

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
Tuesday, January 17, 2006**

Present: Commissioner President Thomas F. McKay
Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe
Commissioner Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner Daniel H. Raley (*departed at lunch break*)
George G. Forrest, County Administrator
Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant (Recorder)

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 am.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of December 20, 2005. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of January 10, 2006, as corrected. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Check Register as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMENDATION

Present: Cindy Curtis, Jorge Scientific Corporation
Jan Butler, Jorge Scientific Corporation
Jennie Page, Acting Director, Office on Aging
Julie Van Orden, Office on Aging

The Commissioners presented a letter and commendation to Jorge Scientific Corporation for their generous contributions to the community during the holiday season and throughout the year.

SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Present: Marian Steinback, Supervisor of Instruction for Mathematics
Sharon Brown, Principal, Spring Ridge Middle School

Christine O'Day, Mathematics Instructional Resource Teacher
Sarah Daigle, Mathematics Teacher

Ms. Steinback described the Spring Ridge Middle School Integrated Mathematics Program and students worked individually with Commissioners to solve a math problem.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Draft agendas for January 24 and 31, 2006.
2. **Department of Public Works and Transportation** (*George Erichsen, Director*)
 - a. **Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to sign Resolution accepting into the County's highway maintenance system King James Parkway, South King James Parkway and Princess Court, located in Sections 3 and 4 of the St. James Subdivision, 1st Election District; and to sign Resolutions posting 25-mph speed limit and stop signs for said roads. Motion carried 5-0.**
 - b. **Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to sign Resolution accepting into the County's highway maintenance system Freedom Run Drive, Sorrell Drive, Festival Court, Olympia Court and Coronet Place, located in Section 4 of the Greenbrier Subdivision, 8th Election District; and to sign Resolutions posting a 25-mph speed limit and stop signs for said roads. Motion carried 5-0.**
 - c. **Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize Commissioner President to sign the Public Works Agreement for Greenway Street (548'), Branchwood Court (480'), Pine Cone Place (181'), and Shady Knoll Place (200') in the Greenbrier Subdivision, Section 3, located in the 8th Election District, with an expiration date of September 1, 2006. Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner President McKay asked Mr. Forrest to have Rick Tarr, Manager, Solid Waste Division, contact Joe Wood at the Farm Bureau to see how the County can help accommodate their plastic recycling needs.

3. **Department of Economic and Community Development and St. Mary's County Housing Authority**

(John Savich, Director, DECD; Dennis Nicholson, Exec. Director, SMCHA)

- a. **Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Agreements that will provide funding to St. Mary's**

County Dept. of Social Services, Angel's Watch, and Three Oaks for homeless prevention activities, and to sign the Subrecipient Agreements for Angel's Watch and the Three Oaks Center. Motion carried 5-0.

(John Savich, Director, DECD; Donna Sasscer, Agriculture Mgr.)

b. Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland that will allow the County to provide landowners a supplemental payment to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Program (MALPF) easement offer using tobacco funds from the Master Settlement Agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

UPDATED CONSOLIDATED PRIORITIES LIST FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT OF THE NAVY

Present: John Savich, Director, Dept. of Economic and Community Development
Todd Morgan, President, The Navy Alliance

Mr. Savich reported that the Department of Economic and Community Development has been working with the Economic Development Council to get input from community-based organizations about priorities that will support the County's major employer and the associated contractor community. He presented the following five major areas that community organizations believe are critical to the future success of the Navy, its contractors, and supporting businesses in St. Mary's County.

1. **Education.** Provide programs and technology for life-long learning by supporting a continuum of educational excellence from all-day kindergarten through higher education.
 - Construct three new elementary schools, one middle school and one high school by 2017. Secure planning approval for the first new elementary school.
 - Support the Science and Technology Academy partnership
 - Complete kindergarten additions at Piney Point and Town Creek Elementary Schools by 2007.
 - Complete new George Washington Carver Elementary outside the AICUZ by fall 2006.
 - Obtain construction funding to modernize and expand Leonardtown Elementary School and begin construction in fall 2006.
 - Complete expansion of the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center by April 2006. Expand programs to broaden life-long learning.

