

Board of County Commissioners' Meeting

Tuesday, October 6, 1970

Present: F. Elliott Burch, President  
J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner  
George R. Aud, Commissioner  
Paul R. Raley, Administrative Assistant  
Helen M. Bailey (Mrs.), Admin. Asst. (Recording)

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

The minutes of previous meetings held on September 1, September 22, and September 29, 1970 were read and approved.

Youth Services Bureau (Tri-County)

President F. Elliott Burch indicated that Dr. John Mills, Executive Director of the Tri-County Council, had requested an executive session prior to the meeting of the Regional Detention Center meeting on October 22, concerning the Youth Services Bureau in order to obtain a determination as to whether St. Mary's County is interested in going through with this project. Dr. Mills had informed Mr. Burch that the State is in the process of preparing the State-wide report.

It was agreed to ask Dr. John Mills to appear before the Board at their next meeting to present a more thorough briefing on the subject of St. Mary's County participation in the Youth Services Bureau, which would operate under the auspices of the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice.

Re-Subdivision of Part of Woodland Section 1 and part of Barefoot Acres Section 1 -- 8th Election District

The Board of County Commissioners approved and Mr. Burch signed a revised plat on the re-subdivision of part of Woodland Section 1 and part of Barefoot Acres Section 1 -- 8th Election District, St. Mary's County, dated June 19, 1968, which was re-submitted to the Board on August 21, 1970. In 1967, a surveying error in the Woodland Sub-Division

located in California necessitated a resurvey and subsequent re-subdivision of some properties in this Community.

Bennett Property -- Sanitary Landfill

The Board of County Commissioners agreed to request the County Attorney, Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, to obtain the services of two appraisers (Messrs. John Drury and Irving Hewitt) to obtain a fair market value for the fifty acres of property under consideration for purchase as a landfill, and which is owned by Thomas and Rollins Bennett.

Mr. Robert Thompson's request to read Minutes of previous County Commissioners' Meetings

Present: Mr. Jack Kershaw, the Enterprise  
Mr. Dick Myers, WKIK

Mr. Robert Thompson, Republican candidate for the Office of County Commissioner, appeared to report to the Commissioners that he had been denied access to the minutes of previous meetings and stated, "Gentlemen, I am asking you, unless you have something that you are trying to hide from the public, would you let me see these minutes. I want to see the ones for the past month. Why was I denied the privilege of looking at these minutes?"

Mr. Burch advised Mr. Thompson that the minutes in question had not been read and approved by the Board of County Commissioners; that there were four sets of minutes for September, exclusive of September 15, on which date no meeting was held due to the Primaries; and that three sets of minutes had not been approved until the morning of October 6 (this date). Mr. Burch advised Mr. Thompson that he now had the privilege of reading the minutes for the month of September. Mr. Thompson stated that when he came in he didn't intend any slander and that if he did find something wrong, there would be no slander against any individual -- "I will simply point it out to you". Mr. Burch then handed the minutes for the month of September to Mr. Thompson, who read them. Before departing, Mr. Thompson stated "Everything is in perfect order -- my apologies if I overly concerned you with anything".

During the course of the meeting, Mr. Burch requested that Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney, be called into the meeting in the event any charges were made against the code of conduct on the part of the Board or the Staff. Mr. Wigginton sat in attendance.

Attendant at Mechanicsville Public Trash Disposal Area

Effective at noon, October 7, 1970, authorization was given by the Board of County Commissioners to employ Mr. Louis Webster Wood of Mechanicsville as an Attendant at the Mechanicsville Public Trash Disposal Area in lieu of Mr. Lewis Manuel Morgan, who declined appointment due to acceptance of a better position.

Mrs. Mary Gatton (request for relief from Justice of Peace duty)

Mr. Paul R. Raley reported that Mrs. Mary Gatton had requested relief from her duties as a Justice of the Peace for the period October 16 through November 2. During that period, however, she will remain on duty to do the cooking for the Jail. Mr. Raley recommended that Mrs. Bernadine Boyd in the Trial Magistrate's Office perform these duties during the day and that Judge Dodge be asked if he would perform the duty during the evenings, for the period under reference. The Board of County Commissioners concurred with this recommendation and requested Mr. Raley to proceed with the arrangements.

School Bus Transportation from Naval Air Station

Mr. Paul R. Raley reported that he had requested the services of Mr. Leroy Thompson to go aboard the Naval Air Station to pick up fourteen children going to the local high school. These children were unable to make connection with the Navy bus service.

Air Conditioning Bids for the Emergency Operations Center

Mr. Paul R. Raley reported that the Air Conditioning Compressor bids for the EOC had been opened and bids received as follows:

Mr. Carroll Morgan-----	\$1,468.00
Mr. Vernon Miles-----	1,010.00
Hancock Refrigeration-----	1,870.00

Mr. Burch suggested that the system be inspected by a non-interested expert in order to determine the definite need, prior to awarding a contract. The Board concurred and Mr. Raley was requested to seek the services and opinion of a non-bidder in this regard.

