

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Governmental Center
Tuesday, May 13, 2003

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER

Commissioner Raley moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to authorize Commissioner McKay to sign the Check Register. Motion carried. Commissioner McKay abstained.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Dement moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, May 6, 2003, as amended. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS:

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK MAY 18-24

Stanley Williams, Deputy Director, EMA, introduced rescue squad members Donna White, VP, Leonardtown; Dale Ford, Chief, Lexington Park; Bob Arnold, 7th Dist. Assistant Chief; Harry Kohler, Chief, Valley Lee; Tommy Dean, VP, Hollywood; and Winnie Sullivan, Chief, ALS Unit – who are only a few of the distinguished volunteers in emergency medical service. Last week at the Shock Trauma gala held in Baltimore, two accident events were highlighted, including one that took place in Hollywood. The life saving techniques performed by rescue squads, the medivac crew, and trauma team were recognized by the families of the accident victims and the State of Maryland.

NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK MAY 11-17

Present: Marilyn Watson, Activity Director
Mary Courtney, Rehab
Henrietta Long, Resident, 103 years old

“Special Care for Special People” is the theme of Nursing Week and many special activities will be taking place at the nursing center all week long.

DECD, TOURISM DIVISION: NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

Present: Carolyn Laray, Tourist Manager

Ms. Laray introduced industry representatives and special guests, St. Mary’s County charter boat captains. Tourism is an \$8.5 billion industry in Maryland and contributes \$709 million to state and local tax coffers. In 2001, in St. Mary’s County, tourists spent \$50 million; industry payroll is nearly \$18 million. In 2002, hotel tax revenues increased by 3.2% while and sites and attraction attendance was up 4%. Tourists who call/write in asking for information (“fulfillment”) is up 45%. Many new tourism activities will be initiated during this season. Trends for the future include heritage tourism, web marketing, and the continued need to invest in infrastructure (hotels, welcome centers, and scenic byways).

A true success story is the charter boat industry. According to Captain Bowes, St. Mary’s County has: 55 captains operating 50 boats with a 600 passenger capacity, 370 customers per day in season, and 40 runs per captain per season totaling 15,000 customers. Out-of-towners represent 70% of the customer base and each customer spends about \$145 per day; lodge in 5,250 hotel rooms, and eat 21,000 meals. Total revenue generated by local and out-of-towners is almost \$2 million per year from charter boat fishing.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

Present: Cynthia Brown, Director

The OCS is investigating the possibility of running the SOSAR camps for five instead of six weeks in order to reduce costs. Reliable figures will be available by May 15, 2003. The most successful endeavor over the past year was the camp at St. Peter’s which was a community based effort. The biggest challenge is always funding. Being grant-dependent creates problems on planning, budgetary, and functional levels. Commissioner McKay recommended program successes will continue to be dependent on faith and public/private based partnerships.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Present: Phil Cooper, Director, Emergency Communications

Two local communication specialists, Mark Pettit and Tim Pennington, received “Telecommunicator of the Year Awards” from APCA. Challenges for Emergency Management continue to be staffing and budgetary constraints. Two communications specialists will retire this summer and another is relocating. There is a pool of temporary part-time staff and an eligibility list to refer to that may provide some relief.

Grants may be available from Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness to address early warning devices. Accreditation for Emergency Communications is ongoing. Biohazard terrorist maintenance and training on equipment is underway. The Board will be invited to a demonstration in the near future.