2. **Transportation.** Support continuous improvement of transportation infrastructure within the County and regionally for access to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station and effective cross-county travel for residents.
 - Complete improvements to MD Route 237, Chancellors Run Road
 - Continue to seek funding for Route 5 corridor improvements.
 - Seek funding for improvements to MD Route 235/4 intersection.

- Maintain support for construction of funded projects: Chancellor's Run Road expansion, 1.4 mile reconstruction of MD Route 246, and Hughesville Bypass.
 - Begin Pegg Road Extension NEPA study for alternative base access.
 - Explore funding opportunities and right-of-way acquisition for widening of MD Route 712 from Gate 3 to MD Route 235 for access to Navy and Maryland National Guard facilities.
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- Support initial steps to address long-range replacement or reconstruction of the Thomas Johnson Bridge.
 - Complete Environmental Assessment of county airport, proceed with identified infrastructure improvements.
- 3. Housing.** Continue to ensure an adequate supply of housing for all ranges of affordability that will serve new employees (e.g., for the Joint Strike Fighter and Presidential Helicopter programs) and the existing county workforce. Assist in the process of Navy housing privatization. Support increased homeownership opportunities.
- Extend authorization for impact fee waiver and deferral program.
 - Develop public/private partnerships to increase the supply and affordability of workforce housing
 - Develop funding sources to extend water and sewer service to enable development within development districts.
 - Support increased homeownership opportunities for households with modest incomes.
- 4. Lexington Park Revitalization.** Revitalize the physical and economic infrastructure of Lexington Park.
- Complete the Lexington Manor Redevelopment projects.
 - Proceed with Patuxent River Naval Air Museum.
 - Continue to implement the adopted Lexington Park Plan.
- 5. Quality of Life.** Employ local government regulations and investment to preserve rural character, enhance development districts, increase cultural opportunities and support economic growth and diversification.
- Support Leonardtown Priority Places activities and related development.
 - Implement the goals and objectives of the County's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan.
 - Secure state designation for new Mattapany rural legacy area.
 - Adopt revisions to Transferable Development Rights zoning provisions.
 - Support projects and initiatives developed under the Southern Maryland Heritage Tourism Management Plan whose objective is to preserve heritage resources while increasing the economic impact of Tourism.

Commissioner Raley asked that Mr. Erichsen advise the Board: (1) how long will a NEPA study take for Peggs Road extension and can other things be done on a parallel track; (2) and when will the environmental assessment for the airport be completed.

Commissioner Mattingly asked that public safety (such as the increased number of calls experienced by volunteer fire and rescue and the detention center issue) and solid waste needs be added under the Quality of Life section. Long-term strategies are needed to address all of these issues.

Commissioner Jarboe asked that support for alternative transportation options (other than cars), including pedestrian and bicycle use of County-owned right-of-way and long-term options for passenger rail, be added under the Transportation section.

Mr. Savich was asked to incorporate the recommendations of the Board into the list of priorities and bring it back to the Board for adoption at a future meeting.

Todd Morgan reported that the Navy Alliance will be concentrating on results of the U.S. Department of Defense Quadrennial Review that provides information on the policy, programs and direction the military is heading over the next four-six years. The Alliance is working on a business space diversification strategy that would bring into the community other branches of the military beyond naval aviation, as well as alternative industries.

Commissioner Mattingly asked that the Board support sending a letter to Verizon requesting that they consider rolling out their “fiber to the curb” expanded broadband service to St. Mary’s County and to request that the Tri County Council send a similar request to Verizon. (The Board agreed.)

LEXINGTON PARK DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PLAN AMENDMENT DISCUSSION

Present: Denis Canavan, Director, Land Use and Growth Management
Jeff Jackman, Senior Planner

Mr. Canavan presented for discussion an opportunity to reconcile differences between the Master Plan for the Lexington Park Development District (LPDD) and the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan (CWSP). Specifically, certain lands outside of the development District are categorized for service within six to ten years or within three to five years, and the CWSP limits the use of these categories to lands within growth areas designated by the Comprehensive Plan. At the Commissioners’ meeting of December 20, 2005, staff was directed to prepare amendments to the LPDD Master Plan to place the 55-acre school site inside the Development District and to remove the 192-acre Myrtle Point Park from the District. This initiative to amend the Master Plan is an opportunity to resolve the discrepancies between the LPDD Master Plan and the CWSP.

