

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
MAY 17, 2011

At 7:00 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the County Commissioners Office, Commissioner President Rex Simpkins declared a Public Hearing open with regard to Somerset County's Budget for Fiscal Year 2012. Also in attendance were 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, Executive Secretary, Lory E. Ebron, Finance Director Gene Adkins and Internal Auditor Sharon Muir were also present.

Mr. Adkins began, stating that the advertisement for the Budget Hearing had been published on May 10, 2011 and May 17, 2011 in the Somerset Herald and on May 10, 2011 in the Crisfield Times. Mr. Adkins advised that the purpose of tonight's meeting was two-fold; first, to receive public comments on the county's proposed budget for FY 2012, and second, to announce that pursuant to the provision of Section 6-308 of the Property Tax Article, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Constant Yield Rate for FY 2012 is \$.9108, and the proposed tax rate for FY 2012 being \$.8837 per \$100.00 of full-value assessment. This proposed tax rate represents no change from last year's rate. Mr. Adkins noted that this is the first time in many years that the tax rate was below constant yield.

Mr. Adkins advised that final deliberation on the Budget will continue until 2:00 p.m. Tuesday June 7, 2011, at which time the new tax rate for FY 2012 will be set. Written comments on the proposed budget will be accepted until Tuesday May 31, 2011.

Mr. Adkins stated that the Somerset County Board of Education budgeted operating appropriation, included in the budget for FY 2012, will be \$8,624,324 and will be paid out of the County General Fund. Mr. Adkins also advised that the amount remained the same as compared to FY 2011.

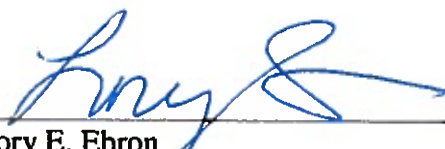
At this time, Mr. Adkins presented the budget highlights as currently drafted on a PowerPoint presentation. He asked those attending to reserve any questions or comments until the end of his presentation, as time will be allotted for comments and or questions. Handouts of the drafted budget, detailed by department, including Real Estate and Income Tax Revenues

were also provided to those attending the hearing. At the conclusion of Mr. Adkins budget review, Commissioner President Simpkins asked if there was anyone present wishing to give testimony.

Mr. Phil Riggin, of 4930 Thomas Long Road, Crisfield, Maryland, appeared before the Board. Mr. Riggin began by complimenting Emergency Services, who were called to his residence at 5:30 a.m. Mr. Riggin said that the response time was within 10 minutes, and that he would like to congratulate Emergency Response, and also personally thank the Commissioners. Next, Mr. Riggin inquired as to Somerset County's Income Tax Revenue. Specifically, Mr. Riggin asked if the revenue (approximately \$6.1 million) is received in one lump sum, or distributed throughout the year. Mr. Adkins replied that the funds are paid to the county throughout the year, and based on quarterly estimated payments, year-end tax filings and monthly withholding from employers. Mr. Riggin next questioned the stipend to Wor-Wick Technical Community College for out of county tuition assistance. Mr. Adkins replied that it is state law and a requirement for the county to reimburse the tuition fee for Somerset county resident students attending the school. Mr. Riggin questioned the 7% decrease in county department budget requests, and asked if the reduction was applied to operations only and not salaries. Mr. Adkins replied the decrease was applied to operational expenses only.

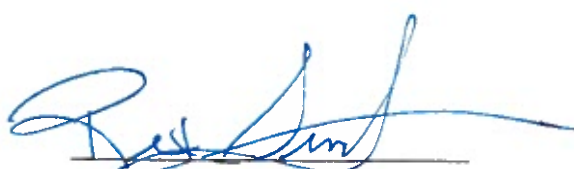
Commissioner President Simpkins asked if there was anyone else present wishing to give testimony. With no other proponents or opponents, Commissioner President Simpkins declared the public hearing closed at 7:31 p.m. It was again stated that written testimony will be accepted until May 31, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Secretary

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County