

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris
Chief of Staff/Director Human Resources, Sue Sabo
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

Absent: Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
County Administrator, Dr. Rebecca Bridgett

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Russell called the business meeting to order at 9:00 am in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve the minutes of March 4, 2014, as amended. Motion carried 4-0.

PROCLAMATION WAS PRESENTED FOR NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Members of the 2015 National Academy of Finance at Chopticon High School are: Carley Appleby; Gary Ashmore; Samuel Baden; Alexi Buckler; Diamond Campbell; Eboni Carson; Riniya Countiss; Stephen Dickinson; Joseph Guy; Robert Guy; Jay Hammett; Shaina Hotchkiss; Dale Lacey; Anthony Lisanti; Morgan Long; Samantha Lyon-Carpenter; Kristen Mann; Bryana Nelson; James Nelson; Nicholas Nelson, Michael Pipho; Austin Raines; Gabrielle Raymond and Zachary Sweitzer.

COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR (Part 1)

1. Draft Agenda for March 18 and 25, 2014.

2. Department of Aging and Human Services (*Lori Jennings-Harris, Director;*
Peggy Maio, Fiscal Supervisor)

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute:

(1) the Notification of Grant Award in the amount of \$16,263 for the FY2014 Restoration Grant Award for State Sequestration Restoration Funding from the Maryland Department of Aging on behalf of St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services and, (2) the related budget amendment to establish the project budget. Motion carried 4-0.

(Debbie Barker, Senior I&A Manager, Dept. of Aging and Human Services)

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute:

(1) the Notification of Grant Award in the amount of \$12,452 for the FY2014 Medicare Improvements for Patients & Providers Act Federal Grant from the Maryland Department of Aging on behalf of St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services, to provide awareness of the availability of assistance programs to the Medicare population and,
(2) the related budget amendment to establish the project budget. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Maryland Senior Rides Program grant application documents, Project MD1505, from the State of Maryland Department of Transportation on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services in the amount of \$39,085 for transportation service for low-income to moderate-income seniors. Motion carried 4-0.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: PROPOSED SOUTHERN MD TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION PILOT PROJECT

Present: Robin Finnacom, Acting Director, Dept. Economic and Community Development

In an effort to combat the effects of the drawdown of military funding and sequestration on the local economy, the Department of Economic and Community Development is proposing joining with the Calvert and Charles County Economic Managers to pursue federal funding to support a Southern Maryland Technology Commercialization Pilot Project. The project will focus on identifying ways to shift Southern Maryland's future economy from over dependence on federal spending. The region's project entails: (1) technology market analysis; (2) commercialization; (3) technology business incubation; (4) small business assistance; and (5) cohesive brand identity for Southern Maryland's Emerging Technology Community.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize the Acting Director of the St. Mary's County Department of Economic and Community Development to work with the MD Department of Business and Economic Development and Calvert and Charles Counties to pursue federal funding to support the recommended scope of work for the proposed Southern Maryland Technology Commercialization Pilot Project. Motion carried 4-0.

AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD, AND FORESTRY BOARD: REQUEST FOR MARYLAND RURAL LEGACY PROGRAM FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY CHANGE OF SPONSOR

Present: John Parlett, Chairman, Agriculture, Seafood & Forestry Board
Robin Finnacom, Acting Director, Dept. of Economic and Community Development
Donna Sasscer, Manager, Agriculture and Seafood, Dept. of Economic and Community Development

On behalf of the Agriculture, Seafood, and Forestry Board (Ag Board), Mr. Parlett recommended that a locally administered land trust would better serve the County in managing the Maryland Rural Legacy Conservation Program. Currently the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust, headquartered in Pennsylvania, sponsors the County's Rural Legacy Conservation Program. The Ag Board is requesting sponsorship be changed to the Southern Maryland Resource, Conservation & Development (RC&D) Board, Inc.

Commissioner Russell read into the record a statement from Commissioner Jarboe supporting a mutual partnership between the Southern Maryland RC&D and the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust for the County's Rural Legacy Conservation Program.

Commissioner Morris stated he was not prepared to make a decision on this issue today. He asked if this item could be postponed a few weeks until additional information is provided. It was agreed to postpone the decision to allow time for staff to brief each Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events of the past week.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1, employment contracts. Motion carried 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel

Present: Commissioner Francis Jack Russell, President
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Sue Sabo, Chief of Staff and HR Director
Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe

Authority: Article 24, Section 4-210(a)1

Time Held: 10:20 am – 10:30 am

Subject: Personnel

COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR (Part 2)

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to (1) approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the revised employment contract for Dr. Rebecca Bridgett effective March 11, 2014; and (2) approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the revised employment contract for George Sparling effective March 11, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.

RECESS

BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Commissioners' conducted an FY 2015 Budget Work Session. Topics included revenues, board and state agency operating budgets, and finalization of recommended operating & capital budgets for public hearing)

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Russell adjourned the Board of County Commissioners meeting at 4:15 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)