Commissioner Jarboe clarified that the intention of his motion on December 20th was specifically for school sites, not to open up the code for other options to be presented within that context.

Discussion took place about the need to keep the original intent of the previous motion intact, while taking steps to correct the discrepancies between the two plans.

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to direct staff to prepare an amendment regarding the four properties (Beavan, Portion of St. Mary's Crossing Subdivision, Portion of First Colony PUD, and Chancellor's Run Regional Park) cited in the January 13, 2006, memo from the Planning Director to the Lexington Park Development District Plan for consideration of the zoning of those four properties within the process for the Comprehensive Rezoning for the Development District and for consideration of the designation of water and sewer within the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan for those four properties. Motion carried 5-0.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: PROPOSED EXTENDED USE OF THE GREAT MILLS ANNEX

This item was postponed at the request of the presenters.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Commissioner Mattingly

Attended the investiture of Mike Stamm as Associate Judge of the Circuit Court. It was a very nice ceremony and the room was filled with folks wishing him well.

Attended the Farm Bureau's 2006 Legislative Dinner. It was a good meeting and they agreed to send over a written list of issues for County staff to follow up on.

Congratulations to the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary for another successful installation banquet and another year of great service to the community.

I will be attending the Tri County Council Annual Meeting tomorrow night in Annapolis, and with agreement from the rest of the Commissioners, I will propose that the TCC also send a letter to Verizon requesting expanded availability of broadband service throughout the area. *(The Commissioners agreed.)*

Commissioner Jarboe

I would like to extend condolences to Mary Bailey and family on the loss of Mary's husband. Glen was a fine friend who will be sorely missed. He was active on the Republican Central Committee, but was well-liked by everyone, regardless of party affiliation. He was always giving of himself and his time to others. *(Funeral services were announced).*

Commissioner Dement

Attended Grand Opening of new H & R Block at Hickory Hills Shopping Center and presented a County seal on behalf of the Board.

A majority of the Board was able to attend the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions Annual Meeting.

All of the Board members attended the Farm Bureau Banquet.

Attended the Mike Stamm investiture and reception.

Attended on behalf of the Board the retirement celebration for Bob Waxman who retired from Webster Field after 59 years of service.

Attended with the other Board members the Hollywood Fire Department and Auxiliary Installation of Officers Banquet.

Attended the second annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast at St. Mary's College.

Commissioner Raley

Nothing additional to report at this time.

Commissioner President McKay

Congratulations to Mike Stamm and his family. Mike is a former teacher and brings a vast knowledge and perspective to the job. He will be a great addition to the bench.

I also want to extend my condolences to the Bailey family on their loss.

Commissioner Raley was not present for the remainder of the meeting.

COMMISSION ON AGING: REPORT OF THE SENIOR SURVEY RESULTS FORUM

Present: Mary Ruth Horton,
Pat Myers
Daniel Hines

Ms. Horton and Ms. Myers provided the Board with an overview of the process and results of a survey developed by the Commission on Aging to determine the senior citizen community's major issues of concern.

A Commission on Aging Senior Survey Results Forum Committee was established to conduct a forum for those who filled out the survey to provide answers and informational materials for each issue, to identify concerns that needed further attention, and to develop an action agenda and timeline. The priority issues identified as a result of the survey were: property tax relief (acknowledged as being addressed by the Board's authorization of a senior property tax credit); health care resources; crime and personal security and identity theft; and assisted and independent living housing.

Future actions include: schedule additional forums and seminars; revitalize TRIAD; increase effectiveness of the Neighborhood Watch Program and neighborhood patrols; and develop methods for additional public relations about existing programs, such as "Hello, Are you OK?", Project Lifesaver, and Scam Alerts; presentations on Emergency Preparedness for Disasters; and development of a list of handicapped persons and those senior citizens who live alone so they can be notified and assisted in an emergency.

Mr. Forrest will ask the Public Safety Director to work with the Commission on Aging and Commission on Persons with Disabilities to develop a list of phone numbers of handicapped and seniors living alone so that they, and perhaps a support person/neighbor, can be contacted in an emergency through the code red notification system.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Minutes approved by the Board of County Commissioners on _____

Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant