

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, January 28, 2025)
Generated by Julie Burch on Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Eric S. Colvin
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
Jenna Guzman, Communication Director, Public Information Office
Julie Burch, Recorder

1. WELCOME

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

Approval of Consent Agenda

I move to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Minutes of January 14, 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr., second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

2. PROCLAMATION

A proclamation was presented for National Burn Awareness Week.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AS COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

I move to adjourn as Commissioners of St. Mary's County and reconvene as the St. Mary's County Board of Health.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr., second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

3. ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

A. BOARD OF HEALTH - Environmental Fee Schedule

Present: Meenakshi Brewster, MD MPH, Health Office, St. Mary's County Health Department
Heather Moritz, LEHS, Environmental Health Director, St. Mary's County Health
Department

A presentation on the proposed updates to the Environmental Health Fee Schedule was given.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AS ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

I move to adjourn as the St. Mary's County Board of Health and reconvene as the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

4. MAIN AGENDA ITEM

A. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad requests authorization for a Public Hearing to Increase Rescue Tax

I move to authorize the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad to hold a local public hearing in reference to the proposed Rescue Tax Rate Increase for the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad as presented, with direction that the public hearing results and public comment will be submitted to the County for consideration as part of the FY2026 budget process, and any such rate increases would be incorporated into our Recommended Budget, including the Public Hearing on April 22, 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

B. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad requests authorization for a Public Hearing to increase Rescue Tax

I move to authorize the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad to hold a local public hearing in reference to the proposed Rescue Tax Increase for the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad as presented, with direction that the public hearing results and public comment will be submitted to the County for consideration as part of the FY2026 budget process, and any such rate increases would be incorporated into our Recommended Budget, including the Public Hearing on April 22, 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

5. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR FEBRUARY 4 and FEBRUARY 11, 2025.

B. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Lease Agreement - Housing Authority of St. Mary's County

I move to deny the proposed agreement to lease First Colony Residential Pod #3, containing approximately 18 acres, located off FDR Blvd., in California, Maryland, to the Housing Authority of St. Mary's County for the use of development, construction, and operation of affordable housing.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioner Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

Nay: Commissioner Guy

C. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION - St. Mary's Transit System (STS) Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Annual Update

I move to approve the St. Mary's Transit (STS) Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and authorize the Commissioner President to sign all related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

D. DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES - Federal Emergency Management Agency - Acknowledgement of Conditions

I move to approve the Acknowledgement of Conditions form provided by FEMA, on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services for St. Mary's County Government and authorize Commissioner President to execute related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

6. LEGISLATION

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Legislative Updates

Present: John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION 1: I move to submit a letter of opposition for HB 391 - County Boards of Education - Elections for Members Representing Specific Districts - Alterations and to authorize the Commissioner President to sign all related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

MOTION 2: I move to submit a letter of opposition for HB 28 - Constitutional Amendment - Forms of Government - Requirement to Adopt Charter Home Rule and to authorize the Commissioner President to sign all related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr., second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

7. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

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

MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

I move to enter into closed session to discuss Legal Advice.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr., second by Commissioner Eric Colvin
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

8. CLOSED SESSION

A. LEGAL ADVICE

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Scott R. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator
Buffy Giddens, County Attorney
Tracy Rohan, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(12) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland
Time Held: 12:12 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.
Purpose: To discuss strategy in collective bargaining or litigation.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on February 4, 2025.

JB
Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator