary of \$9,500 with \$500 for expenses annually, seconded by Commissioner Parlett. All Commissioners voted in favor of this appointment.

Commissioner McKay stated that Mr. Weiner, the present attorney, will continue to handle any matters that are presently being litigated that involve the County and will be compensated on an hourly basis in an amount not to exceed \$40 per hour, beginning January 1. When Mr. Bell becomes acquainted with those cases, it has been agreed to that he would take over those cases that would linger on for any amount of time. Mr. Weiner had stated that there would be little time in bringing those pending cases to a conclusion. Mr. McKay stated that Mr. Bell has agreed to continue as Attorney to the Planning Commission.

OUTDOOR DRAMA ASSOCIATION

Present: Bernard Johnson, President, Outdoor Drama Association  
Nick Smith, Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Johnson came before the Commissioners to discuss the problems of funding for the Outdoor Drama Association and the decision that was made by the past Board of Commissioners at their meeting of December 10. It was decided to bring all parties involved before the Commissioners to discuss the matter: Bernard Johnson, Marvin Joy, Bicentennial Commission, John Baggett of Recreation and Parks and Ed Atkins, proposed Coordinator/Producer.

Mr. Johnson stated that he would like to see the drama "Wings of the Morning", being located at St. Mary's City, where the events of the drama had actually taken place. Nick Smith stated that because of the economic boost to the County, he would like to see it move to St. Mary's City.

Commissioner Jarboe stated that someone on the State level should be contacted that we have an outdoor drama and it would be an economic boost to St. Mary's County and St. Mary's City and that perhaps the State should reorder their priorities for St. Mary's City and move this project up the scale. Mr. Johnson stated he has been trying to get before the Board of Public Works and would like some of the Commissioners to meet with him. Commissioner Millison suggested that members of the Chamber of Commerce and EDC should also attend.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT-  
REQUEST FOR DEPUTIES

Present: George Sanger, Sheriff  
Gene Pellillo, Deputy

Mr. Sanger stated that in order to bring his Department up to the allocated 24 deputies, he is in the process of hiring five deputies, two of which are presently working in Prince George's County. He requested approval from the Commissioners to hire these two men at Grade 8, Step 3 since they both will have at least two years experience with Prince George's County, in January, 1975. Funds are in the budget for this. The Commissioners requested a breakdown of the pay scales of the Sheriff's Deputies. Later in the meeting the Sheriff submitted this information. Commissioner Dean made a motion to grant the Sheriff's request and authorize the hiring of the two deputies from Prince George's County at Grade 8, Step 3, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

In addition Mr. Sanger requested approval to hire ten additional deputies. There was discussion as to the hiring of special deputies for the serving of papers at a lower salary than Sheriff's Deputies. The Sheriff will look into this. The Commissioners requested the Sheriff to submit a list of equipment needed for ten additional men and the cost of same.

Commissioner Millison suggested that letters be written to the State Sheriff's Association and Maryland State Police requesting the number of deputies and troopers in each County and Baltimore City.

COST OF OPERATING JAIL

Present: George Sanger, Sheriff

Mr. Sanger stated that from the period of July 1 to December 26, 1974 there were 554 persons in and out of the jail and that \$8,855.50 was spent for food during that period of time.

BLACKTOPPING OF DRIVEWAY LEADING  
FROM PARKING LOT TO JAIL

Present: George Sanger, Sheriff  
John Norris, County Engineer

Mr. Sanger requested that the driveway leading from the



parking lot to the jail and Sheriff's Office be blacktopped.

Mr. Norris requested the Sheriff to provide him with a sketch of the area needed to be blacktopped and he will give a cost estimate for the project.

O'BRIEN BUILDING

Present: Paul Raley, Administrative and Logistic Director  
John Norris, County Engineer  
George Sparling, State's Attorney-elect  
Michael Davis

Paul Raley stated that Mr. Sparling had gotten in contact with Mrs. O'Brien and she was agreeable to a three month lease and then with a month-to-month lease thereafter starting January 2, 1975. Commissioner Parlett made a motion to lease the O'Brien Building at \$400 a month including utilities for a three month lease to house the State's Attorney's Office, seconded by Commissioner Dean. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion. Mr. Raley was instructed to begin furnishing the State's Attorney's Office. Mr. Sparling offered to draw up the lease to which the Commissioners agreed.

RELOCATION OF COUNTY ENGINEER'S AND LAND USE OFFICE

Present: Paul Raley, Administrative and Logistic Director  
John Norris, County Engineer

John Norris and Paul Raley were instructed to work with Robert Willard, Special Assistant, to look at Building No. 4, Leonard Hall and drawing up plans suitable for the County Engineer's and Land Use Office, after which time it will be determined what work would need to be done.

Mr. Willard entered the meeting and the Commissioners requested him to assist on this project.

