

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE
PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND

JANUARY 11, 2011

At 3:00 P.M., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in special session with President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Vice-President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr. and Commissioner Randy Laird.

County Administrator/Clerk, Cynthia R. Ward, was also present.

At this time, Emergency Services Director, Steve Marshall, was present before the Board. Mr. Marshall stated he had received a telephone call from Lt. Plunkett, with the Maryland State Police, asking about Somerset County's Snow Emergency Plan. Mr. Marshall informed Lt. Plunkett he was not aware that Somerset County had a Snow Emergency Plan. Mr. Marshall then contacted Dorchester County and they faxed a copy of their Plan to Mr. Marshall. Lt. Plunkett reviewed the Snow Emergency Plan and concurred with Mr. Marshall that this should coincide with the State's Snow Emergency Plan. Roads Director, Doug Taylor, also present, felt that this is a good plan and feels it should be implemented.

Commissioner President Simpkins asked if a car is damaged as a result of towing, who would be responsible for the damages. Commissioner Mathies felt that if the person is with their vehicle, they could possibly sign a waiver or disclaimer. Mr. Marshall advised he would contact Dick Furst with LGIT and ascertain about the liability.

Mr. Marshall, next, advised the Board when his department purchased their new radio system from Harris, the first four years' of maintenance was bought at the same time. Harris gave Mr. Marshall a renewal date for the maintenance agreement of September 2011. He was just recently contacted by Harris and was told he was given the wrong renewal date; the renewal date is February 2011, not September 2011. Mr. Marshall was told by Harris to cover the maintenance on the radio system from February to the end of June 2011 would be \$39,536.00. Mr. Marshall stated this had not been a budgeted item for his FY2011 Budget.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Vice-President Fisher, it was carried four to zero to pay Harris the \$39,536.00 in monthly installments of \$7,907.00, for the period from February 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011.


Next, before the Board was Gary Pusey, Director of the Department of Technical and Community Services, and Debbie Lawson, Zoning Inspector with the Department of Technical

and Community Services. Mr. Pusey and Ms. Lawson were here to present a brief overview regarding the Floodplain Ordinance Public Hearing that will be held January 18, 2011. FEMA had contacted Mr. Pusey's office advising there were new maps with changes available and as such Somerset County would require a new Floodplain Ordinance. Mr. Pusey stated that the last time the Floodplain Ordinance was updated was in 1993. For the most part, the Floodplain Ordinance will remain unchanged. One major change in the Ordinance will be the Freeboard. Freeboard is having one foot of clearance base elevation and the elevation of the lowest first floor. Freeboard is not required by NFIP standards, but communities are encouraged to adopt at least a one-foot freeboard to account for the one-foot rise built into the concept of designating a floodway and the encroachment requirements where floodways have not been designated. Builders are concerned because they feel construction costs will rise significantly. Mr. Pusey advised that within three years you would be able to recoup the extra construction costs because Freeboard results in significantly lower flood insurance rates due to lower flood risk. Also if you go over the one foot, the insurance cost goes down even more. This new regulation would apply to all new construction and substantial (over 50 % of the appraised amount) additions to residences. Mr. Pusey thanked the Board for their time.

Ms. Ward, next, reported that Mr. Pusey has requested permission for two of his employees, Tom Lawton and Bob Cadwallader, to attend the Critical Area Planners meeting in Annapolis. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Lawton and Mr. Cadwallader to attend the meeting.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Vice-President Fisher, it was carried four to zero to adjourn the special session.

Respectfully Submitted:



Gloria J. Shores
Administrative Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners for
Somerset County