

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 Eglad
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.