

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, September 9, 2025)

Generated by Julie Burch on Tuesday, September 9, 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, Communications Director, Public Information Office

Julie Burch, Recorder

Commissioner President Guy called the 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 August 26, 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr., second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

2. PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamations were presented for:

A. Forget-Me-Not Month

B. National Recovery Month

C. National Suicide Prevention Month

3. COMMENDATION

A commendation was presented to Francis Bowles in recognition of his retirement.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

A. DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT - PUBLIC HEARING - TEXT25-0112, Amendment to Allow Use Type 28 in the RCA Overlay District

Commissioner President Guy opened the public hearing at 9:21 a.m.

Present: Jessica S.B. Andritz, Director

Notice of the Public Hearing was published on August 22 and August 29, 2025, in *Southern Maryland News*. This public hearing was to receive public comment on the Vestry of All Saints Church in Avenue, which has petitioned for a text amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. All Saints Church would like to

establish a Head Start preschool program in an existing structure at 21656 Oakley Road. The Property is zoned Rural Preservation District (“RPD”) and lies fully within the Resource Conservation Area (“RCA”) Overlay District. Current zoning regulations allow a program such as Head Start in the RPD, but not in the RCA.

Commissioner President Guy requested that David Weiskopf provide the format for the public hearing and open it to public comment.

Public Comments given by:

Chris Longmore, Attorney

Joan Sullivan Cowan, Lexington Park, MD

Troy Cowan, Lexington Park, MD

Rev. Greg Syler, Valley Lee, MD

Mr. Weiskopf closed the public hearing for public comment and noted that the record would remain open for public comment for an additional seven days. Commissioner President Guy closed the public hearing at approximately 9:31 a.m.

5. LEGISLATION

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Presentation of 2026 Legislative Proposals

Present: John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

REQUESTS FROM COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONERS:

1. Requesting amendment of Chapter 46 of Article 19 of the *Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County* to increase by \$2 million, the maximum amount of general obligation bonds that St. Mary's County may issue for the St. Mary's County Capital Revolving Financial Fund for Fire Fighting Equipment and Facilities. Request made by: David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator
2. Requesting amendment of Chapter 113 of the *Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County* – to exempt public uses from capital contribution charges for EDU allocations. Request made by: Commissioner Mike Hewitt
3. Requesting amendment of §21-507 of the *Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland* to prohibit roadside solicitation and donations in St. Mary's County. Request made by: Commissioner Scott Ostrow

REQUESTS FROM OUTSIDE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES:

4. Requesting amendment of Chapter 113 of the *Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County* –to provide relief to certain charges and to allow METCOM to recoup certain costs. Request made by: St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission
5. Requesting amendment of Chapter 267 of *The St. Mary's County Code* –to amend the St. Mary's County Building Excise Tax Request made by: St. Mary's County Farm Bureau
6. Requesting amendment of §4-104 of the *Tax - General Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland* to exempt family-oriented recreation and entertainment facilities from the admissions and amusement tax. Request made by: Kristopher McDonald

6. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR SEPTEMBER 16 AND SEPTEMBER 23, 2025.

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 Personnel and Litigation.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr., second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

8. CLOSED SESSION

A. Personnel

Present: James R. Guy, Commissioner President

Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner

Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner

Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

David Weiskopf, County Administrator

David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator

Diane Gleissner, Coordinator

Tracy Rohan, Recorder

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

Time Held: 10:36a.m. - 10:50a.m.

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

B. Litigation

Present: James R. Guy, Commissioner President

Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner

Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner

Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

David Weiskopf, County Administrator

David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator

Bruce Poole, Esq.

Buffy Giddens, County Attorney

Tracy Rohan, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(2) and §9-512(a)(12) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 10:51a.m. - 11:04 a.m.

Purpose: To discuss strategy in litigation

C. Litigation

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

Authority: §9-512(a)(2) and §9-512(a)(12) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 11:05 a.m. - 11:14 a.m.

Purpose: To discuss strategy in litigation

MOTIONS IN OPEN SESSION

MOTION 1: I move to approve the Purdue Plan and authorize the Commissioner President to sign all related documents relating to the Purdue Pharma and Sackler Family Settlement.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

MOTION 2: I move to approve the Secondary Manufacturer National Opioid Settlement and 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

MOTION 3: I move to authorize counsel to settle litigation pursuant to negotiations capped in the amount discussed in closed session.

Motion by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at **XXXX**

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on _____.

Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator