

Board of County Commissioners' Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 1971

Present: George R. Aud, President
J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner
J. S. Guy, Jr., Commissioner
Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney
Paul R. Raley, Administrative Officer
Cecilia B. Adams, (Mrs.) Recording Secretary

The meeting came to order at 9:55 A.M.

Administrative Assistant A Position-Vacancy

Present: Mr. and Mrs. Ted Newkirk, Mr. McGinnis and Mrs. Evelyn Holland (NAACP Representatives)

Mr. Ted Newkirk stated that he was deeply concerned about the position of Administrative Assistant A that is currently available in the County Commissioners' Office. He was concerned from the stand point that there is a black person already employed in the office, namely Mrs. Viola M. Gardner, who was qualified to fill this position. Mr. Newkirk explained how important it was to the NAACP organization to have one black person in an establishment such as the Courthouse to show the public that there is successful integration. He went on to say that he understood Mrs. Gardner had passed the Administrative Assistant A examination with a grade of 85.9 and had also passed the Administrative Assistant B obtaining a grade of 83.7.

Commissioner Guy stated that the Commissioners were well aware of the grades that were made on the tests and stated that if Mrs. Gardner was to be promoted she would be promoted on the basis of her ability and not because she was black or white. He told Mr. Newkirk that he did not appreciate the NAACP pressuring the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Newkirk stated that he was trying to open the eyes of the Commissioners to the feelings of the black community. He did not think that the Commissioners could see their position as the importance of black employment.

Commissioner Guy stated that as far as he was concerned, the pressure they were putting on the Commissioners was not going to make a point in his direction as to who would be selected. He stated that the NAACP had a receptive administration, clearly visible from the fact that Mrs. Gardner was currently working in the Commissioners' Office.

Mrs. Newkirk stated that as it stands, the black people

are not going to apply for a position in the Courthouse because they are not going to be accepted. Commissioner Aud stated that he had not heard any employee in the Courthouse voice any opposition to Mrs. Gardner's being here.

Mr. Newkirk stated that Mrs. Gardner had received the highest grade on her test for Administrative Assistant A and therefore, should automatically be given the position.

Commissioner Guy stated that there were two applicants that were qualified for the position and according to the rules and regulations of the Merit System, the Commissioners were required to select one person from among the top five test ratings. This decision lies with the Board of County Commissioners alone. He stated that the Commissioners realize that there is a County-wide as well as black employment problem in St. Mary's County.

Mr. Newkirk stated that the most important thing was to find out whether the Board of County Commissioners are sensitive to the NAACP's program of employment. Mr. Newkirk stated that after this meeting, he felt that the Commissioners understood their problem. He urged the Commissioners to appoint Mrs. Viola Gardner to the position of Administrative Assistant A since she was capable and in his opinion, highly qualified.

Mr. Beavin-Re: Amendments to Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan

Mr. Benjamin Beavin, Sr., from the Beavin Company, appeared before the Commissioners to present them with a draft of the report he has compiled regarding amendments to the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan. He requested the Commissioners to review this report and to add any additional requests or comments they might have. Mr. Beavin will contact Mr. Robert Wigginton, County Attorney, at the end of the week to obtain this information.

Harry Spence-Drainage Problem-Railroad

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Mr. Harry Spence, a resident of Mechanicsville, who stated that work was needed to correct the erosion problem on his property, cause by the drainage from the railroad. Mr. Spence submitted an estimated from Ronald E. Buckler Excavating Company in the amount of \$150.00, for digging a drainage ditch. The Commissioners were in agreement with the estimate submitted and requested the secretary to write a letter to Mr. Spruce authorizing the repair

of this drainage problem in accordance with the bid submitted from Mr. Ronald E. Buckler. They requested that when the work was completed, that Mr. Spence advise them so that an inspection could be made by the County Engineer and the bill could be submitted for the work.

Board of Education-School Building Projects

Present: Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance, Dr. Robert E. King, Jr., Mrs. Catherine Barnes, Mr. E. Harry Ocker, Mr. James Raley, Mr. Henry Kanowictz, Mr. B. Kennedy Abell, Mrs. Patty Duke and Miss Susan Dunn

The members of the Board of Education presented the Commissioners with the projected enrollment figures and classroom requirements for the period of 1972 through 1977 for all St. Mary's County Elementary, Middle and Senior High Schools. Based upon these projected figures, a summary of local education agency project requests was distributed. This summary of the Public School Construction and Capital Improvement Program was also based on a five year program. The Commissioners had no objections to the recommendations presented to them. After the review of the County Attorney, Mr. Robert Wigginton, the Commissioners signed a resolution which approved the preparation of applications from the Board of Education for St. Mary's County and petitioned the Board of Public Works of the State of Maryland for approval of \$30,031,350.00 for the purpose of financing the school building projects as they appeared on the summary sheet.

Dr. King stated that this program was going to require site acquisition. There were two ways of obtaining the money: (1) Bond issue which has already been approved and (2) the State Loan Pool which is available September and October of this year.

Commissioner Guy inquired as to whether the Board of Education had considered working with the Dept. of Recreation and Parks, regarding land acquisition. Dr. King answered that they had been working with Recreation and Parks and would continue to do so.

Vouchers Signed

Commissioner Aud signed Vouchers #39591 through #39713.

Joseph Carter-Lease for Day Care Center

Mr. Joseph Carter, Director of Social Services for St. Mary's County, appeared before the Commissioners regarding the lease for the new Day Care Center. Mr. Carter

explained that Mr. James Mattingly was building this new structure, located about one mile northwest of Morganza, and the State Dept. of Social Services will lease this building from him. Mr. Carter explained that the lease had not yet been completed as he was waiting for a completion date to be added. He informed the Commissioners that as soon as he had received the completed document, he would contact them in order that they might execute the lease.

Bills Approved:

Southern Maryland Wood Treating, in the amount of \$293.20, for hardware materials used for the Tall Timbers project.

Delahay's Pile Driving Service, in the amount of \$1,965.00, for work during the week of May 24 to May 28, 1971 at Tall Timbers.

Delahay's Pile Driving Service, in the amount of \$11,818.00, for construction of the bulkhead at Piney Point which has been completed.

J. Moakley Mattingly, in the amount of \$445.00, for work done on the Tall Timbers Project.

Howard Brockway, in the amount of \$97.32, for mileage to County from New York and expenses incurred while testifying in Case against Joseph Lee Dyson.

Alice Blackistone Lease

Commissioner Aud signed a lease between the Board of County Commissioners and Mrs. Alice Blackistone, which leased a tract of land in the Seventh Election District, known as "Ocean Hall", to be used by the County as a Boat Harbor. The term of this lease shall be for twenty (20) years beginning on May 17, 1971 and ending on May 17, 1991.

ROADS MEETING

Present: Mr. August Wagener and Mr. Aubrey Cusic,
from SRC

Twenty-Year Highway Study Meeting

Mr. Wagener, County Engineer, advised the Commissioners of a meeting scheduled to take place June 22, 1971 at 10:00 A.M. with the Maryland States Roads Commission, Bureau of Highway Planning, here in the Courthouse. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the list of projects and other appropriate items for the 1973-1992

Study of the Twenty Year Highway Needs which must be approved prior to February, 1972.

The Commissioners requested the secretary to advise Dr. R. Jackson of St. Mary's College and Gen. Robert Hogaboom of St. Mary's City Commission of this meeting.

Route 5 Turnoff to Camp Calvert

Brother Peter Campbell from Ryken High School, appeared before the Commissioners regarding the Intersection of Maryland Route 5 and Camp Calvert Rd. leading to Ryken. Brother Peter stated that he felt there was a critical situation there that gets worse as the school continues to grow.

At this time, Commissioner Aud telephoned Mr. Daye in Mr. Tate's Office of the State Roads Commission. Mr. Aud requested that the State Roads Commission install some paved shoulders in this area to serve as a deceleration lane. Ryken High School would be willing to allow the State to cut the bank if it was necessary. Mr. Daye promised Mr. Aud that he would see that this area is swept and kept swept for the time being. He informed Mr. Aud that it might be two weeks before the State Roads Commission could obtain contracts to blacktop Maryland Route 5, at which time the above work would be performed. The Commissioners advised Brother Peter that they would keep him advised of any future developments.

