

Board of County Commissioners' Meeting

Tuesday, November 7, 1972

Present: George R. Aud, President
J. Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner
J. S. Guy, Jr., Commissioner
Mr. Robert E. Wigginton, County Attorney
Mr. John B. Norris, Asst. County Engineer
Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance
Cecelia B. Adams (Mrs.), Recording Secretary

Also attending the meeting were: Mr. Clarke Raley,
Mr. George Sparling, Jr., Mr. Dick Meyers, Mrs. Patty Muchow,
Mr. Jack Kershaw and Miss Christie Selph.

The meeting came to order at 9:15 A.M.

St. Mary's County Journalist Association-Tape Recorders

The St. Mary's County Journalist Association, whose members are reporters of WKIK, WPTX, The Enterprise and The Beacon, presented a proposal to the Commissioners regarding the use of tape recorders at the regular, open meetings of the Commissioners.

It was proposed that a permanent tape recording system be installed along the following lines: To have a single-omni directional microphone suspended over the conference table capable of picking up audio transmissions from any part of the meeting room. The microphone to be connected to a small amplifier which will have approximately six output jacks for individual recorders. The journalists could then plug their recorders into this "bank" without interfering with anyone.

Mr. Clarke Raley explained that until a permanent system might be installed they were proposing that no more than two microphones be placed on the conference table. He continued stating that they would be working toward a permanent microphone that would be to the mutual benefit to both the news media and the County Commissioners. He added that at present, Calvert County is using the same permanent system that they are proposing.

Commissioner Bowles commented that the permanent system would be more desirable than something on the table.

Mr. John Norris stated that there were several companies dealing with electronics, located within the County, that might be willing to install this system.

Commissioner Aud inquired as to whether Mr. Meyers intended to pay to have this system installed.

Mr. Meyers stated that this would depend upon what the Commissioners decided to do.

Mr. Aud stated that he was in favor of retaining the stenographic method of recording the minutes of meetings, such as the Commissioners have used in the past.

Mr. Clarke Raley stated that the media would like to reach an arrangement that would be satisfactory to both.

Commissioner Guy said that he did not think that the Commissioners should pay for the installation of this recording system so as to provide it for the news media.

Mr. Clarke Raley inquired as to whether the Commissioners would have any objection if Mr. Meyers had an electronics firm come in and view the conference room for the purpose of installing an overhead microphone system.

The Commissioners agreed upon a microphone being suspended from the ceiling. They were unanimously opposed to having any microphones placed on the table.

Mr. Meyers stated that he will contact several electronic firms to obtain price quotations, etc., and within two weeks they will reach a decision. He asked if the Commissioners would bear with them and allow the news media to place two microphones on the table until a better system could be installed.

The Commissioners were unanimously in favor of allowing the press to place two microphones on the table for the two week period. It was to be understood that this was a temporary arrangement only.

At this time, Commissioner Aud stated that the Commissioners had a policy of not allowing tape recorders into their regular

sessions, he inquired as to whether there was a motion that they rescind their policy. Commissioner Bowles moved that the policy adopted by the Commissioners be rescinded. Commissioner Guy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

Intergovernmental Conference-December 5 and 6, 1972

Discussion was held regarding the conference to be co-sponsored by the Governor of Maryland and the Regional Director of the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, scheduled for December 5 and 6, 1972 in Cockeysville, Maryland. The purpose of the conference is to inform local government officials of the various programs and processes of HEW. As a result of this conference, the Governor hopes that Maryland will have an impact on the operations and planning of HEW, as this agency assists Maryland in many of the problems they face.

The Commissioners agreed that Dr. William J. Marek, County Health Officer, and Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance, should attend this conference as their representatives. All expenses incurred will be paid by the County.

Maryland Economic Development Conference

The Commissioners approved of Mr. John B. Norris, Jr., Assistant County Engineer, attending the Maryland Economic Development Conference Program scheduled for November 16, 1972 in Cockeysville, Maryland. The event is to be co-sponsored by the Maryland Department of Economic Development and the Maryland Industrial Development Association.

Tall Timbers Wharf

Mr. John B. Norris, Jr., Assistant County Engineer, informed the Commissioners that the repairs to the Tall Timbers Wharf are not reimburseable from the Department of Natural Resources.

Vouchers Signed

Commissioner Aud signed vouchers number 3345 to 3468 and also voucher number 2838.

Bills Approved

David M. Gruber and Company in the amount of \$13,200.00, for (a) Financial Study of Proposed Charter as reported August 31,

1972 and (b) Report on Phase II on Management Service Proposal as submitted October 11, 1972.

Loker and Wigginton, in the amount of \$1,107.00 for professional services rendered for the month of October, 1972.

Board of Education Funds

Mr. B. Harris Sterling, Director of Finance, informed the Commissioners that Mr. John Little, Auditor for David M. Gruber and Company, had reviewed the annual audit report of the Board of Education applicable to the year ended June 30, 1972. This review stated that the revenue from State sources amounted to \$4,747,966 a decrease of \$236,214 from that projected. Income from Public Law 874 amounted to \$1,080,644 a decrease of \$168,356. In view of the fact that actual revenues as reported above amounted to \$404,570 below that projected for the 1971-72 fiscal year, the balance of \$150,000, on the contingency appropriation is due and payable.

