

**Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, January 13, 2026)**  
*Generated by Julie Burch on Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

**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  
Leenika Belfield-Martin, Communications Coordinator  
Julie Burch, Recorder

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:03 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 6, 2026.

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. COMMENDATIONS**

A commendation was presented to Gloria Edwards in recognition of her retirement.

**3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR JANUARY 27 AND FEBRUARY 3, 2026.** There will be no meeting of the Commissioners on January 20, 2026.

**B. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - ST MARY'S COUNTY METROPOLITAN COMMISSION** - Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Loan Application Package

**MOTION 1:** I move to approve the Metropolitan Commissioner's request to submit a loan application through the Community Development Administration not to exceed \$35,993,393, plus cost of Issuance and Administrative Fees, which includes various Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) projects, programs, and equipment in accordance with Section 113-3 over 30 years.

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

**MOTION 2:** I move to approve the Metropolitan Commissioner's request to submit a loan application through the Community Development Administration, not to exceed \$1,215,000 plus cost of Issuance and administrative fees, which include purchase of vehicles and equipment. The term of this loan is 10 years.

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

**C. DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES - Animal Rescue & Outreach Organization ("AROO") MOU**

I move to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Animal Rescue & Outreach Organization, and authorize the Commissioner President to sign all related documents.

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

**D. DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS - Real Property Purchase**

I move to approve the purchase of Lot 8, Block A, Section 4, Wicomico Shores, for the use of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course, and authorize the Commissioner President to sign all related documents.

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

**E. DEPARTMENT OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES - Maryland Access Point Medicaid Administrative Federal Financial Participation (FFP) Funding FY26-FY30**

I move to approve the Medicaid Federal Financial Participation (FFP) time study reimbursement program application, Project US2645 from the Maryland Department of Aging on behalf of the Department of Aging & Human Services in the amount of \$88,127 for FY2026 to FY2030 and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the 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

**F. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION** - Road Acceptance for Broyhill Subdivision - Preston Court (County Route #31712)

**MOTION 1:** I move to adopt the Resolution to accept Preston Court into the St. Mary's County Highway Maintenance System.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

**MOTION 2:** I move to adopt the Ordinance setting a maximum speed and establishing stop intersections for the road / right-of-ways.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

**MOTION 3:** I move to enter into the Drainage and Grading Easement Agreement on Lot 1, Broyhill Subdivision, and to authorize Commissioner President Guy to sign any 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

**G. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY** - Discussion - Senior Property Tax Credits

**Present:** John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

Mr. Houser discussed the three property tax credits to eligible seniors offered in St. Mary's County: a county "match" to the Maryland Homeowners' Property Tax Credit, the "Senior CAP" Tax Credit, and the "65-10" Senior Tax Credit. He provided recommendations for consideration to streamline these programs.

**4. LEGISLATION**

**A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY** - Legislative Updates

**Present:** John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

The following bills were discussed:

HB 10 / SB 64 - Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice – Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation - Digital Newspapers

HB 78 - Property Taxes - Authority of Counties to Establish Subclasses and Set Separate Rates for Land and Improvements to Land  
HB 90 / SB 224 - Property Taxes - Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate for Commercial and Industrial Property  
HB 99 - Municipalities - Annexed Land - Land Use and Density  
HB 176 - State Department of Assessments and Taxation and Department of General Services - Property Appraisal Aids - Geographic Images  
HB 190 - Constitutional Amendment - Form of County Government - Requirement to Adopt Charter Home Rule  
HB 239 / SB 36 - Land Use - Zoning - Limitations (Starter and Silver Homes Act of 2026)  
HB 243 / SB 197 - Land Use - Comprehensive and General Plans - Alteration of Elements  
HB 247 - Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Variances - Alterations

## **5. 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 and Real Property.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

## **6. CLOSED SESSION**

### **A. LEGAL ADVICE**

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

Authority: §9-512(a)(12) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland  
Time Held: 11:33 a.m. - 11:38 a.m.

Purpose: To discuss strategy in collective bargaining or litigation.

## **B. REAL PROPERTY**

**Present:** James R. Guy, Commissioner President  
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner  
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
David Weiskopf, County Administrator  
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator  
John Houser, Deputy County Attorney  
Raymond Bivens, Director, Department of Recreation and Parks  
Tracy Rohan, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(6) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 11:39 a.m. - 11:56 a.m.

Purpose: To hold preliminary discussions concerning the purchase or disposition of real property.

## **7. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:56 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on January 27, 2026.

JB

Julie Burch, Senior Administrative Coordinator

## **8. PUBLIC FORUM**

### **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  
Leenika Belfield - Martin, Communications Coordinator  
Julie Burch, Recorder/Timekeeper

Commissioner President Guy called the Public Forum to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center, and requested Ms. Belfield-Martin provide the forum's format.

Public Forum comments were provided by:

William Newbury  
Jean-Marie Hansen

Andrea- Wilson  
Susan Ross  
Kristan Curtis  
Ian Egland  
Sophie Newbury  
Micah Perry  
Kurt Engel  
Thomas Hane  
Dan Reighard  
Jessica Chase  
Regina Huff  
Richard Delwiche  
Jim Pendarvis  
Larry O'Brian  
Robert Lindblad  
Renny Perdue  
Connor Russell  
Fred Farmer  
Joel Sorli  
Judy Untiedt  
Amelia Yunker  
Scott Pankiewicz  
Judith Mattingly  
Fred Sullivan  
Sarah Mulford-Martin  
Karl Othner  
Lori Knell  
James Knell  
Mike Schwartz  
Jennifer Reeves  
Ashley Norman  
Ron Menello  
Angela Cox  
Savanna Cox  
Sean Short  
Brandon Russell  
Jonathan Scully

There were no other citizens present who wished to speak, so Commissioner President Guy closed the Public Forum at 8:24 p.m.