

**Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, May 4, 2021)**  
*Generated by Sharon Ferris on Wednesday, May 5, 2021*

**Members present**

Commissioner President James R. Guy  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt  
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan  
Commissioner John E. O'Connor  
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator  
ALisa Casas, Communications Director, Public Information Office

**1. WELCOME**

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

I move to approve the Consent Agenda, which contains the Minutes of April 27, 2021, as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Morgan, John E. O'Connor

Not Present at Vote: Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt

**2. PROCLAMATIONS**

Proclamations were presented for:

- A. National Drug Court Month
- B. Small Business Month
- C. Older Americans Month 2021
- D. National Transportation Week

**3. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - PUBLIC HEARING - St. Mary's County Public Ethics Ordinance Updates**

Commissioner President Guy opened the Public Hearing at 9:18 a.m.

**Present:** Neil Murphy, Deputy County Attorney  
Joe Densford, Ethics Commission Attorney (via Zoom)

Notice of Public Hearing was published in the *Southern Maryland News* on April 16 and 23, 2021 and posted on the County Website April 13, 2021. The proposed updates to the St. Mary's County Public Ethics Ordinance clarifies the retention time for Financial Disclosure Statements, the office that retains the copies, and a statement was added that when a financial disclosure statement is not filed within 8 days after the candidate receives from the Election Board written notice of failure to file, the candidate is deemed to have withdrawn the candidacy. The proposed ordinance mirrors the structure of the Maryland State Ethics Ordinance.

Commissioner President Guy requested Dr. Bridgett provide the format for the public hearing and open the hearing for public comment.

No public comments were given. Dr. Bridgett closed the public hearing for public comment noting that the record would remain open for public comment for an additional seven days.

Commissioner President Guy closed the public hearing at 9:31 a.m.

**B. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - PUBLIC HEARING - Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance**

Commissioner President Guy opened the Public Hearing at 9:33 a.m.

**Present:** Jeannett Cudmore

Notice of Public Hearing was published in *Southern Maryland News* on April 16 and April 16 and 23, 2021. The proposed \$8M supplemental appropriation will allow the County to proceed with additional FY2021 grant funding.

Commissioner President Guy requested Dr. Bridgett provide the format for the public hearing and open the hearing for public comment.

No public comments were given. Dr. Bridgett closed the public hearing for public comment.

Commissioner President Guy closed the public hearing at 9:37 a.m.

I move to approve the Ordinance authorizing an eight-million-dollar supplemental appropriation for FY2021 grant funds in accordance with Resolution 2016-06, leaving the record open for 7 days to place the matter back on the public hearing for a decision therefore voting immediately following the public hearing, and authorize Commissioner President to sign all related documents.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner John E. O'Connor

Not Present at Vote: Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt

#### **4. MAIN AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **A. ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT - Equity Task Force**

**Present:** Dr. Meenakshi Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer

Sheriff Tim Cameron

Dr. Scott Smith, Superintendent, St. Mary's County Public Schools

The Equity Task Force was established by a Joint Resolution signed on June 29, 2020 by Dr. Brewster, Sheriff Cameron, and Superintendent Smith to further equity in St. Mary's County. This year several "Collaborative" initiatives have been established: Reading for St. Mary's Heroes; BreathWell St. Mary's; Community Corrections Center; and, a School Based Health Center. Other initiatives in process are Violence, Injury & Trauma initiatives and a future Behavioral Health Hub.

##### **B. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DECISION - Property Tax Incentive for Investing in Commercial Properties**

I move to adopt the ordinance providing an incentive to invest in commercial properties and have the Commissioner President sign all relevant documents.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

#### **5. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR MAY 11 and 18, 2021.**

##### **B. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - FY2022 Heroin Coordinator Grant Application from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services**

I move to approve the grant application for the FY2022 Heroin Coordinator Program, project MD2222, from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, in the amount of \$57,912 (excluding County funding) and authorize the Commissioner President, Sheriff, and Staff to execute the related documents and submit electronically.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**C. ST. MARY'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. - FY2022 Opioid Competitive Grant Application**

I move to approve the St. Mary's County Health Department to submit the FY2022 Opioid Operational Command Center Grant Application and authorize the County Administrator to sign all related documents.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioner President James R. Guy, Commissioner Eric Colvin, Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner John E. O'Connor

**D. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - YMCA - Fund-raising study**

I approve the fund raising study to move forward with the next steps in the Architecture and Engineering Process and have Commissioner President sign the related documents.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**E. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION - Installation of GPS Base Station on the Courthouse Building**

I move to approve the installation of the GPS Base Station on the Circuit Courthouse Building in Leonardtown and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the related documents.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**F. COUNTY ATTORNEY - Bethune Property**

I move to authorize the County Attorney to hire a real estate agent to list the property for sale.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

**6. COMMISSIONERS' TIME**

The Commissioners highlighted events attended over the past week and provided general comments.

## **7. CLOSED SESSION**

### **MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION**

I move to enter into Closed Session to discuss Personnel.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan

Not Present at Vote: Commissioner O'Connor

### **A. PERSONNEL**

**Present:** James R. Guy, President

Eric Colvin, Commissioner

Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner

John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator

Catherine Pratson, Director, Dept. of Human Resources

Arthur Shepherd, Director Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(1) of the *Local Government* Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 12:36 p.m. - 12:39 p.m.

Location: CSMC Meeting Room

Purpose: To consider or discuss the assignment, promotion, resignation, salary, demotion, dismissal, reprimand, or appointment of a member of a public agency or employee.

## **8. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on May 11, 2021.

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Sharon Ferris, Administrative Assistant