Joy Chapel Road-Cost Estimate from J. Dennis Raley, Jr.

The Commissioners reviewed a cost estimate in the amount of \$5,186.21 from J. Dennis Raley, Jr., of the State Roads Commission. This cost estimate is for the approximate cost to level and cap 2,000 feet of the Joy Chapel Road in the Sixth District, with two inches of bituminous concrete. Mr. Raley felt that it would take one inch of bituminous to level out the holes, low spots and rough places in the existing cross section. The other inch would be used for the cap. Mr. Raley informed the Commissioners that since this product is close to one of the bituminous concrete supplies, it was possible that Dean and Beavers could do this work cheaper than the State Roads Commission.

The Commissioners requested Mr. Paul Raley, Administrative Officer, to contact Dean and Beavers, to obtain a bid from them.

White Point Beach Subdivision Road

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Mr. August Wagener, regarding the above road. Mr. Wagener stated that

at the present time, most of the underground pipes are filled with soil and will not allow the water to drain from the ditches along the roadway.

Mr. Wagener felt that in order to obtain proper drainage for this small piece of road, it was necessary to have a survey made so that an engineering study could be prepared for the purpose of correcting the drainage problem. Mr. Wagener was requested to contact the firm of Lorenzi, Dodds and Gunnill to see that this study was made.

St. George's Island

Mr. Aud reported that on St. George's Island, about one mile from the bridge on the leftside, there is a deep hole in the road causing a dangerous drop. He requested that this be repaired.

Route 242-Lawrence Vallandingham

Mr. Guy stated that he had been contacted by Mr. Lawrence Vallandingham, who lives on Route 242 between Pincussion Road and Bayside Road, regarding drainage problem. Evidently when the road was graded, the ditch in front of his property was filled up which causes the water to lay in his driveway. Mr. Cusic will see that this problem is remedied.

Baptist Church Road

Commissioner Guy stated that he had been contacted by Mr. Elliot Burch, Jr., regarding a serious dip on the right hand side of the Baptist Church Road. Mr. Guy suggested that possibly part of the hill might be cut down to alleviate this problem. Mr. Cusic will inspect this problem.

Indian Bridge Road

Commissioner Aud reported that on the Indian Bridge Road, in front of the property of Mr. Watermolen, the ditches have been cleaned out and are quite deep now. There are thicket bushes growing around these ditches that need cutting back. Mr. Aud requested that this brush be cut.

State Roads Commission-Labor Force

Discussion was had regarding the maintenance crews and labor forces of the State Roads Commission. Mr. Cusic stated that at present, there are no crews working in either the third, fourth, or sixth election districts. The remaining portion of the County has a very limited amount of men working with a serious lack of supervision.

Mr. Bowles inquired as to how long it had been since any men had been sent to the St. Clement's Shores Subdivision to do any ditching work. Mr. Cusic stated that it had been sometime before the first of the year. Mr. Cusic went on to say that there was a freeze on employment with the State Roads and were consequently handicapped by a lack of road maintenance forces.

Johnsongrass Control Committee-Salary Increases

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Mr. R. Johns Dixon, Chairman of the St. Mary's County Johnsongrass Control Committee, recommending that Mr. Douglas Bowles and Mr. Charles Hynson, supervisors for the Johnsongrass Project, be given a salary increase setting their salaries at \$3.50 per hour.

The Commissioners stated that if the additional money was available from within their budget, they would be in favor of granting this increase.

The secretary will write a letter to Mr. Dixon informing him of this decision.

Housing Authority Study By Commissioners

The Commissioners requested that the Director of Finance's Office issue them a check in the amount of \$750.00 for expenses to be incurred from a trip to the Counties and Municipalities that have Housing Authorities. The purpose of this trip is to study the feasibility and economic results of the authority within these Counties as they would relate to a Housing Authority being developed in St. Mary's. The Commissioners will leave on June 9, 1971.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

Approved,

George R. Aud
President