OFFICE ON AGING MONTHLY REPORT

Present: Gene Carter, Director

Progress is being made in planning and zoning on the site plan for the Northern Senior Center. Traffic concerns are being addressed while the project moves forward. Anticipate breaking ground in early June. Challenges for OOA include staffing and reorganization efforts. A plan for reorganization has been submitted to Human Resources for approval July 1. Home and community based services represent a shift away from the focus on senior centers and nutrition. The new emphasis is providing services in the home and community to reduce the need for expensive nursing homes and support services. The OOA has been working with a small group, including the Commission on Aging Chair, to design a needs assessment study for St. Mary’s County’s aging population that could be funded by the Enterprise Fund.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Present: George G. Forrest, Interim County Administrator

1. Draft Agendas: May 20, and 27, 2003
2. Grant Applications/Agreements
 - a. Office on Aging (*Gene Carter, Director; Jennie Page, Deputy*)
To approve and authorize Commissioner President to sign Notification of Grant Award for Title III’s Older American’s Act Program. Award for Title III’s is recent increase awarded State of Md. by Federal Government (Fed: \$219,734, net increase of \$2,184)

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to authorize Commissioner McKay to sign the notification of grant award for Title III’s Older American’s Act Program and related budget amendment. Motion carried.

- b. Walden/Sierra, Inc. (*Gary Lynch*)
 - (i) To approve and authorize Commissioner President to sign the Victims of Crime Assistance Program funding application for FY04-06 and appropriate forms. No county match required.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize Commissioner McKay to sign the funding application and appropriate forms. Motion carried.

3. Budget Amendments

- a. Human Resources Department (*Randy Schultz, Director*)
To approve and authorize Comm. President to sign Budget Amendment to realign funds within HR to cover shortfalls within the Risk Management budget due to increased premiums. (\$11,285)

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to sign the budget amendment to cover shortfalls within the Risk Management budget due to increased premiums. Motion carried.

- b. Office of Community Services (*Kelsey Bush, Youth Coordinator*)
To approve and authorize Comm. President to sign Budget Amendment to realign unexpected revenue collected through contributions and donations to cover Teen Court expenses (\$504)

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to authorize Commissioner McKay to sign the budget amendment for Teen Court. Motion carried.

- c. Office of Community Services (*Cynthia Brown, Director*)
To approve and authorize Comm. President to sign Budget Amendment to increase program expense line accounts with funds collected for Human Relations Commission breakfast.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to authorize Commissioner McKay to sign the budget amendment. Motion carried.

- 4. DECD (*John Savich, Director; Donna Sasscer, Agriculture Manager and Ag. Land Preservation Advisory Board*)
To authorize staff to proceed with a public hearing to amend Ordinance 97-34.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to authorize staff to proceed with the public hearing. Motion carried.

5. Approve and Sign Employment Contract: Denis D. Canavan, Director of Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Mattingly, to approve and authorize Commissioner President McKay to sign the employment contract for Denis D. Canavan. Motion carried.

The Board directed staff to ensure that the Board of County Commissioners is involved in the review process at the conclusion of the 6 months probationary period. This policy will be discussed with the County Administrator as one of the expectations of his/her position and should be included in the revised personnel manual.

LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY AND MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DECEASED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The Commissioners attended this event held on the grounds of the governmental center.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Present: Teresa Wilson, Historic Preservation Planner

The following nominees were recognized and their achievements honored:

Elizabeth Harman, Sotterley Volunteer

Joseph W. and Mary C. Wood for their Corn Maze.

Lizette Day, Sotterley Volunteer

Dennis Kavadias for developing the Trinity Church Cemetery database.

Edward Lawrence for maintaining Tudor Hall and its gardens.

Tommy and Tina Bowles for their Corn Maze.

Martin Sullivan for the sheltering and stabilization of the St. John's Archaeological Site.

Patuxent River Cultural Resources Group for the restoration of Point Lookout Light Station.

Silas Hurry, Don Winter, Dorsey Bodeman, Mary Alves, Susan Zickel for their work at

Historic St. Mary's City.

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions in partnership with SMCM and

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum Exhibit Services, for "Remember the Past, Look

to the Future: African American Schools During a Century of Segregation" exhibit.

All Faith Episcopal Parish for restoring their building to its original colonial appearance.

Bill Schmalgemeyer for building a display model of the Sotterley Plantation.

REVISED CRITICAL AREA PROGRAM PROVISIONS

Present: Sue Veith, Environmental Planner
John Norris, County Attorney

Ms. Veith requested the Board sign the letter addressed to Mr. Madden, Chair, CCBCAC, requesting their approval of the Critical Area Zoning Amendments, Map Changes, and Buffer Management Overlay (Items 1, 16, 15 and 21).

The Commissioners elected in November 2002 (Dement, Jarboe, and McKay) certified that they had reviewed the video tapes of the public hearing on these issues held prior to their election.

Commissioner Mattingly moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to (1) approve and sign the letter to CCBCAC, (2) approve the CZO provisions that implement the CCBCAC conditions of approval, including requested amendments and clarifications as noted by legal and planning staff, and (3) review and approve adoption of the Ordinance that repeals ZO 90-11 Chapter 38.02 and associated maps and to adopt the CZO provisions of the CAC program and revise the CAC maps. Motion carried.

WICOMICO SHORES GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE PROJECT

Present: Phil Rollins, Director Rec & Parks
Pat Meyers, Golf Course Manager
Richard Rohrbaugh, Director Facilities
Gary Whipple, Project Manager

In response to the public hearing, Mr. Rollins presented a proposal to renovate and expand the grill area and banquet room, cover the deck, and add a sliding partition to open up the area. The architect would charge \$5,000 to revise the current plans to accommodate these revisions. The cost to produce a basic schematic plan for renovating the clubhouse would take 4-6 weeks and cost approximately \$18,000. Commissioner McKay suggested that in lieu of spending those funds now, an in-house task force could be formed to provide the Board with a scope of work to do a renovation.

Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Dement, to form an in-house task force that will develop a scope-of-work to renovate the Wicomico Golf Clubhouse and prepare a proposal on how to move the project forward within 30 days. The task force will consist of the following individuals: Phil Rollins (Chairman), George Erichsen, Gary Whipple, Richard Rohrbaugh, Pat Meyers, Lynn Brady, Bob Harper, and two building contractors from the community. Commissioner Mattingly voted against this motion. Motion 4 to 1.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME

Commissioner Raley

- Apologize to the 7th District fire department for not being able to attend Bonnie Quade's installation as President of the Southern Maryland Auxiliary. Congratulations, Bonnie.
- Congratulations to the Burch family for celebrating Burch Oil's 75th year of operation.
- With Commissioners Dement and McKay, attended the dedication of the Lexington Park Elementary School. Congratulations to Principal Elfreda Mathis.
- Congratulations to Pax River and the Board of Ed for the award presented to them by Admiral Weaver.
- Congratulations to County staff members whose courage and integrity were shown on May 7 during the tornado warnings. The county is very lucky to have these professionals in the Emergency Control Center.

Commissioner Dement

- Attended the Piney Point Lighthouse celebration, the Burch Oil celebration, the Lexington Park Elementary School dedication, and the 7th District fire department installation banquet.

Commissioner Mattingly

- Apologize to Lexington Park Elementary staff for not being able to attend their dedication.
- Congratulations to Burch Oil.
- Congratulations to Millie Husesman, the outgoing President, and to Bonnie Quade, incoming President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association.
- Congratulations to the Chamber of Commerce on their business showcase held at the SMHEC.
- Attended the College of Southern Maryland Foundation meeting to discuss fundraising efforts. They hope businesses in the community will sponsor labs and classrooms. One donation of \$25,000 was given for a classroom.
- On May 16, Southern Maryland Works Conference will be held in the Solomons at the Holiday Inn.

Commissioner Jarboe

- Richard Mowry Jr., has written letters regarding subdividing his property. *Request staff respond to his letter and advise the Board of others who might have the same problem.*

Commissioner McKay

- *Staff was directed to respond to Nick Gibson's request.*
- Congratulations Bonnie Quade and Millie Husesman. Unfortunately, had to be in the Emergency Control Center for the evening during the tornadoes and missed the installation event. Emergency staff handled the calls and concerns professionally. There was some miscommunication with the radio and TV stations but that will be remedied.

CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME

The Commissioners traveled to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home where they received a briefing from Veterans Home staff.

