

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
Tuesday, November 5, 2013**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner President Russell called the Joint Board of County Commissioners-Board of Education meeting to order at 9:00 at Wicomico Shores Golf Course, Riverview Restaurant, Mechanicsville, MD.

**Present:** Dr. Salvatore L. Raspa, Chairman  
Mr. William Brooke Matthews, Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Mary M. Washington, Member  
Mrs. Cathy Allen, Member  
Mrs. Marilyn A. Crosby Member  
Dr. Michael J. Martirano, Superintendent of Schools

Commissioner Russell and Dr. Raspa welcomed attendees.

Dr. Martirano provided information on graduation rates and outlined the St. Mary's County Public School System's vision plan. The 10-point plan is built on four pillars: Teaching and Learning, Safe and Supportive Environment, Organizational Effectiveness and Stakeholder Engagement. The Board of Education's goals are: Student Achievement, Safe and Orderly Environment, Effective & Efficient Use of Resources and Supportive Partnerships. The Superintendent's goals are standards and assessments, effective teachers and leaders, effective data system and strategic assistance to schools. These are major tools that are the assurances driving Race to the Top.

Mr. Bob Kelly, Director, Dept. of Emergency Services and Information Technology, explained the One Maryland Broadband Network project. The network is fiber optic cables installed across the state to connect government facilities and community and "anchor institutions." Combined with the County's existing fiber infrastructure, all public schools, libraries and government offices are connected by fiber optic cable. The County benefits with increased capacity to new locations, increased capacity to state of Maryland agencies and increased bandwidth to the Internet. Mr. Gregory Urban, Director, Information

Technology for the state of Maryland, noted the Broadband Network project involved the interaction of a number of people from state and counties to make this project work. At the present time 80% of public elementary, middle and high schools in the state now have high-speed broadband connections to the Internet. The fiber connects all counties across the state fostering economic development and improving public safety interoperability.

Ms. Lori Jennings-Harris, Director, Dept. of Aging and Human Services, introduced Ms. Siobhan Warsinske, Chair of the St. Mary's Early Childhood Advisory Council who explained the history and goals of the Council. The Council's goal is to determine the needs of young children and their families so they can create initiatives and collaborations to enable all children in St. Mary's County to enter school ready to learn. St. Mary's County is eligible to receive a grant of \$29,990, if a request is submitted by December 4, 2013. The grant request will focus on children living in poverty. Based on a Local Management Board Needs Assessment and the school board taking over the Head Start program, the Council believes they will have a strong request.

**Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan to designate the St. Mary's Early Childhood Advisory Council as the local entity responsible for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **MEETING RECONVENED AT THE CHESAPEAKE BUILDING, GOVERNMENTAL CAMPUS, LEONARDTOWN**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the minutes of October 29, 2013, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **PROCLAMATION WAS PRESENTED FOR AMERICA RECYLCES WEEK**

#### **COMMISSIONER'S TIME**

The Commissioners highlighted events of the past week.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING: COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWERAGE PLAN 2013 REVIEW AND REPORT**

Commissioner Russell opened the public hearing at 11:20

**Present:** Dave Chapman, Planner, Dept. of Land Use and Growth Management  
Dan Ichniowski, Director, MetCom

Notice of public hearing was advertised in the *Enterprise Newspaper* on October 18

and 25, 2013. There are two amendments to the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan. (1) Amend Chapter 113 of the St. Mary's County Code that requires the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan be amended annually to incorporate the approved Capital Improvement Budget of the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission, Tables 3-4 and 3-5; and (2) Incorporate current data reflecting usage and capacities of water and sewer systems in Tables 2-3, 3-1, 3-2, 3-2A, 4-1, 4-2A, 4-2B and 4-2C (statistical updates).

Commissioner Russell opened the public hearing for public comments.

There were no public comments. Commissioner Russell stated the record would be left open for an additional 10 days to receive public comments on this matter and closed the public hearing at 11:34 am.

## COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR

1. Draft Agendas for November 12 and 19, 2013.
2. **University of Maryland Extension** (*Chris Seubert, Area Extension Director; Ben Beale, Extension Educator-Agricultural Sciences*)

**Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the budget amendment moving \$8,007, of unspent funds in FY2013 from the University of Maryland Extension budget to the Commissioners' Emergency Reserve. Motion carried 5-0.**

3. **Department of Aging and Human Services** (*Peggy Maio, Fiscal Supervisor; Alice Allen, Senior Center Operations*)

**Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the third Revised NGA for the FY2013 Nutrition Service Incentive Program Grant Award, Project US1306, from the Maryland Department of Aging on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services, to provide meals to our seniors, in the amount of \$39,324, and the related budget amendment to increase the project budget by \$162. Motion carried 5-0.**

## PUBLIC FORUM

Commissioner Russell opened the Public Forum at 6:30 pm.

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

Elizabeth Combs, 43136 Joy Lane, Hollywood, MD 20636

- Concerned with the radon gas levels and the effect it has in St. Mary's County
- Every home should be radon-free
- Wants radon testing mandated with every home sale and every new home built – wants County to adopt a policy
- Calvert County passed such a law last year
- Financial impact on new home sales is about \$1,000
- Radon hazards Country-wide is measured at 4 picocuries per liter and the World Health Organization measurement is set at 2.2 picocuries per liter
- I have seen test results that show during winter months St. Mary's County has average levels of 14 p picocuries per liter which could explain the amount of lung and brain cancer in the County
- By requiring testing before you buy, you can mitigate it if radon is found
- St. Mary's County is unique as to where we have radon gas – the source of radon is at surface level – we walk on it
- Source is what some people call “iron ore” – it is the color of rust to sand and contains toxic heavy metal
- Uranium affects kidneys
- Thorium affects liver and bones
- Studies have shown a clear link between breathing high concentrations of radon and incidents of lung cancer – we have a lot of lung cancer here
- This is time of year to test (November – March) – you can use a professional or you can buy a do it yourself kit at Lowes

*Commissioner Russell asked if Ms. Combs had been in touch with Dr. Brewster, the Health Officer, and noted we will make sure to bring this to her attention and to the Department of Land Use and Growth Management and we will evaluate.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Russell closed the public forum and adjourned the Board of County Commissioners meeting at 6:45 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on \_\_\_\_\_

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Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)