

## Minutes of the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland

January 19, 2016

Madison J. Bunting, Jr., President (Absent)  
Merrill W. Lockfaw, Jr., Vice President  
Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.  
James C. Church  
Theodore J. Elder  
Joseph M. Mitrecic  
Diana Purnell

Following a motion by Commissioner \_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_, with Commissioner Bunting absent, the Commissioners unanimously voted to meet in closed session at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room to discuss legal and personnel matters permitted under the provisions of Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and to perform administrative functions. Also present at the closed session were Harold L. Higgins, Chief Administrative Officer; Kelly Shannahan, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer; Maureen Howarth, County Attorney; Kim Moses, Public Information Officer; and Stacey Norton, Human Resources Director. Topics discussed and actions taken included: filling critical vacant positions; receiving legal advice from counsel; and performing administrative functions.

Commissioner Bunting was absent from the meeting.

After the closed session, the Commissioners reconvened in open session. Commissioner Bunting called the meeting to order and announced the topics discussed during the morning closed session.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes of their January 5, 2016 meeting as presented.

1 - David Byrd - athletic director at PHS. Coach Castenida recognized as state coach of the year (mitchell - call her mitch).

ML announces MB suffering from stomach bug.

ML announces robo bomb threat the SDMS, more calls in Wic, Salisbury Middle - robo. Recessing for five minutes.

2 - BM reviews Land Preservation Programs - primary use is agriculture and natural resource protection. Preserve 3 acres to 1 acre developed, while rest of state is 1 to 1. Agriculture, timbre, tourism

KM reviews PowerPoint. (Tourism depends on open space). Can keep taxes low with

more open spaces. Fourth highest agricultural production rate in state. 1,000 acres a year saved. 70% zoned a-1 and 28% zoned resource protection (see map). Protect 800 in the ppa each year. About 300,000 acres in worcester. Almost 29% of county protected through easements, parks and federal.

Reviews LSLT video “Conserving Rural Heritage on MD’s Lower Eastern Shore” about motivations of landowners who participate (deep connection to the land, to conserve the land and future generations can continue to farm the land - tidal creeks and bays - two videos begin playing. SM - can we have a do-over?) YouTube. LSLT worked with over 100 farmers to preserve their farms to let properties remain in private hands and provide important conservation benefits for all of us.

Frasier, Pattons donated easements.

Kate Patton speaks on LSLT and conservation. Just celebrated 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Only local landtrust on the shore working with the county; eyes and ears of community to determine priorities for conservation of our resource based economies and towns of SH, Poc, Berlin and our beach town of OC. We accept easements, and bound to uphold the conservation values. Environmentalists, scientists, historic preservationists, planners, to help us determine lands to conserve (community stakeholders). Migration of song birds and water fowl in this area study which are important for hunters and provide us with valuable info when protecting land. Done surveys with community: recreational areas for hiking and biking; clean water, etc are important to community; protected over 9,000 acres. Another 1,500 by donation. Committed to recreational trail, a true economic engine and protection for scenic resources there.

TE - one piece of land has been lost from farmland to reforestation using taxpayer dollars. KM sounds like CREP. I can find out how many acres are in that. KP that program was designed to take marginal farmland out of production, and that would be federal partners who did that. TE homes put on A1 ag use, if you divided the figure it came to over 7 acres per home; I don’t know too many people who put seven acres of yard grass. I did something with 4 ½ acres, put one acre for yard and remainder is still in farmland. KM that’s the information we received from subdivision data. CB is there a cap on the number of years or number of acres? KM comprehensive plan is looked at every six years. CB - so that could change? Absolutely. And these lands are not intended for public use, rather agricultural or public protection. BM Open Space is designed to protect land for public use. TE POS is a much more far program because those paying for it have access to it. BM Ms. Frazier her farm on Ayers creek, her property is the entire western portion - she has opened that to the public for birding. As a relative of a few birders, it’s getting bigger and bigger and bigger. When you row and kayak on that creek, you are benefiting. You are not looking at homes, you’re looking at views, and that area is farmed, with adjacent conservation on the farm, habitat, wetland enhancements, providing a water quality benefit. They are providing ecological and environmental benefit. TE can that go into woodland use? BM whatever use is in the easement they are bound to and MDA laws too. They can’t farm right up to the creek. Timbre is a crop too. We have a large timbre harvest in this county too. KP public benefits to water quality, to habitat, to living near private lands that protect those provide us with those benefits, the hunting clubs that provide recreational access are on private and public protected lands, so a number of public benefits. Doing a program this spring and love for you to join us. TE snakes in my pool; copper head in my back yard, I’m reaping the benefits of someone taking farmland out of production and turning it into woodland.