PUBLIC MEETING (Charlotte Hall Veterans Home)

Board Appointees

Commissioner President McKay introduced two new appointees to the Nursing Center Governance Board: Julie Dahlke and Mary Pat Pope.

Status of the Northern Senior Center Project

Richard Rohrbaugh, Director of Facilities Management, and Gary Whipple, Project Manager, provided a brief overview of the Northern Senior Center project. Citizens

asked questions and expressed concerns about the timeline for the project and traffic safety issues regarding the proposed entrance to the center.

Public Comments

Patty Poffenbarger, 29571 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, MD

What other projects are planned for the remaining acreage at the Northern Senior Center site? How will additional projects be accessed? What is the fire hydrant on the Senior Center plans hooked in to? What is the cost of running a water line if needed? Why are signs the size of billboards placed in front of the Quade's home? What is the status of the proposed hiker/biker trail? Concerned that railroad right of way is only 20' from my yard. Concerned about possible light rail. What can you do to solve the traffic problem on Charlotte Hall Road?

Mary Wood, 23250 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD, SMC Library Director

St. Mary's County Memorial Library is requesting once again a solution to on going and worsening problems in the Charlotte Hall Library's parking lot. Problems are closely related to the presence of the Farmer's Market and the fact that the library is a central meeting place for tri-county groups and agencies. Have made several attempts in the past to communicate and address congestion in the parking lot and have made suggestions that would help with traffic flow and provide short-term parking for library patrons. Need your help to get more parking space and a better traffic plan for the Charlotte Hall Library parking lot.

Margaret Reingruber, 37600 New Market Road, Charlotte Hall, MD, Branch Manager, Charlotte Hall Library

Charlotte Hall Library has grown in usage, Farmer's Market is thriving, but the overcrowded parking lot situation remains the same. There is inadequate meeting room and parking space. Summer programs often have to be scheduled off-site. Please correct traffic flow and add parking spaces.

Marcelle Prewitt, Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, MD

Extremely concerned about traffic residents already have to deal with on Charlotte Hall Road and what the future will bring with the addition of more building projects. We must already deal with a large amount of commercial traffic and excessive speeding on a road that was not meant to accommodate this kind of traffic. Our property values are going to go down. The traffic study numbers do not add up. We would like to see our unique historical area preserved.

Tom Quade, Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, MD

Live next to the Northern Senior Center site. Do not agree with traffic study results. Large commercial vehicles travel at high rates of speed and take up two lanes. Vehicles are using Charlotte Hall Road to bypass congestion on Rt. 5. Speed limit signs will not slow people down. The Northern Senior Center entrance should not be placed where you have proposed. There is too much congestion with four driveways coming together. The entrance should be placed on Rt. 6.

Edward Munger

Use the Charlotte Hall Library several days a week. I have multiple sclerosis and most of the time the 3 handicapped parking spaces are filled and I have to park a long distance away. I would not be able to traverse a gravel or stone parking area. Please consider using asphalt or concrete if the parking lot is extended.

John Kilroy

Revisit discussions with Veterans Home to get right of way behind the Veteran's home to access Northern Senior Center

Bill Poffenbarger, Charlotte Hall, MD

Concerned that Charlotte Hall is getting the short shrift. This is a national, regional historic district. 5-6 historic homes have been torn down. Concerned about possibility of light rail. This area needs to be saved. It is not safe to walk the roads now. The proposed entrance to the Northern Senior Center is a blind entrance where people speed by at 70-80 mph. Someone is going to get killed.

James Lynch, Golden Beach

Why are people so concerned about the Northern Senior Center? This is not a commercial activity. It won't make the current situation worse. We expect 160 additional cars per day on a staggered basis. We think the Center will be a plus for the neighborhood.

Jean Adams, Charlotte Hall

I am not opposed to Senior Citizens. Concerned about traffic issues and the change from a quiet historic area. Have the right to express my concerns.

The public meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**Minutes Approved by the
Board of County Commissioners on _____**

**Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant
to the Board of County Commissioners**