

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, January 27, 2026)
Generated by Julie Burch on Wednesday, January 28, 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
Jenna Guzman, Communications Director, Public Information Office
Julie Burch, Recorder

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 11:00 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 13, 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. PROCLAMATION

A proclamation was presented for National Burn Awareness Week

3. MAIN AGENDA ITEMS

A. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Bay District Volunteer Fire Department requests authorization for Public Hearing to Increase Fire Tax

I move to authorize the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department to hold a local public hearing on February 24, 2026, in reference to the proposed Fire Tax Rate Increase for the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department, with direction that the public hearing results and public comment will be submitted to the County for consideration as part of the FY2027 budget process, and any such rate increases would be incorporated into our Recommended Budget, including the Public Hearing April 21, 2026.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

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

I move to authorize the Department of Land Use & Growth Management to conduct a Public Hearing on February 24, 2026, in the morning at a time determined by staff, to consider TEXT25-0112, a request to amend the County's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to allow Use Type 28 in the Resource Conservation Area Critical Area Overlay District.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson, Jr., second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

4. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR FEBRUARY 3 AND FEBRUARY 10, 2026.

B. DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT - Briefing - Adequate Public Facilities - School Capacity

Present: Jessica Andritz

Ms. Andritz briefed the Commissioners on the current school allocation policy and student generation rates.

C. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION - State Bond Bill Grant Award 24-418 at the St. Mary's County Regional Airport

I move to approve the Agreement between the State of Maryland, Southern Maryland Navy Alliance, Inc. ,and Commissioners of St. Mary's County and authorize the Commissioner President to sign all related documents.

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

D. 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 Michael R. Alderson, Jr.
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

E. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Real Property - SHA property acquisition for Hollywood Road

I move to approve the two (2) option contracts with the State Highway Administration related to SHA Project SM205B32 and 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

F. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund - Discussion

Present: John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

Mr Houser provided an update to the Commissioners on the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund ("CRRF"), a state fund created during the legalization of recreational adult-use cannabis. The fund allocates a portion of statewide adult-use cannabis tax revenue to local jurisdictions to support community-based initiatives that benefit either low-income communities or geographic areas that were disproportionately impacted by enforcement of prior cannabis laws.

5. LEGISLATION

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Legislative Updates

Present: John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

I move to submit a letter of support for SB 288-Transportation - Highway User Revenues Capital Grants - Calculation and to authorize the Commissioner President to sign all 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. 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 Legal Advice.

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. CLOSED SESSION

A. PERSONNEL

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
Catherine Pratson, Director, Dept. of Human Resources
Julie Burch, Recorder

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

Time Held: 1:49 p.m. - 1:55 p.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, unless the individual, as a matter of public record, makes a written request for an open session.

B. 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
Buffy Giddens, County Attorney
Julie Burch, Recorder

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

Time Held: 2:31 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

Purpose: To discuss strategy in collective bargaining or litigation.

C. 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
Buffy Giddens, County Attorney
Bob Kelly, Director, Dept. of Information Technology
Julie Burch, Recorder

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

Time Held: 1:56 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Purpose: To discuss strategy in collective bargaining or litigation.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on February 3, 2026.

JB

Julie Burch, Senior Administrative Coordinator