The Commissioners met in legislative session.

3 - FW reviews. 3 conflicting codes. Bill has no new requirements and removes conflicting requirements found in hte county code. CB will this eliminate the challenges with tower close by and no access for coverage? FW that will be addressed in the actual build out of the radio system.

Commissioner Lockfaw opened the floor to receive public comment.

There being no public comment, Commissioner Lockfaw closed the hearing.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Mitrecic, the Commissioners unanimously adopted Bill 15-13 as presented.

4 - The Commissioners conducted a public hearing to receive comment on Bil 15-14. ET reviews. To allow nonprofit offices by special exception. Done primarily to benefit MCBP. CB - ET - South Point, St. Martin's Neck Road and some along Assateague Road are the principal areas. There are other tracts.

Commissioner Lockfaw opened the floor to receive public comment.

Attorney Hugh Cropper - appropriate utilization of E1 throughout the county and appreciate...

There being no further public comment, Commissioner Lockfaw closed the hearing.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Church, the Commissioners unanimously adopted Bill 15-14 as presented.

Commissioner Lockfaw closed the legislative session.

5 - FW reviews. JM motion to award bid. A  
CB - FW OC using this company too.

6 - FW reviews. Exacom best bid - offers ability to use commercial, off the shelf software rather than proprietary software and redundant recording, so all traffic can be recorded simultaneously. They are the vendor of choice. JM motion to approve Exacom, Inc. A

7 - FW reviews. JM motion to approve the request. A

FW incident has been secured as of 10:57 a.m. and everyone is back where they belong (SDHS).

KS - looking for a motion for JM to attend and represent Commissioners at conference. TE motion to have JM represent us at the hurricane conference. JM abstains from the vote for obvious reasons. A

8 - JEB - BC motion to approve letter of intent. A

9 - MM seeking passage of formal resolution for grant to county to go to MSA for cost of Phase I. JM motion to approve request. 5-1, with CB voting in opposition. A

10 - PT and KW request for tax equity study be performed and seeking approval to waive the request for proposal process and award contract study to TischlerBise. PT the others in some ways fell well short of the benchmark. JM motion to approve the request. A

11 - Jessica Ramsay reviews. Request to amend resolution. CB thank you, on behalf of everyone in OP for saving us \$120 a year. CB motion to approve. A  
Resolution No. 16-4

12 - JT reviews. DP motion to approve. A  
CB - very little disruption last time. Will they do as well this time? If yes, 50 projects identified to be completed before the summertime.

13 - JT reviews. This is the application we propose to submit. Splitting funding sources in the hopes of getting more grant money. Due by Jan. 26. Request your approval to file for funds. JM motion to approve the request. A

14 - JT reviews. JM says with possibility of five two-year extensions, will they be rebid? Only if EA isn't able to. JM motion to approve. A

15 - JT provides update. Prices of scrap metal \$28 a ton to \$68 a ton. In past had stockpiled two years worth of scrap metal. It's working very well (the program).

16 - JT appr \$300k allocated for this.

17 - no tar and chip since 2008. \$550k for this project, all roads in north end of county

18 - new program for us - slurry seal through squeegee. Seals for 8-10 years. Wic doing this extensively and quite happy with very little complaints. Mystic Harbour is the subdivision we'd like to do this project in. Will seal road. Do first slurry, 8 to 10 years later do another slurry. Almost 3.5 miles of roads. Good application, about \$165k, in lieu of piggybacking on state contract like to bid to be more competitive pricing due to price de-escalation. Will come back to you with bids. ML commend you for going in this direction. JM motion to approve the bidding of these projects. A

The Commissioners answered questions from the press, after which they adjourned to meet again on February 2, 2016.