

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011

At 2:00 P.M., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in regular session with President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr., Commissioner Jerry S. Boston and Commissioner Randy Laird.

Also present was County Administrator-Clerk, Cynthia R. Ward.

Commissioner Mathies asked all present to join him in repeating the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the meeting dated December 21, 2011.

Mr. Riggin Johnson, of Director of Shore Transit, and Bruce Richardson, Director of Operations, appeared before the Board to discuss the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program for FY 2012 and 2013. Mr. Johnson advised the Board that Somerset County has been providing the local match for the JARC Program, a fixed route system to help citizens get back and forth to work on Sundays. The local match for the two year program would total \$37,896.00 for Somerset County. Somerset Community Services would also contribute \$6,000.00 towards the program. Mr. Sandy Adkins, Director of Somerset Community Services, stated that the JARC Program is very beneficial to their organization since they have individuals working in Salisbury on Sundays. Mr. Richardson provided the Board with statistics for Sunday ridership. At the end of the presentation, the Board agreed to consider the request and take action at their next regular meeting.

Mr. Eddie Johnson, President of Somerset County Farm Bureau, was now present before the Board, accompanied by Rantz Purcell, Tony Pinto, and Jennifer Bramble. Mr. Johnson began by presenting the Board Members with copies of the Maryland Agriculture Summary for 2009 and reviewing the statistics for Somerset County. Ms. Bramble and Mr. Johnson offered their support to farmers obtaining agricultural permits for the construction of poultry houses. Mr. Purcell stated that he served on the Soil Conservation District as representative of the County Commissioners. Mr. Purcell also expressed his concern for the cost of review fees through the Somerset County Department of Technical and Community Services and stated the need to streamline the permitting process and eliminate delays in obtaining the permits. In

conclusion, Mr. Johnson advised the Board of the upcoming Farm Bureau Banquet, scheduled for February 28, 2011.

At this time, Ms. Robin Neely, of Maryland Mentoring and Big Brothers, Big Sisters, was present to accept a Proclamation from the Board of County Commissioners designating January 2011 as Mentoring Month in Somerset County. Also present to accept the Proclamation was Renee McLaughlin from Somerset County Public Schools.

At this time, Mrs. Ward reviewed correspondence and discussion items with the Board.

A project notification was received from Maryland Department of Planning, State Clearinghouse, regarding an application to USDA Farm Service Agency to provide financing to purchase an existing poultry farm comprised of 5.587 acres located in Somerset County. The project will include site work for installation of a mobile home on the farm, along with underground electric, new septic system, hookup of existing well and extension of the private drive. As part of the environmental review process, FSA is requesting the identification of any cultural, environmental or wildlife resources that might be adversely affected by this undertaking. Mrs. Ward stated that she had contacted the Somerset County Department of Technical & Community Services regarding the environmental review and was advised that a problem may exist with the placement of a mobile home on the property and the zoning guidelines that must be met. Mrs. Ward recommended the project receive an R-1 designation, that it is generally consistent with our plans, programs and objectives, but qualifying comments will be submitted for consideration.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to respond to the Maryland Department of Planning, State Clearinghouse, with an R-1 designation, as recommended above. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed a letter from Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, Superintendent of Somerset County Public Schools, requesting permission to transfer funds among major categories for FY11. The transfer of \$78,626.00 is needed to appropriately account for the Secondary Literacy Supervisor position. The position was funded by eliminating an instructional position, therefore the budgeted amount needs to be moved from instructional salaries to mid-level administration to comply with Maryland Financial Reporting Guidelines.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to approve the transfer of funds, as outlined above. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Robin Street, Manager of the Somerset County Sanitary District, was now present before the Board to discuss proposed legislation for the 2011 session of the General Assembly. Mr. Street asked that legislation be introduced that would allow a delinquent penalty be assessed the same on water and sewer billings as it is on a debt service billing. Currently, no penalties can be charged on delinquent water and sewer accounts. The rates would be the same as currently charged by the Somerset County Treasurer. Commissioner Mathies inquired as to the current number of delinquent accounts but Mr. Street did not have the information available. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board agreed to support the proposed legislation.

Mr. Doug Taylor, Director of Somerset County Roads Department, appeared before the Board to discuss a proposed modification change to the Wenona Harbor Rehabilitation Project. As the result of a recent meeting with local watermen, Mr. Taylor is proposing to move all the boat slips (total of 12) to one side of the harbor, allowing for better ingress and egress by the boat captains, and to construct a finger pier in the northeast corner which would create two slips for skipjacks. The creation of the additional finger pier will result in a slight increase in project costs. According to Mr. Taylor, the change would still have to be approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since some pilings would still be located in the channel.


A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the proposed modification to the Wenona Harbor Rehabilitation Plan. The motion carried 4-0.

With no further business in Open Session, the meeting was adjourned.

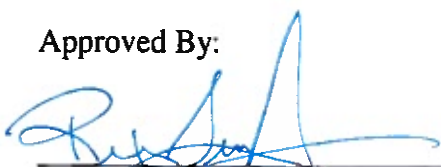
The amount drawn on the General Fund Checking Account for the week of January 4, 2011, check no. 85027 through check no. 85067 was \$ 526,623.23

The amount drawn on the General Fund Checking Account for the week of January 11, 2011, check no. 85068 through check no. 85120 was \$ 751,884.53

Respectfully Submitted:


Cynthia R. Ward
County Administrator-Clerk

Approved By:


Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County