

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, April 14, 2015)

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Members present

Commissioner Michael L Hewitt

Commissioner Tom Jarboe

Commissioner Todd B Morgan

Commissioner John E O'Connor

Absent: Commissioner James R. Guy

1. WELCOME

Approval of Minutes

I move to approve the minutes of March 31, 2015 as presented or amended.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

2. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR APRIL 21 AND 28, 2015

B. CIRCUIT COURT - Highway Safety Adult Drug Court Grant Award, Sub-Recipient Agreement

I move to approve the Sub-recipient Agreement between the County and Step N 2 Recovery Services, LLC in the amount of \$7,719 and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the related document.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Hewitt, Jarboe, Commissioner Todd B Morgan, Commissioner John E O'Connor

C. DEPT. OF AGING AND HUMAN SERVICES - Governor's Office for Children - Community Partnership Agreement for Fiscal Year 2015 Local Management Board (LMB)

I move to (1) authorize the County LMB Chair and Departmental Staff to execute the FY2015 Community Partnership Agreement (CPA) Appendices A & B, (2) approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the FY2015 Community Partnership Agreement for project numbers MD1560, 1561, 1562, 1565, 1566, 1567 and 1588, from the Governor's Office for Children in the amount of \$401,718, and (3) execute the three (3) related budget amendments and seven (7) Sub-recipient Agreements between County Government and Tri-County Youth Services Bureau, St. Mary's County Public Schools, United Way of St. Mary's and Walden Sierra, Inc.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

D. DEPT. OF AGING AND HUMAN SERVICES - Fiscal Year 2015 Federal Treatment Grant One-Time-Only Supplemental Funding

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute 1) the FY15 BHA Federal Treatment grant documents for supplemental funding, project #US1555 from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on behalf of the Department of Aging and Human Services to enhance federal treatment services at Walden for a revised award amount of \$669,079, 2) the related budget amendment to increase the project budget by \$17,975, and 3) the related sub-recipient agreement between the County and Walden Sierra, Inc.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

E. DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION - Resolution to waive landfill fees for Christmas in April projects

I move to adopt the Resolution waiving the landfill fees for Christmas in April projects associated with the annual program scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2015.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

F. DEPT. OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY - "WAZE" Agreement by Google Inc.

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the License Agreement between St. Mary's County and Google Inc. for the use of Google Inc. real time traffic and navigation services called "Waze"

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

G. DEPT. OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY - FFY2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant Increase Award

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the 2014 Sub-Recipient Agreement Amendment for the Emergency Management Performance Grant, Project US1512, from the Department of Homeland Security on behalf of the Emergency Services & Technology Department for additional funding of \$1,000 to assist in Conference costs, and to execute the related budget amendment to increase the project budget by \$1,000.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

H. DEPT. OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY - Tower Lease Agreements re: Verizon Tower on Sotterley Road

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute (1) a License Agreement with Cellco Partnership, and (2) a Land Lease Agreement with Cellco Partnership; and (3) an Agreement with Stephen R. Conner regarding use of the Verizon Wireless tower to be constructed on Sotterley Road.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

I. EMERGENCY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY - Tower Lease Agreement between St. Mary's County Government and St. Mary's County Board of Education

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the Lease Agreement between the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Board of Education of St. Mary's County for the purpose of construction of a communications tower and associated facilities for public safety communications.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

J. FINANCE - Request Approval of Budget Amendments to address the fiscal impacts of the winter storm season

I move to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to execute the three budget amendments which realign \$238,880 amongst Department Divisions, and an additional \$632,346 from the Commissioners Emergency Reserve to the identified accounts in the Department of Public Works & Transportation, and the Department of Recreation & Parks, to address the fiscal impacts of the 2015 winter storm season.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioner Michael L Hewitt, Commissioner Tom Jarboe, Commissioner Todd B Morgan, Commissioner John E O'Connor

K. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - Appoint Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Finance, St. Mary's County Government

"I move to appoint Jeannett Cudmore, Deputy Director, Department of Finance, to Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Finance, for St. Mary's County Government in accordance with the policy."

