

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, January 10, 2023)
Generated by Julie Burch on Thursday, January 12, 2023

Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Eric S. Colvin
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator
Jenna Guzman, Communications Director

1. WELCOME

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

Approval of Consent Agenda

I move to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the minutes of December 13, 2022, as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

2. COMMENDATION

Commendations were presented for:

- A. Theodore Weiner Retirement
- B. John Pleisse Retirement

3. LEGISLATION

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Legislative Updates

I move to support the request of the State's Attorney's Office to support legislation pursuant to §10-117 of the Family Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to transfer all employees of the Child Support Unit of the Office of the State's for St. Mary's County to the Child Support Administration of the Department of Human Services and approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of support to the Delegation and to House and Senate Committees for hearings on these bills.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

4. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR JANUARY 24 AND 31, 2023. There will be no meeting of the Commissioners on January 17, 2023.

B. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - BOARD OF EDUCATION - Request approval of a Budget Amendment to the FY2023 Unrestricted and CIP Budgets

I move to approve the Board of Education's request of a FY2023 categorical budget amendment of fund balance in the amount of \$1,724,000, the interfund transfer of \$1,045,000 from operating to CIP, and authorize the Commissioner President to sign any related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

C. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - BOARD OF EDUCATION - Request approval of additional funds from School Safety Grant

I move to approve the Board of Education's request of a FY2023 categorical budget amendment for the assignment of fund balance in the amount of \$196,761 for additional funds from the School Safety Grant and authorize the Commissioner President to sign any related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr., second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

D. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Agriculture Land Preservation Program Recertification

I move to submit a letter and a report to the Maryland Department of Planning for recertification of the County's Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation program and have the Commissioner President sign all related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

E. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - Approve Employment Contract

I move to approve the employment agreement with Jason P Finkelstein as the Jurisdictional Medical Director for St. Mary's County and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

5. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events attended over the past week and provided general comments.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

I move to enter into closed session to discuss Litigation, Real Property, and Personnel.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

6. CLOSED SESSION

A. LITIGATION

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator
Buffy Giddens, Deputy County Attorney
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(2) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 10:15 a.m. - 10:28 a.m.

Location: Savich Conference Room

Purpose: To discuss strategy in litigation.

B. REAL PROPERTY

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner

Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator
James Gotsch, Director, Dept. of Public Works and Transportation
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(6) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland
Time Held: 10:28 a.m. - 10:44 a.m.
Location: Savich Conference Room
Purpose: To discuss the disposition of real property.

C. REAL PROPERTY

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator
Arthur Shepherd, Interim Director, Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Buffy Giddens, Deputy County Attorney
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(6) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland
Time Held: 10:44 a.m. - 10:47 a.m.
Location: Savich Conference Room
Purpose: To discuss the disposition of real property.

D. REAL PROPERTY

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator
Arthur Shepherd, Interim Director, Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(6) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland
Time Held: 10:47 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.
Location: Savich Conference Room
Purpose: To discuss the disposition of real property.

E. PERSONNEL

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator
Catherine Pratson, Director, Dept. of Human Resources
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(1) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland
Time Held: 11:18 a.m. - 11:43 a.m.
Location: Savich Conference Room
Purpose: To discuss assignment of a member of a public agency.

F. PERSONNEL

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator
Catherine Pratson, Director, Dept. of Human Resources
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(1) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland
Time Held: 11:43 a.m. - 11:47 a.m.
Location: Savich Conference Room
Purpose: To consider or discuss the assignment or appointment of a member of a public agency.

G. PERSONNEL

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator
Catherine Pratson, Director, Dept. of Human Resources
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(1) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland
Time Held: 11:47 a.m. - 11:56 a.m.
Location: Savich Conference Room

Purpose: To consider or discuss the assignment, promotion, resignation, salary, demotion, dismissal, reprimand, or appointment of a member of a public agency.

H. PERSONNEL

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator
Catherine Pratson, Director, Dept. of Human Resources
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(1) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 11:57 a.m. - 12:12 p.m.

Location: Savich Conference Room

Purpose: To consider or discuss the assignment, promotion, resignation, salary, demotion, dismissal, reprimand, or appointment of a member of a public agency.

I. PERSONNEL

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
Catherine Pratson, Director, Dept. of Human Resources
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(1) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 12:12 p.m. - 12:34 p.m.

Location: Savich Conference Room

Purpose: To consider or discuss the assignment, promotion, resignation, salary, demotion, dismissal, reprimand, or appointment of a member of a public agency.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:35 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on January 24, 2023.

JB
Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator

8. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Prior to the Budget Work Session the Commissioners made the following motions from Closed Session.

MOTIONS IN OPEN SESSION

MOTION 1: I move to enter into an easement agreement with BMC Enterprises, LLC, for the County to maintain its signage and parking lot on BMC Property, in exchange for a confirmatory deed from the Commissioners confirming the boundary lines and BMC's ownership of the BMC Property.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

MOTION 2: I move to reclassify the Chief of Staff position to a Sworn Captain position as requested by the Sheriff's Office.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

MOTION 3: I move to approve the addition of a merit Director of Communications position in the Office of the State's Attorney, effective Jan 3, 2023, funded from the State's Attorney approved FY23 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr., second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

MOTION 4: I move to approve adding a Deputy Director position for the department of Emergency Services effective immediately.

Motion by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

MOTION 5: I move to approve the Emergency Services compensation request as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

A. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - FY2024 Budget Work Session Operating

Present: Jeanett Cudmore, Chief Financial Officer

Joyce Sapp, Deputy Director

COLA

MOTION 1: I make a motion that we go with 4 ½ % COLA increase understanding revenue projections about 10.8M and this will cost about 3.8M.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow
Nay: Commissioner Colvin

MOTION 2: I make a motion we use \$1.1M of projected recurring revenue in FY23 to fund the compensation for 3 months.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

DISCUSSION ON UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE

Commissioner Colvin said he wanted it on the record that he does not want to leave schools undefended.

Jeannett Cudmore – on February 14th we will come back with CIP decisions. Vestibules can be a part of the CIP discussion. Operating requests are due on 1/13/23 for Finance review and BOE is due on February 1st. Will know a lot more in February.

HOMESTEAD TAX

MOTION 3: I make a motion to reduce the Homestead Tax from 3% to 2%.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
Final Resolution: Motion Fails
Yea: Commissioners Hewitt, Ostrow
Nay: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Alderson

REVENUE PROJECTIONS

MOTION 4: I move we project revenue at 5.25%. This will give another \$723K.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

9. ADJOURN