

COMMISSIONER RANSOM MEETS WITH BQA BOARD

During the March BQA Board meeting, Commissioner Ransom visited for an informal discussion. Ransom hopes that in his last year left on the board he can find some areas where he can work with Business Queen Anne's. Here are the topics discussed:

FASTC – BQA encouraged Commissioner Ransom to get as much out of the project to support the county if it does come here. Commissioner Ransom agreed to speak up against the bad behavior and encourage respect from both sides on this issue.

CAC Process – Karen Oertel expressed her concern over the fact that the CAC report did not include any information from the sub-committees. This needed to be considered as the final comp plan was put together. Karen suspected that it was not. Gene said he would look into the process and get back to BQA.

Hospital – Commissioner Ransom said he supported increased or improved medical services, and/or a new full fledged hospital in QAC, and this could be an issue to work with BQA on in the future. Karen Oertel felt this is a pipe dream now that the Wye Mills Community Plan was gone, as she felt that was the only place a new a hospital could be located. Karen also, felt we would not see this happen now because of the Grasonville ER. (It would appear from the latest newspaper stories that the hospital has made deal to stay in Talbot County)

Zoning – Bob Wilson questioned why this county is not getting meaningful commercial growth. The development that gets through is things such as restaurants, pharmacies, etc. These just put other restaurants and pharmacies out of business! Karen suggested zoning for exactly what the county wants. Gene explained the County cannot tell people what business to build, and was willing to talk about improved commercial zoning to encourage certain businesses. Commissioner Ransom also felt that if BQA felt zoning was not pro-business

enough they should educate the public about the necessity of zoning changes to facilitate some growth.

South KI Water and Sewer – Mr. Waterman questioned what happened to the study that was to be released regarding South KI W&S? Gene will look into this and get back to Mr. Waterman. (BQA has been informed that this long awaited study has a tentative release date of May 12th with a public hearing to be scheduled for June. The study will also be available online once released.)

Workforce Housing – Gene suggested that we have Commissioner Gunther (Commissioner on Housing Authority) or Pete Scanlon come talk to us about the workforce housing being looked at for the land across from the ER.

Budget – Gene wanted to make it clear that the county does NOT have a 16.5 M deficit. It is looking at a shortfall entering the new budget cycle of 16.5 M, but the current budget is expected to end up with a minor surplus. Gene explained that the shortfall is the result of Income tax projections being down, as well as State funding cuts of over 7M dollars in fiscal 2009 and 7.5 M in fiscal 2010.

Planning Commission – They are still working on the draft update and then there will be a 60-day review. Gene said, while he didn't support or vote for Barry's appointment, with the appointment of Barry Waterman he feels that the Commission is more pro-development and he encouraged the board to get to know Shelia Tolliver. He stated that he still did not support the Wye Mills plan; however, the Planning Commission could resurrect the Wye Mills plan.

Airport Project – Gene has been working to address concerns from the Bay City HOA and KI Defense League regarding this project. He supports this project and will do his best to help it succeed. He encourages BQA to learn more about the development.

Gene said he was glad that he came out to talk to the BQA Board. Felt he should have done it sooner and hopes we have him back in the near future.

BQA THANKS RENEWED MEMBERS!

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Floor Coverings

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of Kent Island

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!!

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COMP PLAN UPDATE

There was a special meeting of the Queen Anne's County Planning Commission on April 6, 2010 to review the Draft 2010 Comprehensive Plan.

Additional Special Planning Commission meetings to review the Draft 2010 Comp Plan were scheduled for April 26th, April 28th and May 3rd in the Planning Commission Hearing Room beginning at 8:45 AM.

Check out this link on the county website:

<http://www.qac.org/default.aspx?pageid=1294&template=3&PageLevel=2&toplevel=34&cid=73>

This link is also on the BQA Website.

(See ad on page 4 regarding Comp Plan Meetings!)

According to Steve, "BQA is awesome. I/we especially like the 'tell it like it is' full page ads that are letting the awakening general public know that our leaders aren't very focused on us or business after all!"

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COMMISSIONERS START WORK ON BUDGET

The County Commissioners began the 2010-2011 budget process by selecting a citizens committee to review the budget and make recommendations of the Commissioners. Members are Linda Kohler, Heather Tinelli, Stephen Wilson and Joseph Zimmerman.

As Business Queen Anne's has noted in recent newsletters, there is a 16.5 Million dollar shortfall facing the county and for the budget to be balanced there will have to be tough decisions made.

The committee recommended the following:

- A 10-cent increase in the property tax rate. This will equal a 13 percent increase.
- Raising the income tax rate (piggy back) from 2.85 percent to 3.2 percent.
- Furloughing each county employee for three days.
- Holding the board of education and free library's budgets at the same level as the past year.
- Removing almost \$139,000 in county subsidies to local agencies and non-profits
- Cutting \$2.2 million in capital projects.

