

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Tuesday, July 22, 2014**

Present: Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris
County Administrator, Dr. Rebecca Bridgett
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

Absent: Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the minutes of June 30, 2014, as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

**PROCLAMATION WAS PRESENTED FOR AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
24TH ANNIVERSARY**

COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: AWARDS CEREMONY

Present: Eric Colvin: Chair, Commission for People with Disabilities
Sherri St. Clair, Commission for People with Disabilities

The following awards were presented:

Volunteer of the Year - **Ronald Strickland**

Vicky Brown Award - **Patrick Johnson**

Care Partner Award - **Jawana Broadus and Carol Faxon**

Innovative Program Award - **St. Mary's Ryken "Art to Heart Program"**

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for July 29, and August 5, 2014.
2. **Department of Aging and Human Services** (*Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Peggy Maio, Fiscal Supervisor*)

(Ella May Russell, Chair, Local Management Board; Kelsey Bush, Youth Coordinator, Dept. of Aging and Human Services)

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the grant award documents for the FY2015 Statewide School Climate Initiative, Project MD1564, from the Governor's Office for Children on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services in the amount of \$10,000 and the related budget amendment to establish budget authority for this grant. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Jones asked how many seniors have been coming into the senior centers since implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Harris will provide info.

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Senior Medicare Patrol Notification of Grant Award, Project US1561, from the Maryland Department of Aging on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services in the amount of \$4,564 and the related budget amendment to establish the project budget. Motion carried 4-0.

3. **Department of Emergency Services and Technology** (*Bob Kelly, Director*)

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the State Highway Letter of Agreement for the utilization of four closed circuit television cameras located at various critical intersections in St. Mary's County into the State Highway Administration's Coordinated Highways Action Response Team and Intelligent Transportation System. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the FFY2011 Homeland Security Grant, Project US1220, Final Grant Adjustment Notice Form which closes and de-obligates the Grant by unspent funds of \$60.93 and the related budget amendment. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the FFY2013 Emergency Management Performance Grant, Project US1412, Final Grant Adjustment Notice Form, which closes and de-obligates the Grant by unspent funds of \$17.95 and the related budget amendment. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to authorize Department Staff to submit the grant award documents electronically for the Emergency Management Performance Grant, Project US1512, from the US Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$91,976, and to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment increasing the grant budget amount by \$4,674. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to accept the changes to the spending plan for funding requests under Project MD1438 from the Emergency Number System Board on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services & Technology, and to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment to increase Project MD1438 in the amount of \$79,031 bringing the total of the grant to \$1,119,531. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to initial the Grant Application to the Federal Aviation Administration and further authorize the Department of Public Works & Transportation Director to sign and forward the Grant Application on behalf of the St. Mary's County Regional Airport in the amount of \$804,979, to relocate Lawrence Hayden Road (Final Design) and relocate Airport Road and Extend Taxiway A (Utility Relocation), in support of the approved Airport Master Plan and in accordance with the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners executed Master Agreement. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to approve and authorize staff to proceed with the advertising of the vacant Grade 7 Office Manager Position with a Grade 7 Coordinator as presented by staff. Motion carried 4-0

5. County Attorney (*George Sparling, County Attorney; Angela Blondino, Paralegal*)

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, having met all the requirements to be established as the local archives repository of the permanently valuable records of the executive and legislative branches of a county government, I move that we sign the consent letter requesting that St. Mary's County Government be approved as a local archive by the Maryland State Archives. Motion carried 4-0.

6. County Administrator (Dr. Rebecca Bridgett)

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to remove Michael Schroedor from the Transportation Advisory Committee made in error and to appoint Michael Schroeder (Dept. of Navy Rep) to the Economic Development Commission with an unlimited term. Motion carried 4-0.

PURPLE HEART PARKING INITIATIVE

Present: Justin Skotnicki and Jason Link, Co-founders, Purple Heart Parking Initiative

The Purple Heart Initiative is a new initiative to acknowledge and support combat wounded veterans. The organization wants to acknowledge the extra steps the veterans were willing to take to face our nation's enemies. The organization is requesting that the County designate at least one parking space at the Leonardtown campus to allow veterans to park closer to conduct their business. The parking space signs are made by a non-profit organization and will county funding will only be required for the shipping charges. Once signs are received, they would be installed by Dept. of Public Works & Transportation personnel. The state offers special license plates to wounded veterans; therefore, veterans would be recognized from those plates.

