

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGTuesday, February 16, 1988

Present: Commissioner Carl M. Loffler, Jr., President  
 Commissioner W. Edward Bailey  
 Commissioner Robert T. Jarboe  
 Commissioner John G. Lancaster  
 Commissioner Rodney Thompson  
 Edward V. Cox, County Administrator  
 Judith A. Spalding, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Bailey moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting of Tuesday, February 2, 1988. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Commissioner Bailey moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried.

LIVABILITY CODE TASK FORCE

Present: Dennis Nicholson, Deputy Director, DECD  
 Billie Brown  
 John Chamberlin, Task Force  
 Joseph Densford  
 Carl Frazen  
 Don Megby  
 Tom Russell  
 Tom Shea  
 Tom Waring  
 Jim Weber

Mr. Nicholson explained that the Minimum Livability code was adopted by the Maryland General Assembly in 1986 and will go into effect on January 1, 1989. Local jurisdictions have been given the opportunity to develop their own codes for minimum standards for housing for non-owner occupied units. He stated that the Commissioners have appointed a Task Force to review the State code and to develop recommendations for a local code.

Mr. Nicholson advised that the Committee will be submitting recommendations in approximately three weeks and will be putting focus on a code for St. Mary's County as opposed to editing the State code.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS1) APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Bailey moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, and unanimously carried, to make the following appointments:

Mental Health, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse Advisory Council

Katherine Spalding

Plumbing Board

Robert A. Lynch

Zoning Board of Appeals

William H. Wood

2) BUDGET AMENDMENTS

The County Administrator presented the following Budget Amendments recommended for approval by the Director of Finance with justifications as indicated:

No. 88-38  
Department of Public Works

To fund fuel oil costs which were reduced to the FY '86 actual level during the budget process with a commitment to fund excess costs. (\$15,000)

Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to approve the budget amendment as presented. Motion carried.

No. 88-39  
Department of Public Works

To increase Contract Services by \$5,000.

Commissioner Bailey moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to approve the Budget Amendment as submitted. Motion carried.

3) PERSONNEL  
RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF FISCAL DIRECTOR POSITION  
OFFICE ON AGING

The County Administrator presented a memorandum dated February 11, 1988 from the Personnel Office submitting a request that the Fiscal Clerk II, Grade 6, position, be returned/upgraded to the Fiscal Director, Grade 8, position and advertised for hire.

Commissioner Bailey moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to approve this request. Motion carried.

4) RESOLUTION NO. 88-03  
BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

As a follow up to the adoption at last week's meeting, the Commissioners agreed to sign Resolution No. 88-03 establishing policies and procedures with regard to the appointment and administration of membership on Boards, Commissions and Committees.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT GRANT REQUEST

Present: Robin Guyther, Planner, Office of Planning and Zoning

Mr. Guyther appeared before the Commissioners to present a request to be submitted to the Coastal Resources Division for \$24,559 in order to establish an environmental unit in the Office of Planning and Zoning to handle the critical areas program. He stated that there are currently two positions handling the stormwater management program, and it is recommended that one-half of these positions be funded by the Coastal Zone Management Program.

After discussion Commissioner Thompson moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster to authorize Commissioner President Loffler to sign and forward the letter to Coastal Resources Division as presented. Motion carried.

EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Present: Al Lacer, Chairman  
William Arick  
Perry Rothwell  
Laura Shaw  
Mary Whetstine

The referenced representatives of the Education Advisory Council appeared before the Commissioners to present a status report on the Council's activities. Mr. Lacer explained the meetings being planned and the establishment of subcommittees and stated that the Council has initiated its work and is expected to complete its task within five months, by June 30, 1988. The Council's four areas of activity are:

- 1) Public Forums: The Council will conduct five public forums scheduled for the fourth Monday of each month at a place and time to be announced. The Council hopes to receive through the public forums a variety of citizen comments relative to the status of public education in St. Mary's County. The final report will reflect trends and opinions expressed during the forums.
- 2) Budget Process: The Council will review and analyze the total budget process towards the goal of making recommendations to improve communication and understanding of the process.
- 3) Current Budget Review: The Council will review the current revenue sources and expenditures of the FY '88 budget for the purpose of identifying areas of concern or possible inconsistencies.
- 4) Analysis of Education Issues: The Council will explore a variety of issues such as the seven-period day and student/teacher ratio for the purpose of providing recommendations and opinions.

The Council expects to issue a final report summarizing its funding and demonstrating the community's interests and concerns.

In conclusion the Commissioners expressed appreciation to the Council members for their efforts in this task.

WICOMICO SHORES GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB  
TRANSFER OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Present: John V. Baggett, Director, Recreation and Parks

Mr. Baggett appeared before the Commissioners to request approval for transfer of the Alcoholic Beverage License for Wicomico Shores from the names of John Baggett, Joseph Mitchell and Joseph Densford to John Baggett on behalf of St. Mary's County.

Commissioner Bailey moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to authorize Commissioner Loffler to sign the license application as requested. Commissioner Thompson opposed. Motion carried four to one.

PROCLAMATIONS

The Commissioners presented the following Proclamations:

Human Relations Awareness Day

Present: Richard Portee  
Serita McFarling  
Donald Barber  
George Smith  
Phebe Barth

Designating February 27, 1988 as Human Relations Awareness Day in St. Mary's County.

Buckle Up for Love Month

Present: Sheriff Wayne Pettit  
Deputy Jamie Raley

Designating the month of February as Buckle Up for Love Month

TOUR OF ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

At this time the Board of County Commissioners departed for a tour and lunch at St. Mary's Hospital.

LIGHT RAIL AND COMMUTER RAIL PROPOSAL FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Present: Harvey Berlin, Chief of Transportation, Tri-County Council

Mr. Berlin appeared before the Commissioners to present a proposal to study the feasibility of light rail in the Route 5 corridor to the future Branch Avenue Metro Station and of commuter rail service on existing tracks along the Route 301 corridor.

Mr. Berlin pointed out that the main objective of the proposal is to serve a growing population, to serve the greatest number of commuters, and to foster economic development as well.

During discussion Commissioner Loffler expressed concern that the rail system would provide economic benefit for Charles County at the rail terminals but not for St. Mary's County.

Commissioner Jarboe pointed out that participating in the study would provide the Commissioners an opportunity to have input on what was to occur and that the request was just for the concept of the study.

After discussion Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster, to endorse the concept of conducting the feasibility study of the rail system. Commissioner Loffler voted against the motion because he felt that this was the first step in approving the rail system. Motion carried four to one.

1988 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE REVIEW

The County Administrator presented a status sheet of the the legislations items submitted by the Commissioners and those items of interest to St. Mary's County. Mr. Cox reviewed each of the items and the Commissioners took the following actions:

Item #1 Energy Consumption Tax - That correspondence be prepared to the Legislative Delegation advising that the Board prefers the proposal for the Energy Tax as opposed to the alternative suggested for a telephone surcharge.

Item #5 Alcoholic Beverage Board License Fees - Revenue Task is preparing additional information to be submitted to legislators.

Item #11 State Debt/Regional Park - Mr. Baggett should appear before the Board to discuss the County's share of the matching grant.

Item #24 County Commissioners' Salaries - Commissioner Loffler suggested a task force be appointed to look at all elected officials' salaries.

Workmen's Compensation - Fire Departments/Rescue Squads - It was agreed that the Commissioners would respond favorably to this proposed legislation.

Fire Safety - Barbeque Grills - The Commissioners agreed to support this legislation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

APPROVED,

  
Carl M. Loffler, Jr.  
President