

Charles County

NEWS

Charles County News is reported by Edward Handell.

ted reply to FOI request intment,' Holt says

released a long-
information Act
ances and per-
Charles County

asking how the
ate consulting
advertising for
w the commis-
employees also with-
positions were
y Attorney.

Coalition Presi-
former county
e Craine and
urvey received
rsday.

Middleton) I was
he information
ested I directly
tted to," said
already working
ow to correctly
of Information

ls state the
n's original re-
as to what docu-
re asking to in-
ty is aware of no
in its custody
e request."

is incomprehen-
does not under-
ng for the public
process of how
consultants and
ees.

lder people and
nty stalls, and

takes their time and then stalls again, we get older and older," Holt said.

The county documents Holt and the coalition received outline the salaries of the public information officers, assistant county administrators and total personnel salaries and fringe benefits from 1984 to the present.

Holt said he was surprised at a number of items, including the more than doubling of salaries of high echelon employees in the last eight years. He also said he was surprised that the position held by Assistant County Administrator Scarlett Mower, who was a contractual employee until made a permanent employee in August of 1991, could have been made permanent without any advertising for the position.

"She was made permanent during the county's hiring freeze and at one of the top salaries, \$37,733," said Holt, questioning its propriety.

Personnel Director Susan Petty Hathaway said Friday that the commissioners did not advertise her position.

"They hired her as an employee while they were laying off 54 people," Holt said. "Where's the sense?"

Holt said he may be forced to go to the State Attorney General if his new request is again denied because of technicalities.

Buy-out of library system 'goofed' up, director reports

An agreement to "buy out" the lease on the tri-county's automated library system ended in failure when a "goof" and "misinterpretation" of the contract was discovered.

Katharine Hurrey, Director of the Charles County Library, notified the commissioners that the \$231,855 lease agreement was actually \$350,223.

Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties all contributed some money after deciding the buyout "seemed fiscally sound."

Hurrey said she was "shocked" when she received the invoice from ChiCorp showing the \$350,223 figure.

"It seems that the buy out figure in the contract was in addition to the payment due. We had misinterpreted the figures," Hurrey said. "The bottom line is that we were unable to buy out the lease at that time. My only consolation for the goof is that at least two other (vendors) had also misread these figures."

Hurrey said she tried to negotiate a revised payment schedule with Chicorp, but was unsuccessful.

Funds from the three county library systems were placed in a separate account in a local government investment pool.

Hurrey told the commissioners unless otherwise instructed the funds placed in escrow will be used to offset part of the payment due for fiscal year 1993, and that there will be a reduced monetary budget request.

She also reminded the commissioners they had urged her initially to proceed with the buyout if money could be found and indicated funding at the same level this year "to make up for it."

Commentary

By Edward Handell
Assistant Editor

JFK, Goebbels and ...

If Oliver Stone had lived in Nazi Germany, he would definitely have replaced Joseph Goebbels as Hitler's propaganda chief.

Now don't get me wrong! I loved the film "JFK" and do believe there was some type of conspiracy involved and that Oswald was set up.

Most people of my generation, with those youthful conspiratorial-political leanings on campus, never doubted it for a moment.

So what's my problem?

The film IS propaganda and, as every political columnist in the country has written, IS historically flawed.

BIG DEAL!

So there's a movie that is not historically accurate and this will forever corrupt the younger generation of our country who will always believe that Stone's JFK is THE TRUTH, even more than fundamentalists believe the Bible is the truth.

This is ludicrous, and for the first time in my memory, the liberal/left political establishment is foaming at the mouth in concert with the regular "establishment."

Was "The 10 Commandments" historically accurate? Were "Spartacus," "Patton," "Gone with the Wind" or the "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" so severely criticized because they changed the true "history" around a bit?

How do we know what Moses and the Pharaoh really said to each other?

But who attacked Cecil B. DeMille for using non-documented historical "facts" in his movie?

Why don't we just watch the movie as a suspense thriller based on a recent event. And please: hopefully this will be the last thing in the universe ever written about the film "JFK."

T Drink & Drive

NEW FINISH
RUCK, & BOAT DETAILING



WE WILL COME TO YOU!!!!

PRINTING