

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, April 22, 2025)

Generated by Julie Burch on Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy

Commissioner Eric S. Colvin

Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt

Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.

Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow

David Weiskopf, County Administrator

Jenna Guzman, Communications Director, Public Information Office

Julie Burch, Recorder

Commissioner President Guy called the meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

Approval of Consent Agenda

I move to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Minutes of April 8, 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr., second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

2. PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamations were presented for:

- A. Administrative Professionals' Day
- B. National County Government Month
- C. After-school Professionals' Appreciation Week
- D. Earth Day
- E. Sexual Assault Awareness Month

3. FORREST CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER APPRENTICE RECOGNITION

Commendations were presented to:

Bryce Burch, Help Desk Tech Apprentice

Cole Horner, Equipment Mechanic Apprentice

John Lang, Engineer Tech Apprentice

4. ST. MARY'S METROPOLITAN COMMISSION PRESENTATION

A. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - ST. MARY'S METROPOLITAN COMMISSION -
Review of FY2026 Capital Improvement Budget and FY2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan

Present: George Erichsen, Executive Director
Patricia Stigman, Chief Financial Officer

A review of the proposed FY 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan was given.

5. MAIN AGENDA

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Real Property - DECISION on Disposition of
Surplus County-owned real property

MOTION 1: I move to approve the disposition of 41 parcels of surplus real property no longer needed for public purpose.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

MOTION 2: I move to authorize the County Attorney's Office to sell 40 parcels of surplus real property with a sales price totaling the real property taxes paid at the time of tax sale and legal fees incurred through tax sale foreclosures, paid by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, and authorize the Commissioner President to sign all related documents for each sale.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

MOTION 3: I move to authorize the County Attorney's Office to sell the surplus real property, known as 45095 Blackwell Court, Piney Point, MD, with a real estate agent, and authorize the Commissioner President to sign all related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

6. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR APRIL 29 AND MAY 6, 2025.

B. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - FFY2026 Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement (CRA) for Child Support

I move to approve the FFY2026 Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement and budget documents for the Child Support Grant from the Maryland Department of Human Services in the amount of \$519,536 Federal and \$315,432 County funds; and authorize the Commissioner President and Sheriff to execute the related documents and staff to submit.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

C. STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE- Reorganization of Positions

I move to approve the State's Attorney's Office's request to convert three positions to create the following three positions: Deputy State's Attorney, Chief of Staff, and Communications Coordinator.

Motion by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

D. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - Approve Employment Contract

I move to authorize the Commissioner President to sign the renewal employment contract for the Golf Course Manager with terms and conditions as indicated.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

7. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events over the past week and provided general comments.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

I move to enter into closed session to discuss Real Property and Legal Advice.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr., second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

8. CLOSED SESSION

A. REAL PROPERTY

Present: James R. Guy, Commissioner President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator
Raymond Bivens, Director, Recreation and Parks
Tracy Rohan, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(6) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 11:03 a.m. - 11:15a.m.

Purpose: to hold preliminary discussions concerning the purchase or disposition of real property

B. LEGAL ADVICE

Present: James R. Guy, Commissioner President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator
John Houser, Deputy County Attorney
Tracy Rohan, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(12) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 11:16 a.m. - 11:32 a.m.

Purpose: to discuss strategy in collective bargaining or litigation

C. LEGAL ADVICE

Present: James R. Guy, Commissioner President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator
Buffy Giddens, County Attorney
Vanetta Van Cleave, Chief Financial Officer
Gary Whipple, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works and Transportation
Tracy Rohan, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(12) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland
Time Held: 11:34 a.m. - 11:58 a.m.
Purpose: to discuss strategy in collective bargaining or litigation

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.
Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on April 29, 2025.
____JB_____
Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator

10. PUBLIC HEARING

Members Present

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Eric S. Colvin
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
Vanetta Van Cleave, Chief Financial Officer
Jenna Guzman, Communications Director, Public Information Office
Tracy Rohan, Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners
Julie Burch, Administrative Coordinator to the Commissioners
Amy Carter, Video Media Producer, Public Information Office

David Weiskopf, County Administrator, opened the FY2025 Recommended Budget Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. in the Leonardtown High School Auditorium. Mr. Weiskopf introduced Commissioner President Guy, who introduced the other Commissioners, Staff, and provided opening remarks.

Ms. Van Cleave noted there would be six public hearings tonight: Department of Emergency Services – Establish an Active Volunteer Fire Fighting and Rescue Squad Response Rewards Program in St. Mary's County; Department of Finance – Increasing Hollywood VRS tax to .030; Department of Finance – Increasing Leonardtown VRS Tax to .030; St. Mary's County Health Department – Public Hearing on the proposed revisions to the Environmental Health Fee Schedule; St. Mary's County Fees and Charges; FY2026 Recommended Budget.

She presented an overview of the \$348 million FY2026 Recommended Budget, highlighting Revenue Sources and General Fund Expenditures. There will be no change for the Property Tax Rate or the Income Tax Rate. Funding for the Board of Education is \$134 million and the Sheriff's Office \$72.9 million. Funding for County Departments is \$87 million. County funding includes: County Fees and Charges for Department of Emergency Services Animal Control Division; Department of Public Works and Transportation – Solid Waste Service Fees; Department of Recreation and Parks – Special Events Fee Charges, School Age Care and Camp

Increases, Sports Program Increases, Additional fees at Chancellors Activity Center and Wicomico Shores Riverview Restaurant; 5.5 positions were added to county departments. A one-step merit increases on the anniversary date for Regular and Regular Part-Time employees, a 1% COLA, and a 3.66% market increase for county merit scale employees on July 1, 2025.

Mr. Weiskopf moderated the following six public hearings.

A. Department of Emergency Services – Establish an Active Volunteer Fire Fighting and Rescue Squad Response Rewards Program in St. Mary’s County

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 6:49 p.m.

Three citizens gave public comments.

The public hearing closed at 6:56 p.m.

B. Department of Finance – Increasing Hollywood VRS tax to .030

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 6:56 p.m.

No public comment given.

The public hearing closed at 6:57 p.m.

C. Department of Finance – Increasing Leonardtown VRS Tax to .030

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 6:57 p.m.

Two citizens gave public comments.

The public hearing closed at 6:58 p.m.

D. St. Mary’s County Health Department – Public Hearing on the proposed revisions to the Environmental Health Fee Schedule

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 6:58 p.m.

No public comment given.

The public hearing closed at 6:58 p.m.

E. St. Mary's County Fees and Charges

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 6:58 p.m.

One citizen gave public comment.

The public hearing closed at 7:00 p.m.

F. FY2026 Recommended Budget

Mr. Weiskopf opened the public hearing for public comments at 7:01 p.m.

Forty-seven citizens gave public comments.

The public hearing closed at 9:13 p.m.

Commissioner President Guy thanked citizens for attending the meeting and stated that the comment period would remain open until April 29, 2025. Comments should be mailed to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650, or emailed to: csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov. Commissioner President Guy closed the FY 2026 Recommended Budget Public Hearing at 9:17 p.m.