

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
FEBRUARY 15, 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 Craig N. Mathies, Sr., Commissioner Jerry S. Boston 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 motion made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it was carried 4-0 to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the meetings held Tuesday, February 1, 2011, and approve them as presented.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Somerset County's Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments, appeared before the Board to present two Contract Change Orders for the Westover (former school) Renovation Project.

Contract Change Order No. 19 – installation of three (3) louvers - \$987.00

Contract Change Order No. 20 – finishing woodwork - \$400.00 (estimate)

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to approve Contract Change Order No. 19, for an additional cost of \$987.00. The motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathias, to approve Contract Change Order No. 20, for an estimated additional cost of \$400. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Cavanaugh also revisited the discussion from the previous County Commissioner's meeting, February 1, 2011, regarding solid waste fees for FY2012. Currently, the transfer sticker permit fees are set at \$52, and landfill tipping fees are set at \$60 per ton. Consideration was given on what to charge for the first transfer station sticker, as well as, the second and third sticker that can be bought by residents to place on their vehicles allowing them to utilize the county transfer stations. While considering the landfill tipping fees, the Board reviewed the

tipping fees of the surrounding counties. At the conclusion of their discussion, the following action was taken on the solid waste fees for FY12:

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to raise the Landfill Tipping Fees from the current rate of \$60 per ton to \$62 per ton. The motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to keep the rate of the transfer station permits at the current \$52 for the first sticker; increase the rate of the second sticker to \$10; and increase the rate of the third sticker to \$15. The motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to maintain the current rate of \$60 per ton for the Town, City, and Sanitary District. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Steve Marshall, Director of Emergency Services, was now before the Board accompanied by John Culp, Executive Director of the Lower Shore Red Cross. Mr. Culp presented the Board with a Red Cross Flag and asked for the County's participation in the observance of March as Red Cross Month as proclaimed by the President of the United States. Mr. Culp concluded by commending Somerset County for their past support of the Red Cross.

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

A Press Release and letter from Worcester County Commissioners was reviewed regarding their intent to seek legislation to abolish the Worcester County Liquor Control Board and create a Worcester County Department of Liquor Control. Under such legislation, the wholesale distribution and retail sale of liquor in Worcester County would become a county owned and operated function. According to Mrs. Ward, Worcester County Officials have asked for Somerset's endorsement of the bill and inquired if Somerset County would be interested in obtaining the ability to also create a similar department. The Somerset County Commissioners agreed to not pursue such legislation for Somerset, but will support Worcester in their efforts to obtain the required legislative authority.

A letter from the Somerset County Agriculture & Civic Center was received regarding a request for assistance from the ECI Annex Inmate Labor Program for painting and general maintenance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to approve the Civic Center's request for assistance from the ECI Annex Inmate Labor Program. The motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Boston abstaining.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 4-0 to re-appoint Nick Sterling and Tony Francis to serve another term of three years as members of the Great Hope Golf Course Advisory Board.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 4-0 to sign Ordinance No. 1021, the Floodplain Management Ordinance Update. The amended Ordinance was formally adopted during the Commissioners meeting of February 1, 2011.

The Board addressed a request received during their last meeting of Tuesday, February 1, 2011, from Mr. Tom Johnson, of Eastern Shore Forest Products, for a personal property tax exemption for manufacturing equipment for Fiscal Year 2011, totaling \$58,259.03. The Board agreed that Mr. Johnson has shown a commitment to Somerset County and proceeded to grant him the tax exemption. A motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to grant Eastern Shore Forest Products a personal property tax exemption for Fiscal Year 2011, totaling \$58,259.03. The motion carried 4-0. In regard to Mr. Johnson's request that the Board pursue legislation for a permanent tax exemption, it was noted that it was too late to seek the legislative authority for this year and would consider it for next year's General Assembly Session.

At this time, Mrs. Ward reported on the following Legislative Bills:

- a. House Bill 177 – On-site sewage disposal systems – nitrogen removal
- b. Senate Bill 304 – Electric Surcharge on retail residential customers
- c. House Bill 393 – Smith Island Solid Waste District – Remove Limitation on Fee – Hearing Date – Feb. 23, 2011
- d. House Bill 397 – Property Tax Credit for Assessment Increases – Extension – No hearing date set
- e. House Bill 421 – Deputy State's Attorney – Private Practice – Hearing Date – Feb. 24, 2011

Mrs. Ward advised that two requests for Proclamations have been received:

- a) Corporal Dewight Rolley – Retirement from MSP
- b) Ruth Ella Hill – 100th Birthday

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to adopt the Proclamations for Corporal Rolley and Ms. Hill. The motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Fisher also suggested Proclamations be prepared for Jack King and Bill Wilson for sixty years of service to the Princess Anne Volunteer Fire Department. The Proclamations will be prepared for signature by the Board at their next meeting.

The Board discussed possible options for demolition of the newly acquired property on Sam Barnes Road in Westover. The house, which was heavily damaged by fire before purchase by the County, is very unstable as well as unsafe. The Board agreed to ask the fire department to burn the remaining structure down if a burn permit can be obtained.

The Board was presented with the FY 2011 Rental Allowance Program Grant Application and Agreement for approval and signature. The grant funds shall be used to make rental allowance payments to eligible recipients occupying eligible dwelling units, and when approved, to pay a required security deposit for such units. Priority is given first to the homeless and second priority will be for an emergency or critical housing situation. Somerset County has been awarded \$40,000 in Rental Allowance funding.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 4-0 to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Rental Allowance Program Grant Agreement for FY2011.

Present in the audience for today's meeting, Mr. Dan Kuebler questioned the makeup of the Golf Advisory Board and suggested new members be appointed rather than re-appointing existing members. Mr. Kuebler also commented on the Somerset County Health Department sign and the message that appears in Spanish.

At this time, the Board was advised of the need to go into Closed Session, authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508 (a)(7) – Consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to adjourn the regular session of the Board and go into Closed Session, authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508 (a)(7) – Consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. The motion carried 4-0.

The amount drawn on the General Fund Checking Account for the week of February 15, 2011, from check no. 85260 through check no. 85294 was \$716,885.96

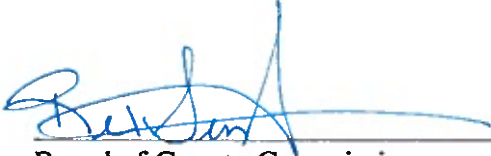
The amount drawn on the General Fund Checking Account for the week of February 22, 2011, from check no. 85295 through check no. 85312 was \$871,161.87

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
County Administrator/Clerk

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

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