

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
OCTOBER 11, 2011

At 2:00 p.m., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in regular session with Commissioner 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 and Executive Secretary, Lory E. Ebron were also present.

President Rex Simpkins called the meeting to order, and asked Commissioner Mathies to lead those attending the meeting in repeating the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 and approve the minutes as presented.

At this time, the Board discussed the appointment of a County Administrator. The position had been advertised this past summer, after which 21 applications had been received. Interviews were then held, and Commissioner Fisher thanked all those who had submitted an application and took the time to attend the interview for the position.

Commissioner Fisher then made the motion to appoint Mr. Doug Taylor as County Administrator. Commissioner Boston seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-2, with Commissioners Laird and Mathies opposed to the motion.

Next, Commissioner Fisher discussed the start date for Mr. Taylor's position as County Administrator. It was suggested that Mr. Taylor's start date be October 24, 2011.

On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to approve Mr. Taylor's start date as October 24, 2011. Commissioner Mathies abstained from the vote.

The Board then expressed their gratitude to Ms. Ward for her service to the County over the past year as serving as interim County Administrator-Clerk until the position was filled.

Mr. Paige Hurley, Director of Recreation and Parks was now present before the Board to make his recommendation with regard to the bid submissions received for the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan. Mr. Hurley reviewed the three bid submissions received from ERM, URDC and Davis, Bowen and Friedel. Mr. Hurley noted that ERM completed the previous 2005 Five-Year Plan for Somerset County Recreation and Parks, and said that they have extensive experience, in that

they have developed recreation plans for the State of Maryland since the early 1990's. Although their bid came in slightly higher than the lowest bid submitted by Davis, Bowen and Friedel (\$19,500.00), Mr. Hurley stated that Davis, Bowen and Friedel have had no previous experience working with a recreation plan. Therefore it was Mr. Hurley's recommendation to award the bid to ERM in the amount of \$19,698.00. Commissioner Fisher questioned if it will be a problem not awarding the bid to the lowest bidder. Mr. Hurley stated that it has not been a problem in the past, noting that the Concession Stand Project was not awarded to the lowest bidder. He also noted that the Five Year Plan is 100 percent reimbursed by Program Open Space.

On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, assuming it is not an issue with the State, it carried 4-0 to award the bid for the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan to ERM in the amount of \$19,698.00.

Next, Mr. Charles Cavanaugh was present to accept the bids submitted with regard to the ditch maintenance projects for 4,955 feet at Crisfield Airport Phase I, 1,980 feet for Jacksonville Road Phase II, and 7,530 feet at Johnson Creek Road Phase II. Commissioner President Simpkins proceeded to open and announce the bid submissions as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Price</u>		
	<u>Crisfield Airport 4,955 feet</u>	<u>Jacksonville Road 1,980 feet</u>	<u>Johnson Creek Road 7,530 feet</u>
Douglas Vann	\$9,364.00	\$4,158.00	\$18,448.00
Mark Bozman	\$8,775.00	\$4,050.00	\$14,940.00
Rick Jones	\$4,895.00	\$2,895.00	\$9,595.00
Mitchell Bonneville	\$3,617.00		
Ryan Miller	\$7,200.00		

Mr. Cavanaugh then suggested the bids be awarded to the lowest bidder as listed for each project. Therefore, on a motion by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, the bids for the following projects were awarded as follows;

Crisfield Airport/4,955 feet to Mr. Mitchell Bonneville in the amount of \$3,617.00. The motion carried 4-0.

Jacksonville Road/1,980 feet to Mr. Rick Jones in the amount of \$2,895.00. The motion carried 4-0.

Johnson Creek Road/7,530 feet to Mr. Rick Jones in the amount of \$9,595.00. The motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Ward, County Administrator-Clerk began review of correspondence received since the last meeting.

The Maryland Department of Planning has provided review comments received for the following two projects: the Environmental Review for Mid Pine Estates, submitted by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and the submission by Mann and Mann Grant Solutions and Accohannock Indian Tribe, Inc., for the construction of a Welcome Center at Bending Water Park. Ms. Ward reviewed the comments that had been submitted for both projects, noting that Somerset County has not received a response to comments submitted with regard to the Welcome Center at Bending Water Park.

Next, Ms. Ward discussed the letter received from Mr. Jim Kingdon, President of Greenlight BioFuels, requesting relief from interest assessed on his 2009 and 2010 personal property tax bills. In his letter addressed to the Board, Mr. Kingdon explained that he has fulfilled his obligation to the county for his 2009 taxes, and has begun making payments towards his 2010 personal property tax owed. Mr. Kingdon then noted that according to his records, accumulated interest on the 2009/2010 tax bill for interest due will be in excess of \$12,500.00. Noting that he would like to use those funds to purchase additional equipment, he requested the Boards consideration to abate the charges. Mr. Kingdon then stated that the Town of Princess Anne has given him preliminary indications that they will waive the accumulated interest charges towards town taxes owed. Commissioner Fisher recommended Mr. Kingdon come before the Board to discuss the issue before a commitment is made.

Ms. Ward next discussed a memo received from Ms. Vicky Ford, Planning and Zoning Department, regarding a request for a grant mortgage release received from the family of Mr. Harry Walters of 23188 Edelen Webster Road, Deal Island. Ms. Ward explained that Mr. Walters passed away several years ago, and the family would like to sell the property. Pursuant to the terms of the grant agreement, a lien was applied against the property on January 15, 1997 in the amount of \$10,830.00. The family has requested the lien against the property be released, as it has been well over five years since the grant was approved, and the debt is thereby considered satisfied.

