

# Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes(Tuesday, March 24, 2015)

Generated by Sharon Ferris on Tuesday, March 24, 2015

## Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy  
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt  
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan  
Commissioner John E. O'Connor  
County Administrator, Dr. Rebecca Bridgett  
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

**Absent:** Commissioner Tom Jarboe

## 1. RECEPTION FOR SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS AND PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD RECIPIENTS AND NOMINEES

Commissioner President Guy called the meeting to order at 9:00 am in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

### Approval of Minutes

I move to approve the minutes of March 17, 2015, as presented.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

## 2. RECOGNITIONS

### Employee Service Awards

#### 10 Years

Robert K. Raley; Douglas C. Benfield; Rebecca E. George; Susan L. McCauley; Darlene L. Stalcup; Tiffany M. Richards; Margaret M. Baroniak; Angela M. Delozier; Joseph P. Young; Jeffrey A. Reed; Angelique L. Cathcart; Deborah L. Lynch; Debra L. Pence; Anthony A. Whipkey; Oliver D. Stewart; Shawn M. Cathcart; Nino V. Palermo; Timothy D. White; Shawn L. Moses; and, Shaun C. Carberry

#### 15 Years

Linda J. Grove; Denise B. Cargill; Wanda J. Lathroum; Rosalea D. Arnold; John F. Gray; John R. Lyon; Thomas L. VanCleaf; Scott J. Raley; Desiree A. Ridgell; Shelia M. Smith; Janice C. Blackstone; Robert C. Merritt; Donna Jo. Eckler; John C. Bowman; Howard G. Kennedy; Zane O. Rettstatt; Christina E. Barbour; Clayton O. Safford; Richard B. Deml; Douglas M. Harris; Barbara G. Rivera; Krista J. Morazes-Cook; Thomas A. Hedderich; Margatret A. Smolarsky; William D. Ray; and, Patrick Handy

**20 Years**

Frances L. Bowles; Dennis L. Wolcott; Sue Veith; Theodore P. Weiner; Cara D. Grumbles; Andrew I. Holton; Michael W. Butler; James M. Wallace; William Dillow; Dorothy L. Quade; Daniel D. Alioto; and, Steven A. Hall

**25 Years**

Cynthia A. Brown; Anna E. McElfresh; George L. Spalding; Joseph B. Abell; William H. Mattingly; Mary K. Bailey; Joan M. Simmons; Terry D. Cutchember; Robert VanKirk; Joseph D. Bean; Donna L. Sweeney; Robert E. Oliver; Crystal A. Hayden; Theodore A. Belleavoine; Julian G. Schwab; Mary Ann Thompson; Cynthia R. Dyson; Lucy L. St.Clair; and, Louis W. Mileto

**30 Years**

Joseph D. Clarke; William B. Buckler; James S. Gass; Glenn A. Norris; Francis C. Copsey; Wayne L. Herbert; Kenneth V. Sothoron; Michael Merican; John S. Hewitt; and, Joseph E. Payne

**35 Years**

Philip J. Shire

**People's Choice Awards**

Anthony Hardesty; Georgia Belleavoine; James Mattingly IV; Brian Hartz; Leigh Keyes; Anna McElfresh; Tamara Hildebrandt; Margie Boarman; Tory DiGregorio; Karen Gates; and, Mary Ann Thompson

**3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**A. Draft Agenda for March 31, 2015. There will be no meeting April 7, 2015.**

**B. BOARD OF EDUCATION - Quality Teacher Incentive Grants**

I move the Commissioners of St. Mary's County approve and authorize St. Mary's County Public Schools to execute the Quality Teacher Incentive Stipend Grant Assurances in the amount of \$625,500 for FY2015, and increase the FY2015 Unrestricted Fund Revenue and the Instructional Salaries-Stipend budget as approved by the Board of Education on March 11, 2015; and I move the Commissioners of St. Mary's County sign the Letter to the Board of Education, indicating approval of same.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**C. DEPT. OF AGING AND HUMAN SERVICES - Final Notification of Grant Award for FY2015 Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)**

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) Grant Acceptance, project US1514, from the Maryland Department of Aging to provide counseling, education, and outreach to

assist Medicare beneficiaries in the amount of \$13,518 and the related budget amendment to increase the grant funds by \$822 in accordance with the award and return \$679 to the Commissioners' Emergency Reserve.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

#### **D. DEPT. OF AGING AND HUMAN SERVICES - Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of DataLink**

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of DataLink.

Motion by Commissioner John E.. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Todd B Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

#### **E. DEPT. OF AGING AND HUMAN SERVICES - FY16 Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Grant Narrative and Budget Award Documents**

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the FY2016 Behavioral Health Administration Grant Narrative and budget award documents related to project numbers MD1659, 1689, 1697, 1698, US1623, and 1655 from the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Services in the amount of \$3,746,369.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

#### **F. DEPT. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Release of Agriculture Land Preservation Agreement for Vallandingham Farms, LLC**

I move to authorize the Commissioner President to execute the Release of the St. Mary's County Agricultural Land Preservation Agreement with Vallandingham Farms, LLC dated June 19, 2013.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

#### **G. COUNTY ATTORNEY - Delegation of Public Hearings on Amendments to the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Water & Sewer Plan**

**This item was postponed.**

### **4. MAIN AGENDA ACTION ITEM**

#### **A. COUNTY ATTORNEY - Re-conveyance of Extension of Barbet Drive**

**Present:** George Sparling, County Attorney

A public hearing was held on March 10, 2015, with no public comments received at the meeting or during the subsequent open comment period. Approval of Broad Creek Subdivision required the construction of Barbet Drive as a second means of ingress/egress. In September 2007 a deed transferred the property from the Dean Partnership, LLC to the Board of County Commissioners to construct the extension; however, requirements changed and the extension of Barbet Drive was not needed. The County received a letter from Mr. Dean requesting reconveyance of the property.