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioner Michael L Hewitt, Commissioner Tom Jarboe, Commissioner Todd B Morgan, Commissioner John E O'Connor

3. MAIN AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

A. Commissioners' Recommendation for Appointment to the Patuxent River Commission

I move to recommend Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt for appointment as the official St. Mary's County representative on the Patuxent River Commission.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

B. DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT: Decision on local amendments to implement recent State amendments to the Forest Conservation Act

Present: Phil Shire, Director

Public hearing was held on March 14, 2015 on proposed 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. There were no public comments during the public hearing or during the 10 day open period.

I move that the ordinance for local amendments to the Forest Conservation Act be adopted as proposed.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

C. DEPT. OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT: Decision on CWSP hearing for Woodmore Subdivision located at 43946 Sandy Bottom Road. LUGM case file #14-200-001

Present: Phil Shire, Director

A public hearing was held on March 17, 2015 with five property owners testifying. Areas of concern were: (1) increased traffic will excessively impact Sandy Botton Road; (2) School redistricting may be requires; (3) Stormwater increase will impact neighboring properties; (4) the proposed development will be out of character with the existing neighborhood; and , property owners with functioning wells and septic systems will be required to connect to new water and sewer lines. Following the public no additional comments were received during the 10 day open period. In response to Commissioner Guy's question if it was possible to send a letter about the forced hookup. Mr. Shire stated that the rules and regulations as they apply today does not require connection; however the term in the state requirement "may be required" is very vague. To change the definition of Service Area in Chapter 13 would have to go through Annapolis.

I move that the CWSP water and sewer category amendment be adopted as proposed.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioner Michael L Hewitt, Commissioner Tom Jarboe, Commissioner Todd B Morgan

Nay: Commissioner John E O'Connor

4. PRESENTATIONS

METCOM: Presentation of FY 2016 Capital Improvement Budget and FY 2017 - 2021 Capital Improvement Plan

Present: Daniel Ichniowski, executive Director
Rebecca Shick, Chief Financial Officer
Dave ELberti, Chief Engineer

An overview of MetCom's Capital Improvement Plan included a schedule of project changes from FY2015; funding projections; capital improvement rates per EDU; projections on debt and rates; and, debt ceiling limit analysis. A summary of water and sewerage projects for FY2016 were also presented. MetCom will return in May for final approval of heir budget.

Commissioner Hewitt noted number of failing septic systems in St. Clements Shores and asked that MetCom make this a priority. He suggested that MetCom add planning money in their budget for the Charlotte Hall Plan.

5. COMMISSIONER'S TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events attended over the last week and encouraged citizens to attend the FY16 Budget Public Hearing tonight at Great Mills High School.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

I move to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Real Property, Litigation

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

Final Resolution: Motion carries

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

6. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Personnel

Present: Commissioner James R. Guy, President
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Tom Jarboe
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner John E. O'Connor
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
Sue Sabo, Chief of Staff, HR Director
Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant

Authority: Local Government Article Section 9-512(a)(1)

Time Held: 12:20 pm – 12:25 pm

Litigation

Present: Commissioner James R. Guy, President
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Tom Jarboe
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner John E. O'Connor
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
George Sparling, County Attorney
Phil Shire, Director, Land Use and Growth Management
Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant

Authority: Local Government Article Section 9-512(a)(2)

Time Held: 12:25 pm – 12:46 pm

Real Property Acquisition

Present: Commissioner James R. Guy, President
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Tom Jarboe
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner John E. O'Connor
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
George Sparling, County Attorney
Donna Gebicke, Administrative Assistant

Authority: Local Government Article Section 9-512(a)(6)

Time Held: 12:46 pm – 1:10 pm

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:10 pm

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

Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)

8. PUBLIC HEARING on the FY 2016 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Acting Chief Financial Officer, Jeannette Cudmore presented an overview of the recommended FY16 Budget. The County's Property tax rate structure will remain at \$.857, although the State calculations indicate the Constant Yield Tax Rate would be \$.8523. The County's allocation for the Sheriff's office increased by 2.6% for non-grant activities. The Board of Education is receiving an increase in funding by 2.5%, bringing the county funding to \$96,245,246. With the reduction of \$2 million non-recurring OPEB budgeted in FY2015, the recurring County Appropriation for FY2016 increased by \$4.4 million, 5% more than the prior year. Commissioners funded a one-step increase for teachers and funds to open Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School in the fall of 2015. The County funding for elections increased by \$314,143, primarily due to the State's return to paper ballot voting. Funding for County department based activities and programs, excluding grants and one-time items increased by .5%, however, this will increase after the Classification Study and one, merit step increase is allocated to departments. County department staffing includes funding for two positions that were frozen in prior years. County funding of non-profit agencies remains at FY2015 levels. Funding for Patuxent River Naval Air Museum Association will actually be paid in FY2015 from Fund Balance in the amount of \$130,000, after a business plan is presented to Commissioners. The June 30, 2014, audit reflects an unassigned general fund balance of \$22.8 million, of which \$5.1 million is applied to this recommended FY2016 budget for non-recurring costs and pay-go for capital projects.

