

**JOINT PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY AND
THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION
ON THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS
Thursday, November 13, 2014**

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

Delegation Members Present: Delegate John F. Wood, Jr.
Delegate Anthony J. O'Donnell

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Russell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

The purpose of the Joint Public Meeting was to provide an opportunity for the Commissioners, the Delegation, and the public to hear presentations and provide comments on the 2015 Legislative Proposals. There were no legislative proposals received from the public. Mr. George Sparling, County Attorney, introduced the five legislative proposals requested by the Office of the County Attorney listed below:

1. Amendment that would authorize Commissioners to grant credit against the tax levied against real property owned by or dedicated to the use of community homeowner associations.
2. Amendment of various sections of the Local Government Article and repeal of Land Use Articles of Annotated Code that would provide clarity and facilitate effective enforcement of penalties for violations of ordinances in St. Mary's County, as well as provide adequate notice of penalties to citizens. The proposed legislation would repeal the five specific provisions and clarify the remaining general provision.
3. Amendment of Section 13-129 of the Local Government Article that would delete archaic limited enabling authority and substitute authority to adopt comprehensive animal control regulations.

4. Amendment of Chapter 93 of the St. Mary's County Code -- Property Maintenance Ordinance -- that would enable the County and property owner to agree on a course of action to be undertaken by the County and a plan for repayment by the owner to be secured by adding the expense incurred by the County to the real property tax levied against the property.
5. Amendment of Article 19 of the Public Laws of Maryland to provide for the imposition of personal liability on the principals of, or restricting renewal of a business license by, a business entity that fails to file a return or pay a tax required by the Code of St. Mary's County.

The Commissioners and Delegation provided comments on the proposals. No comments were received from the public.

In addition, Mr. Sparling advised that the Commissioners held a public hearing on proposed revision of the Code of St. Mary's County, Maryland on September 23, 2014. The proposed revision consists of obsolete, redundant, and legally inconsistent local laws and ordinances. There were no public comments during the hearing or the 10-day open comment period. The Delegation received a list of each proposed repeal with a narrative explaining the reason for each repeal. The repeal of the public local laws codified as Chapters 8, 19, 38, 43, 54, 61, 68, 71, 73, 77, 92, 106, 131, 133, 136 and 144 will be included in the legislative request for the 2015 session of the Maryland General Assembly to be forwarded to the St. Mary's County Delegation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on _____

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)