Commissioner Guy made a motion that the Commissioners give the Board of Education the \$150,000 balance due under the contingency fund. Commissioner Aud seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

St. Mary's County Developmental Center for the Mentally Retarded, Inc., Audit

Present: Dr. William J. Marek and Dr. Martin

Dr. Marek presented the Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene auditor's report covering their examination of the accounts and records of St. Mary's County's Developmental Center for the Mentally Retarded, Inc., for the period July 1, 1965 through June 30, 1972.

He explained that the results of the examination disclosed that St. Mary's County's Developmental Center for the Mentally Retarded, Inc., was paid \$896.40 in excess of allowable costs for the audit period. The State's share of the overpayment amounted to \$1,045.25 and \$148.85 was due the Center from St. Mary's County.

The transportation costs were funded 100% by the State for fiscal year 1972 to a maximum of \$2.80 per attendance day. St. Mary's County's Developmental Center for the Mentally Retarded, Inc., was paid \$551.60 by the State in excess of allowable costs

for transportation expenses for fiscal year 1972.

Dr. Marek presented two copies of the invoice covering the State's portion of the overpayment of \$1,596.85.

Dr. Marek stated that the Retarded Children people did a very good job. They were told that they would receive full transportation funds. The audit was requested by the Developmental Center. Dr. Marek continued stating that the State funded 50% of everything but transportation. They say that it is 100% but there is a \$2.80 limit. Mr. Sterling stated that this program was covered under the case formula.

Commissioner Bowles stated that in the past, the Commissioners have supported this program. The question was whether they can legally appropriate this money.

Frank Ellis - Parochial School Bus Transfer

Mr. Frank Ellis, school bus contractor, recently died and it was requested that his parochial school bus route be transferred to his only child, Mrs. Grace Mary Stabler. The Commissioners were unanimously in favor of this transfer being made to Mrs. Stabler.

Andrew McWilliams-Reclassification

The Commissioners reviewed a request from Mr. William F. Herbert, Supervisor of Assessments, to Mr. William H. Riley, Chief, Supervisor of Assessments, to reclassify Mr. Andrew J. McWilliams from his current position of Assessor's Aide to Assessor. Mr. Herbert stated that since they are required by virtue of the new legislation to review all accounts in every three year period, it was being requested that Mr. McWilliams be reclassified so he could assume full responsibility for a portion of the County at the beginning of the next work year.

The Commissioners were unanimously in favor of this reclassification and signed the letter designating same.

Drug Center - Trailer

Present: Mr. Edward Cox, Dr. Martin and Dr. William J. Marek

Mr. Edward Cox appeared before the Commissioners to report on the final stage of the Drug Treatment Center. He

stated that they were considering several facilities to house the offices and Drug Counseling Coordinator. After much investigation, the Drug Council came up with the most sensible location, as being County property located on St. Andrews Road. They have looked at many structures and have finally decided upon a mobile home unit, at an average cost for a unit of \$6,750.00 (less furniture). They are now in need of sewage and water and electrical facilities in addition to an oil tank.

Commissioner Bowles stated that the Bumpy Oaks Center will have staff and personnel ready to work in St. Mary's County after Thanksgiving. They want to obtain Federal money that has been made available providing they can legally obtain this unit.

Dr. Marek stated that the reason they wanted an area like this was due to the fact that it is practical for the type of individual involved with drugs. They wanted it away from all law enforcement and the metropolitan area.

Mr. Cox added that the desired floor plan of the mobile home unit was arranged so that they would have private counseling space.

It was the general feeling of those present that they could meet their December 1st. deadline.

Commissioner Bowles instructed Mr. Cox to contact various businesses to enclose the floor plan, specifying the desired trailer size and excluding all furniture with the exception of the range and refrigerator.

The Commissioners were unanimously in favor of taking money from the contingency fund for this unit and its installation.

They advised Mr. Cox to work with Mr. John Norris, Asst. County Engineer, to obtain services of local businesses in securing the sewage and water system and in the clearing of the property.

Mr. Edward Cox was designated as the Coordinator for the project by the County Commissioners.

Legislative Package-1973

The Commissioners requested the secretary to write to the various County agencies and departments requesting them to send

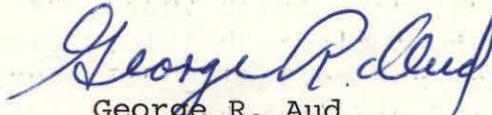
all legislative requests to the County Commissioners as soon as possible so that the 1973 Legislative Package might begin being prepared.

State Highway Administration-Surplus Property

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Mr. Robert S. Bennett, Chief of the Property Management Section, Right-of-way Division of the State Highway Administration. Mr. Bennett stated that the excess land (0.84) acres, being offered, is located on the south side of Md. Rt. 235 approximately 0.75 miles south of Lexington Park and 580 feet west of Shady Oak Drive in St. Mary's County. This property is being offered for sale on or after November 30, 1972. The acquisition cost of the excess land to St. Mary's County would be \$3,080.00 if firm commitment to purchase this property is received on or before March 13, 1973.

The Commissioners decided to table this discussion until a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.


George R. Aud
President