PUBLIC HEARING - MECHANICSVILLE VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD – RESCUE TAX INCREASE

The Public Information Officer, Tony Jones, opened the public hearing at 7:00 pm.

The Mechanicsville Rescue Squad is requesting a rate increase from .8 cents per one hundred dollar

assessment to 1.4 cents per one hundred assessment

Public Comments. *(Comments as noted below are intended as highlights of testimony given and not verbatim.)*

Mark D. Miller, 22228 Goldenrod Drive, Great Mills, MD 20634

Member of Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad. Departments are challenged with increasing operating costs. Support increase.

Jessica Vallandingham, 28956 Trent Hall Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Support increase. Citizens in this district will have to pay approximately \$14.00 per year for this increase.

The Public Information Officer closed the public hearing at 7:10 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY2016 – CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE

The Public Information Officer opened the public hearing at 7:11 pm.

The County proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.857 per \$100 assessment. This tax rate is .6% higher than the constant yield rate and will generate \$543,849 in additional property tax revenues.

Public Comments. *(Comments as noted below are intended as highlights of testimony given and not verbatim.)*

Keith Harless, 23225 Mirfield Ln., Lexington Park, MD 20653

Concerned that tax rate goes up each year although you say no tax rate increase.

The public hearing closed at 7:15.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY2016 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The Public Information Officer opened the public hearing at 7:16 pm.

Public Comments. *(Comments as noted below are intended as highlights of testimony given and not verbatim. Items are grouped by topic.)*

New Garvey Senior Activity Center

Dale Taylor, 25981 Sotterly Cliffs Land, Hollywood, MD 20636

Chairperson, Garvey Senior Activity Center Group, representing over 3,288 citizens who requested Commissioners move the funding for the Garvey Senior Center from the FY2018 Budget to the FY2016 Budget. The number of seniors in the area is growing and more space is needed at the center. Currently have 43 different activities for seniors at the center and approximately 25 more could be added if a larger facility is built. Sent letter to Commissioners with recommendations for facility.

Cindy Raley, 41408 Philip Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Garvey Center – Support new expanded center at Leonard’s Grant as part of Library complex. Center needs additional space.

Library

The following citizens addressed the issue of the location for the proposed new county library. Each provided their reason for the location. Examples of reasons for the Leonard’s Grant area included close to school, property already owned by County, was in the original concept plan for the property, visible location, room for large parking area, and within walking distance to two major housing developments. Examples of reasons for downtown Leonardtown included five acres donated for building site, concern if library goes in at Leonard’s Grant commercial pads in front could be built on, would help boost the economy of downtown and keep the tradition of small towns having libraries in town.

Vincent Cappello, 41140 Paw Paw Hollor Ln, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Would like to see data analysis and impact study on where library should go.

In Support of Leonard’s Grant Area

Carolyn Guy, 39776 Primrose Creek Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Robin Sullivan, 41411 Real Quiet Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Allison Betz, 23826 Coventry Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Stacey Hazuda, 23191 Mirfield Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Cindy Jones, 46241 Usher Ln, Valley Lee, MD 20692

Paul Kelly, 41885 Medleys Neck Rd., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Tom Mattingly, 41580 Yoke Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Janice Hummel, 24940 Gallan Man Dr., Hollywood, MD 20636

Suzanne Gibbs, 41396 Richneck Ct., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Brenda Hager, 26314 Cherry, Ln., Hollywood, MD 20636

Roderick Lewis, 20820 Skipjack Ct., Lexington Park, MD 20653 (Representing NAACP

In Support of Downtown Leonardtown Location

Hayden T. Hammett, P.O. Box 216, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Jennifer Cochran, Leonardtown, MD

Mike Mummaugh, 41160 Paw Paw Hollow Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Joe Orlando, 22160 Box Rd., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Randy Richie, 22251 Hanover House Ln., Leonardtown, MD 20650

In Support of Additional Funds for St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS)

Examples of statements were that additional funds would boost morale, affect teacher recruitment, keep teachers from spending their own funds, show teachers you care, and concern for special needs programs in schools.

