

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE
PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND

JANUARY 18, 2011

At 2:00 P.M., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in regular 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.

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

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Vice-President Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried unanimously to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, January 4 and January 11, 2011.

Tim Brittingham, with the Great Hope Golf Course, was now before the Board, requesting that the telephone system that is currently at the Golf Course be replaced. The current telephone system was installed in 1996. Mr. Brittingham explained that within the past year they have had to call Telewire to repair this system numerous times. Telewire advised that the system has been discontinued and parts are no longer available for it. When calls are transferred to the Caddy Shack for carry out orders, the telephone will not ring; the light will flash but someone has to be right at the phone to see it flashing. Right now, they are using two way radios with the Caddy Shack waitresses. Telewire quoted a buy price of \$5,187 and a lease price of \$177 a month for 60 months.

Commissioner President Simpkins noted that with a lease price of \$177 a month times 60 months would equal approximately \$10,620, which is double the buy price. Mr. Brittingham stated that with the lease agreement, all service, maintenance, and supplies for the phone service are included in the agreement.

Commissioner President Simpkins felt other companies' equipment might be comparable and instructed Mr. Brittingham to request prices from several other companies in the area.

Mr. Brittingham stated he would contact other companies and have the information by the end of the week.

Now before the Board was Liz Zucker, with the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area, Tom Lawton, Planner for the Department of Technical and Community Service, Gary Pusey, Director of the Department of Technical and Community Services, and Kate Patton, Director of the Lower Shore Land Trust. Mrs. Zucker stated they were here to acquaint the Board members with the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area.

Mr. Lawton reported that the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area was established in FY2008. Mrs. Zucker stated that since 2008 \$3 million in funding for the program has been awarded. The

Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area Plan protects farmland, large blocks of forestry, and blocks of State and nationally significant plant and wildlife habitat. At the present time, over 600 acres of farmland has been protected in Somerset County and three additional farms are currently in negotiation.

Mrs. Patton stated that this is a tool which farmers/landowners can use to update farming implements, improvements, etc.

Mrs. Zucker thanked the Board for allowing them to educate the Commission members on the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area.

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

A State Clearinghouse Recommendation was received from the Maryland Department of Planning regarding the change in use/lease of +/- 0.78 acres of the Chesapeake Forest to the Trustees of the Oakville Eagles Baseball Club. The Trustees of the Oakville Eagles Baseball Club propose to develop additional parking for their community baseball facility which is adjacent to the proposed leased area. The State Clearinghouse requested that this matter be brought before the Board of Public Works at the earliest time.

A press release was received in which Governor O'Malley will address the need for pension reform.

Another press release was received from Governor O'Malley's office on creating a sustainable future for Maryland in a forum on January 7, 2011.

A memorandum was received from Dr. David Lever, Executive Director of the Public School Construction Program, outlining the schedule for each county's appearances before the Board of Public Works on January 26th, 2011, regarding the FY2012 Public School Construction Capital Improvement Program.

Notice of Applications Received for State Permits was received from the Maryland Department of the Environment. One application was noted as being received from the City of Crisfield to upgrade the 9th Street stormwater outfall by installing a 2-foot diameter pipe from 9th Street and Broad Street.

Gary Pusey, Director of the Department of Technical and Community Services, has requested a waiver of permit fees for Mary Coulbourne, Marion, Maryland. Mrs. Coulbourne has been approved for a Housing Rehabilitation Grant for work on her home. Mrs. Coulbourne owns a mobile home and she has been approved to place the existing mobile home on a permanent block foundation. The construction of the foundation requires a building permit from DTCS for a fee of \$150.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried four to zero to waive the building permit fee of \$150 for the placement of a block foundation for Mary Coulbourne of Marion, Maryland.

A Thank You letter was received from Robin Street, Manager of the Somerset County Sanitary District, for allowing him to present to the Board the need for legislation to adopt penalties for delinquent water and sewer accounts.

Riggin Johnson, Shore Transit Director, was at the January 4, 2011 Commissioners' meeting in which he discussed the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program. The JARC Program is a fixed route system that assists citizens getting back and forth to work on Sundays. In reviewing the statistics, the Board felt more information was needed before they took action on his request regarding Sunday transportation and the request was tabled.

Dr. Lloyd Tyler, with the Somers Cove Marina Commission, had notified this office of Ladell Dorman's term expiration and was requesting a letter appointing Mr. Dorman to another term. The Board agreed to table this until the next Commissioner meeting.