DEPT. LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT: ST. MARY'S MARKETPLACE

Present: Phil Shire, Director, Dept. Land Use and Growth Management
George Sparling, County Attorney

Mr. Sparling explained legal aspects of this transaction. Mr. Sparling and Mr. Longmore, attorney for the applicant, agreed that if the Commissioners move this project forward, all easement agreements will be held in escrow until the applicant has acquired all the property necessary for the project. Mr. Sparling also noted that he discovered a typographical error in Paragraph 11 of the Easement Agreement and that it was being corrected and would not interfere with requirements related to SMECO.

Mr. Shire noted that the applicants will be requiring two permanent easements, one for vehicular and pedestrian traffic and another one farther south for storm drainage. Since the proposal in 2011 when this first came before the Commissioners, three options for the hiker/biker trail have been provided. Each option was explained. Mr. Shire said staff is recommending Option 1 which brings the trail along Rt. 235 and would cross the entrance to St. Mary's Marketplace.

Commissioner Morris noted that the first time this was proposed to the Commissioners one of the main issues was that the Three Notch Trail was running right along Rt. 235 and traffic going into/out of Shopping Center would be crossing the trail.

Commissioner Morgan stated he and the other Commissioners are very concerned with public safety. Recent discussions with the State Highway Administration indicate they have not come up with a

satisfactory plan for intersection at Rt. 235 and Rt. 4. He commented that he could not support bringing the biker/hiker trail down Rt. 235, especially without knowing what the plan is for the intersection.

Commissioner Russell reemphasized that the Commissioners have always been concerned with location of the hiker/biker trail from the aspect of safety. The Commissioners agreed to defer any action at this time.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY METROPOLITAN COMMISSION: LOAN FROM THE MD DEPT. OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Present: Jacqueline Meiser, General Legal Counsel
Rebecca Shick, Chief Financial Officer

The Metropolitan Commission approved borrowing from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to fund initiatives approved in the CIB. The proposed loan, not to exceed \$22,600,000, will be a twenty-year loan with an interest rate not to exceed 5%. Ms. Meiser explained MetCom is not near their debt capacity. Rates were set to accommodate this debt, and the new rates began on July 1, 2014. Ms. Meiser noted as the County moves forward they must meet that demand by providing the necessary infrastructure.

Commissioner Morris expressed concern with MetCom's growing debt and asked if they had a plan to minimize spending.

Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, that we approve and sign the Resolution approving the passage and adoption of Metropolitan Commission Resolution 2014-02, which authorizes and provides for the issuance and sale of St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission Infrastructure Bonds, 2014 Series A, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$22,600,000 and that we approve and authorize Commissioner President to sign the DHCD Loan documents for a loan not to exceed \$22,600,000. Motion carried 3-1. Commissioner Morris voted nay.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE (SMNA): SWOT ANALYSIS REPORT

Present: Robin Finnacom, Acting Director, DED
Pete Williams, Chairman, BRAC Subcommittee, SMNA
Bob Wirt, Executive Director, Executive Director, SMNA

Mr. Williams provided an overview of the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis relating to the presence and activities of the United States Navy in St. Mary's County and the anticipated convening of a Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC). He noted that recent events by congress have pushed the next BRAC out until 2017. The 2005 BRAC focused on funding, but speculation is the next one will focus on capacity realignment. Although the County experienced growth as a result of the 2005 BRAC, the same success in future BRACs can't be assumed; therefore, we should prepare accordingly. The analysis showed

that Patuxent River is not at great risk and provides a baseline for the BRAC process. The next step in the process is to prevent mission atrophy, continue to be a productive partner with the base, and leverage opportunities to diversify the County's industrial base.

Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance present the SWOT Analysis Report to the St. Mary's County Economic Development Commission for their input. Motion carried 4-0.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events of the past week.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:37 am.

Following the regular business meeting, the Commissioners met with students participating in the St. Mary's Ryken "Summer Knights" Leadership Program to discuss a variety of leadership topics.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)