Tanya Parker, 21414 Manon Way, Lexington Park, MD 20653 (representing CEASMC)

Scott Smith, 200254 Spring House Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650 (Superintendent, SMCPS)

Karin Bailey, 38259 New Market Turner Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659 (Chair, Board of Education)

Dawn Pipkin, P. O. Box 476, Hollywood MD 20636,

Representing EASMC

Justin Fiore, 22760 Washington St., Leonardtown MD 20650

Margarita Rochow, 13137 Windjammer, Solomons, MD 20688

Lisa Blottenberger, 21855 Fairway Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Sami Blottenberger, 21855 Fairway Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Laura Schultz, 41432 Silver Charm Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Robin Tate, P.O. Box 154, Morganza, MD 20660

Denise Reyes, 35771 Aviation Yacht Club Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Alex Jaffurs, 40635 Oakment Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Anna Jones, 22760 Washington St., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Sandra Kane Varesko, 23710 Hicks Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Supports all education. Wants to see College and Public Schools funded.

Roderick Lewis, 20820 Skipjack Ct., Lexington Park, MD 20653 (Representing NAACP – supports full funding for schools and library at Leonard's Grant.

Steve Cricchi, 23686 J. M. Gough Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650 (Representing

Tri County Youth Service Bureau) Support Schools

Funding (Building) for Additional Non-Profit (Basketball for Life)

Jeff Burrell, 45953 Indian Way #926, Lexington Park, MD 20653 (Representing Basketball for Life)

Program that provides after school and evening programs for youth and young adults who are not fortunate enough to afford activities provided by St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks. The program currently involves 75 youth to young adults who would be out on the streets with nothing to do if this program was not available. Currently using schools when available but sometimes can't get until late in evening. Would like a building/community center for this type of program in the Lexington Park area. Need Commissioners' support.

Non-Profits Miscellaneous

John Walters, 21063 Larkspur Ct., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Regarding County grants to 501(c)3 - Asked Commissioners what mechanism is used for non-profits to apply for county funding? What mechanism is used to evaluate and approve? What mechanism is used to follow up on how funding is spent?

In Support of College of Southern Maryland (CSM)

Comments included: CSM is trying to keep tuition affordable for students, had a slight decrease in registration and is nearing a funding crisis, requesting additional funding over last year's.

Nicholas Combs, P. O. Box 2339, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Travis Hill, P. O. Box 26D, Leonardtown, MD 20650

Dr. Tracy Harris, CSM, Leonardtown, MD 20650 (VP, Dean Leonardtown Campus)

Brad Gottfried, Hollywood Rd., Leonardtown, MD 20650 (President, CSM)

Kim Yellman, Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650 (staff and student, CSM)

Suzanne Hammett, 21386 Williams Dr., Lexington Park, MD 20650

Zachariah Weaver, 47274 West St. Mary's Manor Rd., Drayden, MD 20630

Sandra Kane Varesko, 23710 Hicks Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20650

Supports all education. Wants to see CSM and SMCPS funded.

In Support of Advanced Life Support (ALS)

Michael Barnett, 27205 Widow Lane, Mechanicsville, MD 20654 (representing ALS)

Wanted to clarify that MedStar is not pushing ALS out. ALS needs to expand and there is no more room in the current location. ALS started with 20 members now has more than 100 and there is insufficient storage space for supplies and vehicles. Thanked Commissioners for their support.

Keith Harless, 23225 Mirfield Ln., Lexington Park, MD 20653

ALS - Support funding for Advance Life Support

In Support of Snow Removal from Sidewalks

Keith Harless, 23225 Mirfield Ln., Lexington Park, MD 20653

With growing infrastructure would like to see line in budget for cleaning sidewalks during weather events such as this winter.

In Support of Additional Step Increase – Sheriff's Office

William Watters, Hollywood, MD 20636 (Fraternal Order of Police) - Thanked Commissioners for support they provide Sheriff's Office. Sheriff's office draft budget requests one step increase; requested an additional step increase for Sheriff's Office.

The Public Information Officer closed the public hearing at 9:15 pm, noting that comments to the Commissioners can be accepted until the 24th of April via email or letters.