#### St. Clements Shore Recreational Area

Mr. Paul R. Raley reported that Mr. Thomas Waring is not in agreement to a change in the covenant (reverter clause) in the deed to the St. Clements Shore property which has been reserved for recreational purposes. The Board agreed that the deed be recorded in its present form. In the event the area is no longer used for recreational purposes, the land will revert to the ownership of the previous owner.

#### Board of Election Supervisors

##### Preventive Maintenance Training on Voting Machines

Mr. Paul R. Raley reported that a written formal request would soon be submitted by the Board of Election Supervisors for the training of two additional men (one Republican and one Democrat). Mr. Raley has requested that the Board of Election Supervisors submit four names -- from which the Board of County Commissioners can select two names. The school for training is located in Ohio.

##### OCD Surplus Property Offer -- Road Equipment

The Board of County Commissioners agreed to request, through the facilities of the Maryland State Office of Civil Defense and Emergency Planning, the award of three bull dozers and three road graders for use in St. Mary's County. The service charge on delivery of these items is \$2,500 each -- making a total of \$15,000. Mr. Otis F. Wood, Acting Director, St. Mary's County Office of Civil Defense, will arrange the details. The equipment will not be available for several months, since it is now located in Europe at a Military Installation.

Shore Erosion Project, Scotland Beach to St. Jerome's Inlet

The Board of County Commissioners requested that Mr. August H. Wagener, County Engineer, employ the services of the Brevard Engineering Company to conduct a shore erosion study at Scotland Beach and the area 2,000 feet North and South of St. Jerome's Inlet for the total sum of \$10,000 -- \$5,000 of which will be contributed by the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs.

Request for Increase in Taxes on Trailers in Trailer Parks

Present: Mr. Dick Myers, WKIK  
 Mrs. Jackie Kershaw, ENTERPRISE  
 Mr. Eldred Greenwell  
 Mr. James Dobry  
 Mr. William Wood  
 Mrs. William Wood  
 Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney

Mr. Greenwell opened the discussion by requesting that the taxes on trailers in trailer parks be increased from \$6 per month to \$15 per month and that a moratorium be placed on the authorization of any new trailer park installations until the Planning and Zoning Ordinance for St. Mary's County has been accepted and finalized.

Mr. Dobry said that he thought the present practices were discriminatory; that high-income groups were living in trailers and sending their children to our schools without having to pay their proportionate share of taxes; that there were not enough apartments to go into competition with the trailer parks because of the initial investment which is required to build apartment houses and the resultant tax assessments thereon.

Mr. Greenwell pressed for a decision on an increase prior to their departure -- preferably during the meeting.

Mr. William Wood stated that they would like to make sure trailer occupants pay their share of the taxes like everyone else; that even if the rent did go up by \$9 a month for people in trailer parks, it would be no more than taxes were increased for the rest of the citizenry last year.

Mr. Dobry stated that he did not think the trailers were being occupied exclusively by low-income groups -- otherwise, he would say to subsidize them -- but he sees no reason why these people should be subsidized at the tax-payers' expense -- and that if you don't want to raise the taxes, you should apply a gross income tax on trailer occupants. If they have low income, they would only be paying a proportionate tax.

Mr. Burch indicated that the County has no authority to apply any gross income tax.

Mr. Greenwell stated that the situation was truly incredible -- that people in the community are sick and tired of these people having special advantages -- that the trailer park owners are making a fortune and it is money that should be coming into the County coffers.

Mr. Dobry stated that he thought it was incumbent upon the Commissioners to hold a moratorium on any more trailer parks until we adopt Section 14.52 of the Zoning Ordinance and he would also like to request that we make a study immediately to do something about equalizing the taxes on trailers vis-a-vis real property owners.

Mr. Greenwell stated that it was obvious to everyone in the County that a special interest group is being served and acquiring benefits which the rest of us do not have.

Mr. Dobry indicated that he has 23 units on 1/2 acre of land and is being taxed between \$3,600 and \$3,800, being assessed at \$9,000 per acre -- on which he has his own water system and sewage disposal. He stated that this will be the subject of a law suit.

Mr. Burch stated that the Board of County Commissioners would take their request under advisement and make a decision, which would be made a matter of public record.

Chapman request for MIDFA Assistance

The Board of County Commissioners approved a draft letter to Mr. William A. Chapman, authorizing him to proceed in making the arrangements for financing an industrial complex, which is to be operated under the aegis of the Maryland Industrial Development Financing Authority, previously described in the minutes of September 22 and September 29, 1970. Subject letter was signed on October 7, 1970 and has been placed in the official files.

Contracts for the Public Trash Disposal Areas

The contracts for the rental of Public Trash Disposal Areas were reviewed and the Director of Finance was requested to pay the rental fees for the current year. Mr. Paul R. Raley was requested to prepare one-year contracts for these rentals, with automatic renewal clauses, subject to agreement by both parties.

Voucher Nos. 37642 through 37871 were signed by Mr. Burch.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Approved,