Therefore, on a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to authorize Commissioner President Simpkins to sign the lien release in the amount of \$10,830.00 against 23188 Edelen Webster Road, Deal Island, as the terms described in the grant mortgage agreement dated January 15, 1997 had been met.

Next, Ms. Ward presented a memorandum from Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Planning and Zoning, dated October 5, 2011, requesting the Board to authorize Commissioner President Simpkins to sign a letter of intent allowing Somerset County to participate in the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program (MHRP), which assists county residents with housing rehabilitation work. The amount allocated to Somerset County is \$36,200.00. Ms. Ward noted that although the funds must be utilized by December 31, 2011, Mr. Pusey states that an application already on file is in place to utilize the funding amount within the time period.

Therefore, on a motion by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to authorize Commissioner President Simpkins to sign the Letter of Intent with regard to the MHRP in the amount of \$36,200.00.

Ms. Ward presented a proclamation request from the Economic Development Department. It was noted that the week of October 24 to 28, 2011 has been designated as Economic Development Week. The Somerset County Economic Development Commission was established in 1980 to promote the economic well-being of Maryland by working to improve the state's business climate and professionalism of those in the field of economic development. Ms. Ward also noted that it was requested that the proclamation be presented at the Business After Hours event being held on October 25, 2011 at Peaky's from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it unanimously carried to approve the proclamation request as submitted by Somerset County Economic Development with regard to Economic Development Week.

Next, a proclamation request was received from the State Attorney's Office, with regard to the dedication of the State Attorney's office building in honor of Logan C. Widdowson, former State Attorney. The building dedication is scheduled to be held on Friday, October 14, 2011.

On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it unanimously carried to draft a proclamation in honor of the building dedication in honor of Logan C. Widdowson, that will be presented on October 14, 2011.

Next, Ms. Ward presented an agreement from the Maryland Department of Human Resources and the Somerset County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the State Attorney's Office with regard to the Child Support Enforcement Administration/Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement which assists in funding the cost (salaries, equipment, supplies, genetic testing) of the Child Support Program in the

amount of \$212,052.00. Ms. Ward noted that 66% of the cost of the program is returned to Somerset County.

On a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to authorize Commissioner President Simpkins to sign the Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement, which will supplement the cost of salaries, equipment and supplies and genetic testing with regard to the Somerset County Child Support Program.

Ms. Ward advised the Board that she was recently notified of a vacancy on the Tax Assessment Appeals Board. Alternate, Sandy Plank has resigned. Ms. Ward noted that the other serving members on the board include Eddie Brimer, Jack King and Paulette Collins. Ms. Ward noted that two additional names will need to be submitted, along with the named recommendation to the Governor's Office, who will make the final appointment.

Ms. Ward next addressed the Redistricting Committee's two remaining vacancy's. Commissioner Boston advised that Ms. Pat Somers has agreed to serve on the committee for his district. Commissioner Mathies stated that Mr. Gains Hawkins has agreed to serve as the UMES representative.

Therefore, on a motion by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it unanimously carried to appoint Ms. Pat Somers to serve on the Redistricting Committee for District 4.

On a motion by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it unanimously carried to appoint Mr. Gains Hawkins to serve on the Redistricting Committee for UMES.

Ms. Ward also noted that Ms. Cornelius has started working on basic mapping and gathering of information that can be used as a starting point for the Committee. The board decided that the first meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday November 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Ward was asked to notify the committee members of the meeting date and time.

Lastly, with regard to the Workforce Investment Board, Commissioner Fisher advised that he would like to submit Mr. Howard Crossan to serve for his district on the board.

Therefore, on a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it unanimously carried to appoint Mr. Howard Crossan to the Workforce Investment Board, representing District 3.

Mr. Dan Kuebler was now present before the Board. Mr. Kuebler began by saying he was disgusted. With the amount of taxes that go towards education, and being passionate about education being the foundation of our future, he was disgusted to hear that with seven schools in Somerset County, two are failing, both being in Crisfield. Mr. Kuebler stated that this is not acceptable with all the money

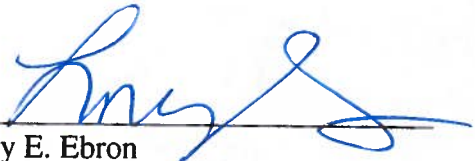
that is being spent on those schools. Mr. Kuebler stated that the \$8.5 million budgeted to the schools should have strings attached, and that a letter be sent to Mr. Sumpter and Superintendent Miles, stating something has to be done, in that it is not acceptable to have 2 out of 7 Somerset County schools fail. Commissioner Mathies agreed that it is unacceptable, noting that one issue is that the system must stop pushing kids along, and passing them to the next grade. Commissioner Mathies also stated that our children seem to believe that it is ok to lower our standard, and that this is a nationwide problem. Mr. Kuebler continued stating that last year, it cost tax payers \$14,040.00 per student in Somerset County. Mr. Kuebler noted that we are in this fight together, and respectfully asked that letters go to the school board to improve this situation. In closing, Mr. Kuebler stated that 8 or 9 years ago, the Board had voted to close Crisfield High School. In a room filled with people, he was involved with performing a due diligence analysis, which got the decision reversed.

With no further business, on a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:43 p.m.


The amount drawn on the General Fund Checking Account for the week of October 11, 2011, from check no.86588 through check no.86630 was \$871,503.61.

The amount drawn on the General Fund Checking Account for the week of October 18, 2011, from check no. 86632 through check no. 86662 was \$119,172.23.

Respectfully Submitted:


Lory E. Ebron
Executive Secretary

Approved by:


Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County