The Department of Technical and Community Services had notified this office that a Certification of Satisfaction was needed for a housing grant recipient, Andrew and Ruth Pitts. In November 2007, Mr. and Mrs. Pitts had received a grant in the amount of \$4,370 for the installation of a new well. Mr. Pitts passed away and the property has since been sold. Since the property was sold before the funding expired, Mr. Pitts' children have paid back a portion of the monies, \$2,622, to clear the lien. In order to do this, a Certification of Satisfaction must be signed by the President of the County Commissioners.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Vice-President Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried four to zero to authorize Commissioner President Simpkins to sign the Certification of Satisfaction for Andrew and Ruth Pitts.

The Commission on Aging has requested Commissioner President Simpkins' signature on a grant from the Maryland Transportation Administration in the amount of \$45,237 for the purchase of a new van. No County funds will be used to purchase the van.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried four to zero to authorize Commissioner President Simpkins to sign the grant agreement with the Maryland Transportation Administration for the Commission On Aging's purchase of a new van, with no County funds being used for the purchase of this van.

The Emergency Shelter Grant assists homeless persons throughout the County. The Grant monies flow through the County but no monies are used from the County. The amount of the grant is \$15,369 and requires the Commissioner President signature.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it was carried four to zero to authorize Commissioner President Simpkins to sign the Emergency Shelter Grant.

Mrs. Ward reported that Kirk Simpkins, County Attorney has prepared a Contract of Sale for the property, which is adjacent to the Recreation and Parks Department property. The property being

purchased is .33 acres located on the northerly side of US Route 413 and fronting on Sam Barnes Road. The total amount of the Contract of Sale is \$27,000

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Vice-President Fisher, it was carried four to zero to authorize Commissioner President Simpkins to sign the Contract of Sale in the amount of \$27,000 for the property adjacent to the Recreation and Parks Department on Sam Barnes Road.

Mrs. Ward advised the Board of two additional bills that are being proposed for legislation at this year's General Assembly which would allow for the sale of two properties, the former Crisfield MAC Center (to the American Legion - Stanley Cochrane Post #16), and the Small Boat Harbor Ramp and Dock, and nearby parking lot (to the City of Crisfield).

At this time, Herb Geary and Rusty Tressler with the accounting firm of TGM Group were here to present the FY10 Audit. Mr. Geary thanked the Board for allowing them to meet today. Mr. Geary advised that the audit is broken into several parts, which also includes the Somerset County Library and the County Roads Department. Overall there has been no change in the fund balance. In the General Fund for FY10, actual revenues totaled \$35 million (includes \$3 million of loan proceeds) and were under budget by \$3 million. This was due to loan proceeds. Actual expenditures totaled \$35 million and were under budget by \$4 million.

In the operations of the Roads Board, there was an overall decrease in the fund balance of \$603,000. Actual revenues totaled \$2.7 million and were under budget by \$426,000; actual expenditures totaled \$3.3 million and were under budget by \$647,000.

Effective in 2011, there will be new fund balance reporting under GASB No. 54.

At the current time, the County has \$14 million in reserves. Mr. Geary questioned if this amount would be enough in the future. The third major revenue source for the County is the Disparity Grant received from the State.

Mr. Geary felt that there a good controls in place at the Commissioners and at the Roads. Again, thank you for allowing us to come before you today and present this information to you.

Mrs. Ward returned to discussion items and correspondence.

Mr. Cavanaugh has requested permission for himself and Lawrence Somers to attend the annual Incinerator Operator Recertification training in Baltimore on January 28th, 2011.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Vice-President Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried four to zero to allow Charles Cavanaugh and Lawrence Somers to attend the annual Incinerator Operator Recertification training in Baltimore on January 28th, 2011.

Julie Widdowson, Tourism Director, is requesting permission for one of her full-time employees to attend a course at Wor Wic Community College entitled Introduction to Information Systems, a

computer course. The fee for this course is \$290. After a discussion, the Board decided to table this issue for now.

Doug Taylor, Roads Director, is requesting permission to send a letter to Delmarva Power requesting to have the overhead electric service removed and replaced with underground service at the County-owned waterway facility in Wenona, Maryland. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Taylor to send the letter to Delmarva Power.

Mr. Gordon Christenson (in the audience) welcomed the new commission members. Mr. Christenson also was quite concerned about the trash in the ditches on Rt 667 from the softball field to Main Street Extended. He also stated there was trash by Woodson. Mr. Christenson also feels the Board needs to encourage more recycling.

The amount drawn of the General Fund Checking Account for the week of January 18, 2011, from Check No. 85121 through Check No. 85146 was \$375,013.67

The amount drawn of the General Fund Checking Account for the week of January 25, 2011, from Check No. 85147 through Check No. 85166 was \$943,971.09

There being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned at 3:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Gloria J. Shores / cw
Gloria J. Shores
Administrative Aide

Approved By:


Board of County Commissioners for
Somerset County