LEONARD HALL PROPOSALS

Present: Paul Raley, Administrative and Logistic Officer  
John Norris, County Engineer  
Robert Willard, Special Assistant

Mr. Raley presented to the Commissioners proposals for an



evaluation study of the structural soundness, remodeling feasibility, space utilization and future expansion plans of the Leonard Hall property. There was considerable discussion as to how much of this work could be with in-house capabilities. Mr. Willard was requested to coordinate this and he stated he could do a space utilization study. Commissioner Dean suggested there be a technical evaluation of the building and Mr. Norris stated that basic data was needed to obtain this evaluation. Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to table this matter until next week, seconded by Commissioner Dean. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

GENERAL REVENUE SHARING SURVEY

Present: Harris Sterling, Finance Director  
H. D. McGlade, Comptroller

There is a requirement to report our taxing performance in Fiscal Year 1974 which is one of the factors used by the State and the Federal Government to determine the amount of federal revenue sharing funds that will be distributed to St. Mary's County for Fiscal Year 1976. The form is filled out in accordance with instructions and has been checked by our auditing firm and Mr. McGlade and Mr. Sterling requested that the Commissioners authorize the President of the Board to sign said form. Commissioner Millison made a motion accepting Mr. Sterling's and Mr. McGlade's request and authorized Commissioner McKay to sign the General Revenue Sharing Survey Form No. RS-12, seconded by Commissioner Dean. All Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

WALDEN COUNSELING CENTER-  
PAYMENT OF BILL

Present: Harris Sterling, Director of Finance  
H. D. McGlade, Comptroller

Mr. McGlade stated that we are in receipt of bills for salary and a typewriter which was authorized to the Walden Center during fiscal year 1974. The comprehensive audit of the County did not reflect these costs as an Accounts Payable and, therefore, must be paid utilizing the FY 1975 Contingency Fund. The reason they were not reflected in the audit as Accounts Payable or an expense is that during fiscal year 1974, Charles County Finance Department took over the role of paying all of the

salaries for the personnel at Walden and they neglected to send us the voucher during the last six months. The vouchers that the County received claiming these FY 1974 expenditures was subsequent to completion of the audit. Mr. Sterling has checked the accounts and the amount claimed by Charles County is appropriate, therefore, Mr. McGlade requested that \$6,453 be authorized from the Contingency Fund to the Walden Center (Account #42-23361) to cover these expenses. Commissioner Jarboe made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Commissioner Millison. All Commissioners voted in favor of this motion.

Mr. McGlade stated that as a matter of information, the County did find errors in the Charles County's request for FY '75 expenses and they have been returned to Mr. Levy, Finance Director, Charles County, for correction.

#### SUBDIVISION PLANS REVIEW STATUS

Present: Mr. John Norris, County Engineer

Mr. John Norris submitted a list of subdivision plans that have been backlogged in his office. He stated that because of this backlog, the processing of these plans had been delayed and caused them to be subject to the Economic Impact Fee.

A re-evaluation of the status of these subdivisions would be warranted as the County Engineer's Office had delayed the recordation of these plans by not providing a timely review (approximately two months) of the street profiles and storm drainage design plans. The Commissioners stated that the two controlling dates should be two months prior to November 15, 1974 for recordation and submission to the Planning Commission prior to December 26, 1973 in line with the County Commissioners' Resolution No. 74-42-Economic Impact Fee.

The Commissioners requested Mr. Norris to obtain additional information as to the dates these projects were submitted to the Planning Commission to determine if they had been submitted prior to December 26, 1973, before any decision could be made as to exemptions to the Economic Impact Fee by the Commissioners.

#### BACKLOG OF PROJECTS IN COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Present: John Norris, County Engineer

Mr. Norris submitted a list of current project workload in



the County Engineer's Office and in order to reduce this backlog to an acceptable level that it would be necessary to hire a Draftsman I at an annual salary of \$7,221 which would be in the '76 budget request. To employ this individual in FY '75 in the amount of approximately \$4,000 for the balance of the year, the Commissioners requested Mr. Norris to determine what funds are available in his budget for this purpose.

In discussing the County Engineer's Office backlog, Mr. Norris stated that one of the projects requiring immediate attention was the restoration of the seawall adjacent to Thomas Road, St. George's Island. A proposal to provide plans and specifications for the restoration was submitted by a consultant engineering firm in the amount of \$10,000. Mr. Norris suggested that these funds could be saved by performing the design with the existing engineering staff. Design would take approximately six to eight weeks, however, the savings generated by performing the work inhouse could be applied to the salary of the above-requested draftsman.

COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER  
PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

Present: John Norris, County Engineer

The date set for the public hearing on the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan update is January 28, 1974, 7:30 p.m. at the St. Mary's Technical Center.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Approved,



James M. McKay  
President