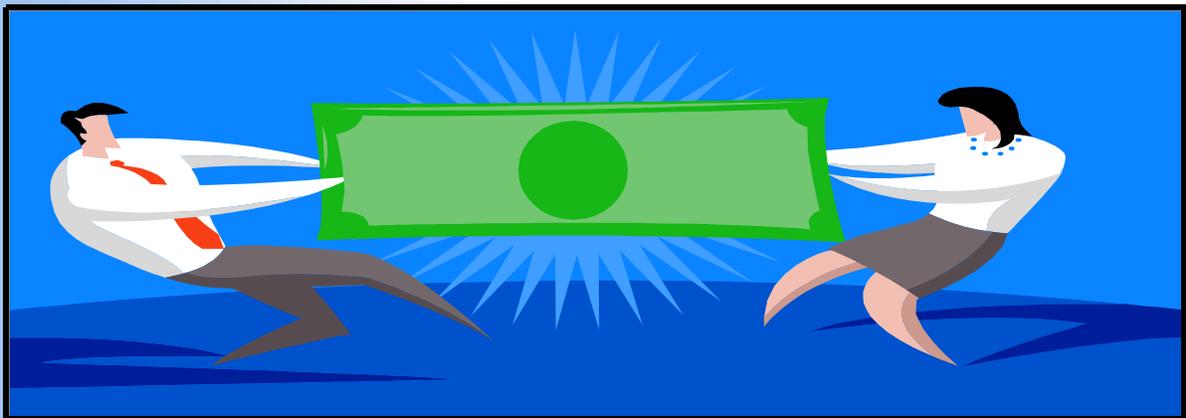
The tax increases should create \$11.4 million in revenue for the county. According to the Star Democrat article entitled "QA's commissioners set sights on county budget" which ran on April 16, 2010,

the committee stated via memo that "While there are a number of ways to reduce expenditures in lesser amounts, the idea that this budget can be balanced with reductions alone is simply nonsensical," They went on to state that "anyone who stands before you and proposes that this is so does not have a handle on the facts."

The County Commissioners voted 3 to 2 to use these recommendations as the start of their budget process. Wargotz and Ransom were the dissenting votes. While Business Queen Anne's understands the desire to not increase taxes when so many people are hurting, we feel that the Commissioners have done little to prevent this from happening. The no growth mentality has left this county with little to no options.

Over the past three years very little has been done to increase county revenues. Our commercial tax base has dropped from 11% to 6.5% in this time frame. BQA is interested in hearing from Commissioners Wargotz and Ransom on their plans to balance the budget without a tax increase. Future work dates are on April 26th, 28th and May 3rd and Business Queen Anne's will be anxious to hear their suggestions.

We also recommend that the BQA members take note and mark their calendars for the three public meetings on May 24, 25 and 26.



SPECIAL MEETINGS- SPECIAL MEETINGS- SPECIAL MEETINGS



2010 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
APRIL 26TH
APRIL 28TH
MAY 3RD

. PUBLIC COMMENTS 8:45 AM

• PLANNING COMMISSION MTGS Info: 410-758-1255
(Next to Food Lion in Centreville)



Protect farmers equity and make sure that the cost for Agriculture Preservation is shared by everyone in the community.

Extreme care must be taken, to avoid straight down-zoning, over-regulating or adding taxes to business during these difficult economic times. By growing responsible, our county will then have the fiscal resources needed to advance education, strengthen economic development, tourism, attract high paying jobs, and ensure our quality of life in Queen Anne's County.

Do you see a problem or not? Is the county going in the right direction? Do you like driving to other counties for goods and services? Would you like to see more jobs in QAC for your children/grandchildren? Is the permit process too overwhelming and restrictive for homeowners, builders and business owners? Are we business friendly? So much more to discuss.....

**Consider joining BQA to help shape the economic future of QAC.
Sponsored by Business Queen Anne's.**

Please direct responses to www.businessqueenannes.com

BUSINESS

Queen Anne's

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of BUSINESS Queen Anne's is to actively advocate sound economic growth; review proposed State and local legislation and regulations as they pertain to business; provide an objective assessment of proposed development in Queen Anne's County and its incorporated towns; endorse and support countywide growth that is well managed and consistent with adopted State and local planning and regulatory guidelines, comprehensive plans, and State and local initiatives; create positive and constructive relationships on behalf of the business community with our elected and appointed officials; and support business activity that promotes and encourages a vibrant economy, development of an adequate labor pool, a fiscally responsible and accountable County government, and a continued unique quality of life in Queen Anne's County.

YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS WHEN PAYING YOUR MEMBERSHIP INVESTMENT!

You may select a sponsorship level rather than choose a level of support based upon number of employees. By becoming a sponsor, your additional commitment to the organization will further support our continued success!

Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

To make certain that member contact information is correct and up to date, please complete the following information form:

Business Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____
Type of Business: _____
Contact Person: _____
Your Name (please print) _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____

Sponsorship Levels of Membership

New Membership Stimulus Rate!!

Flat Rate of \$150

Takes new members
to July 31, 2010!!

\$250 10 Employees
\$500 11-25 Employees
\$1,000 26 Employees
and above

(Circle One)

BUSINESS *Queen Anne's*
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BUSINESS QUEEN ANNES ADS

*Thank you to the BQA members who have stepped up
to support the Update Ad effort!*

Mareen Waterman – Coldwell Banker Waterman Realty

Nick Deoudes – Deoudes-Magafan Realty, Inc

John Wilson – Chesapeake Bay Beach Club

Cal Gray, Jr., Cal Gray, III & Mike Bozek

Of Penn Station Joint Venture



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