

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, May 3, 2011**

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Sue Sabo, Acting County Administrator
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

Absent: Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris

Prior to the opening of the business meeting, the Commissioners attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at **George Carver Washington Elementary School** for the **Photovoltaic Energy System Panels**; visited **Cherry Cove Hospitality** in Lexington Park and presented a **Proclamation to the Chamber of Commerce for Small Business Month**, and attended the **East Coast Hurricane Awareness Tour** at Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Russell called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to adopt the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, April 26, 2011, as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for May 10 and May 17, 2011.
2. **Department of Human Services** (*Cynthia Brown, Interim Director*)

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute a budget amendment on behalf of the Department of Human Services for the Commission for Women increasing the account revenue and expenses for the excess funding collected in the amount of \$3,180 to cover the costs of the FY2011 Annual Women's History Month Women of the Year Recognition Banquet and the Jane Hale Sypher Scholarship. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Department of Public Safety (*Bob Kelly, Interim Director; Gerald Gardiner, Jr., Emergency Manager*)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve the FFY 2011 (US1220) State Homeland Security Grant Program Spending Plan in the amount of \$182,677.00 and to grant the Department of Public Safety permission to submit the associated grant application to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency by May 9, 2011. This funding once awarded is a continuation of the federal government's commitment to enhance St. Mary's County's ability to prevent, deter, respond to and recover from threats and incidents of terrorism. There is a requirement that 28% of this funding be allocated towards Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Planning. Additional funding will be spent to continue the Emergency Planner position within the Department of Public Safety which has been highly successful in strengthening the overall preparedness and response capabilities in St. Mary's County to all hazards. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Department of Public Works and Transportation (*George Erichsen, Director*)

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign agreements as designated by Mr. Erichsen, and that would be to approve and sign Resolutions accepting Pleasant Mill Drive, Autumn Mill Court, Brook Mill Court, Cecil Mill Court, Dry Mill Court, Edge Mill Court, Flour Mill Court, Governor's Mill Court and Harvest Mill Court in the Cecil's Mill Subdivision, located in the 8th Election District into the highway maintenance system, and Resolutions posting a 25-mph speed limit and stop signs as well as Public Works Agreement Addendum guaranteeing construction of the road in the Henderson Farm Subdivision, Phase 1, located in the 5th Election District with an Expiration Date of May 1, 2012 and Public Works Agreement for the Continued Maintenance and Repair for Cecil's Mill Subdivision located in the 8th Election District with an expiration date of April 12, 2012. Motion carried 3-0.

5. Department of Finance (*Elaine Kramer, CFO*)

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment transferring funds in the amount of \$63,895 from the Departments frozen position reserve accounts to the Revenue Stabilization Reserve. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events attended over the past week.

Commissioner Jarboe read budget proposals he plans to present during the budget work session Monday, May 9, 2011. The full text is available online at www.townhallalliance.com.

PUBLIC FORUM

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris
Sue Sabo, Acting County Administrator
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

Absent: Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones

Commissioner President Russell opened the Public Forum for public comments at 6:30 pm.

Public Comments. *(Comments as noted below are intended as highlights of testimony given and are not verbatim.)*

Dawn Pipkin, P. O. Box 476, Hollywood, MD 20636

Taxpayer, Parent, and Graduate of Leonardtown High School. Chose teaching as a profession. Instructional Resource Teachers are needed. No one will do their positions if cut. I thank the state for sending more funding which will save the jobs of para-educators. There are five positions that won't have jobs next year and this will impact sizes of classes. Please reconsider and I urge you to think of what's best for kids. Be forward thinking.

Wayne Abernethy, 29839 Lincoln Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Representing myself. Feels Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools, Teachers and other employees of the school system, parents and students were disrespected during budget hearings. Asked why Commissioners did not recognize National Teacher's Appreciation Week at their regular meeting this morning. Suggested citizens of the county deserve an apology and suggested doing it through The Enterprise.

Harry Childers, 48217 Keel Dr., Lexington Park, MD 20653

You Board of County Commissioners don't feel you are hiring and firing teachers in the schools. You are in a position here to lay off 23 individuals. You have \$1.9M in the budget. Superintendent is asking for a portion of that. What will he do if money is not allocated? There are many impacts of laying off teachers and they are all bad.

Joan Gelrud, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Representing Human Services Council. Requested Commissioners consider the impact the 10% reduction in the Non-County Agency line of the FY2012 Recommended Budget would have on human services providers. These agencies are dedicated to providing critical

services to the most vulnerable citizens of the County. If these citizens are not served it might impact other community services, such as the emergency room and the detention center, at a much higher cost.

Barbara Thompson, 43865 Thompson Farm Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636

The Justice and Advocacy Council of St. Mary's County works under the auspices of the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington with a goal to promote and advocate government action for the needs of all County citizens especially those not able to speak for themselves. County has \$1.9M set aside. I support Human Services Council in requesting that Commissioners reconsider the 10% cut to non-county agencies. Quoted text from the letter U.S. Catholic Bishops sent to Congress on budget choices – "have clear moral and human dimensions; they reflect our values as a people" and they asked elected officials "not to neglect the 'least of these' in budget deliberations." She asked the Commissioners to do the same as they finalize the County's FY 2012 budget.

James Shupe, 41407 Whimsical Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Education. Several weeks ago when talk of shutting down federal government Defense Secretary Gates made the comment that it is always smart to fund the people with the guns. Smart to educate folks now as the baby boomers generation ran us into the ground. Displayed technology handbook and asked if there were any standards for getting in the handbook.

Deb Rev, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Asked Commissioners to consider giving back funds to taxpayers – the \$1.9M in reserve. Taxpayers know what to do with their money. Maintain the current tax rate on property tax and see about lowering it next year. Lot of flack being addressed to you County Commissioners that should be addressed to the school Board, they are elected officials and they should be addressed.

Gentleman did not give name

Dropped off a petition asking for increased funding for schools.

Paul Kelly, Medley's Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Asked for consideration of the Sheriff's budget. Department has one detective with collateral duties to monitor sex offenders. There are three levels of sex offenders 1, 2, and 3 with 3 being the most violent. Level threes are out there that could impact children's welfare. Sheriff is not adequately supported. Give Sheriff's Office more funds to monitor sex offenders.

Amy Henderson

Serves on Human Services Council. Please reconsider 10% cut for non-county agencies that provides human services to the most vulnerable in our community. When local government funding drops, funding from the state and federal goes down. There is grant money out there from state and federal government but if the county does not show support financially that does not send a strong signal to the federal or state government. Works for NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) and knows the need for Mental Health services in the county.

There is also an increased need for Social Services. Many of the homeless and people in jail also have mental issues. Please don't take the 10% cut to human services.

Wanda Twigg, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

President, Education Association for St. Mary's County (EASMC). Wants constant yield tax rate. Agree many services have needs. Allow \$409,000 to come into the County next year so you can help some of those services and certainly the school system could also use some. Presented Commissioners with a petition containing 1454 signatures supporting the school system. Think it is admirable that you are considering providing the funding to keep teachers originally laid off last week but I want to remind you we are \$11M short in the school budget. Any cuts may impact class size. Please consider providing some of that other revenue.

Barbara Thompson, 43865 Thompson Farm Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636

Citizens sit in the Budget Hearing for hours waiting to speak. Asked Commissioners to consider holding 2 Budget Hearings, one for county and one for school system. Suggested to go back to the way it used to be (2 hearings) for future budget hearings.

Commissioner President Russell closed the Public Forum and adjourned the Board of County Commissioners meeting at approximately 7:04 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)