I move that the Commissioner President be authorized to execute the deed re-conveying to Dean Partnership, LLP the land deeded to St. Mary's County for an extension of Barbet Drive.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

## **5. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT:** Local Amendment to implement State amendments to the Forest Conservation Act: involving text amendments to Chapter 75, Forest Conservation; and Chapter 90, Definitions of St. Mary's County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO).

**Present:** Phil Shire, Director  
Bob Bowles, Planner IV

Notice of public hearing was posted in the Enterprise Newspaper on March 6 and 13, 2015. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 24, 2015, and recommended approval of the proposed text amendment to the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. Changes to Article 7, Chapter 75, are to add: an exemption for stream restoration projects with a binding agreement of five years with the effected property owner; an exemption for maintenance or retrofitting stormwater management structures within the original limits of disturbance; RL-T zoning to existing schedules tables; and to add to the Forest Conversation Fund ability to finance for the prevention of and response to forest health emergencies caused by acts of nature. Change to Article 9, Chapter 90, is: under Forest Related Terms, add the definition of a Stream Restoration Project. The proposed changes will bring the local ordinance in compliance with the 2013 amended State Forest Conservation Act.

*Commissioner Hewitt said he had heard that RL-T zoning may be going away. Mr. Shire responded that this is the case in some areas.*

*Commissioner Morgan asked if any of these changes were going to affect the tax payers. Mr. Shire responded that there is no impact unless a stream is running through the property and restoration is needed.*

Commissioner Guy opened the hearing for public comment. There were no public comments. Commissioner Guy stated the record would be left open for an additional ten days to receive public comments on this matter and closed the public hearing at 10:37 am.

## **6. MAIN AGENDA ACTION ITEMS**

**A. DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT:** Request for Critical Area Growth Allocation per Article 4, Chapter 285 of the Code of St. Mary's County (LUGM Case File #12-245-001)

**Present:** Phil Shire, Director

A public hearing was held on March 10, 2015. Testimony was received from two individuals at the hearing; both in support of the request. No additional comments were received during the open comment period. This amendment to the critical Area Overlay Map 58 will allow 6.1 acres on Snow Hill Manner Farm, Inc. to be used for a new septic system and encompass 3 existing septic systems.

I move that the amendment of zoning map 58 be adopted as proposed.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioner President James R Guy, Commissioner Michael L Hewitt, Commissioner Todd B Morgan, Commissioner John E O'Connor

**B. DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT:** Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan, amendment of water service category for McCauley property 29626 Charlotte Hall Road (LUGM case file #14-200-004)

**Present:** Phil Shire, Director

A public hearing was held on March 10, 2015. There was no public testimony received at the hearing or during the 10-day open record period. This amendment will allow owners of the property at 29626 Charlotte Hall Road to connect to the existing public water system running along Charlotte Hall Road.

I move that the amendment to the CWSP Water Service category be adopted as proposed.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

## **7. COMMISSIONERS TIME**

The Commissioners highlighted events of the past week and upcoming events.

## **6. MAIN ACTION ITEM (CONT'D)**

**C. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE: Final Approval of Recommended FY 2016 Budget to take to Public Hearing on April 14, 2015**

**Present:** Jeanette Cudmore, Deputy Director

Ms. Cudmore provided highlights of the recommended FY2016 budget. The Property Tax Rate remains at \$.856 per \$100 assessed value. Local income tax rate remains at 3% of net taxable income. Other local taxes increased by 3.4%. Highway User revenue is a formula distribution by the State of motor fuel and vehicle titling, taxes and registration fees, which has been drastically reduced as a part of the State budget balancing in the last few years. Charges for Services revenue is projected to decrease from the 2015 budget. State and Federal Grants are projected to be 17.8% lower in FY16 than FY15. The June 30, 2014, audit reflects an unassigned general fund balance of \$22,872,005 and the FY16 Budget uses \$5,111,175, with the remaining \$17,760,830 not specified at this time.

County employees will receive a one-step/merit increase; combined with cost for the Sheriff and corrections the cost is \$688,000. The implementation of the Classification/Compensation study was approved for a cost of \$336,000. County employees will be placed on a new pay scale and employees who were classified at a higher grade will receive a 2.5% increase. Rates for Health Insurance increased by 11% and pension rates are slightly lower, so there is a combined increase of approximately \$1.1 million. Rates were decreased for Workers Compensation in FY2015 and the full year reduction in FY2016 is approximately \$700,000. There are 13 FTE positions included in the budget -- 11 for the Sheriff's Office and 2 for the State's Attorney's Office. There is an increase in funding for the Board of Elections, the Library, and the Board of Education. County funding for non-profits remained the same. The Patuxent River Naval Air Museum Association is being funded \$130,000 in FY2015 from the County's fund balance. The recommended General Fund budget is \$221,114,974, which is .3% more than the approved budget in FY2015.

*The Commissioners encouraged the public to attend the Public Hearing for the Proposed FY2016 Budget on April 14, 2015, at 6:30 pm, Great Mills High School and voice their opinions/concerns.*

I move that we approve the FY2016 Recommended Budget, as presented, to take to public hearing at Great Mills High School on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, and that we sign the "Recommended Estimate of Revenues and Appropriations" evidencing our approval.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B Morgan, second by Commissioner John E O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

I move that we approve the submission and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the Maryland State Department of Education excludable costs forms as well as the Commissioners sign the letter transmitting the forms to MSDE.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt

Final Resolution: Motion carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

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

---

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator