

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
JANUARY 17, 2012

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.

Also present was Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator-Clerk, and Cynthia R. Ward, Executive Aide.

President Rex Simpkins called the meeting to order. Commissioner Mathies led those in attendance in the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the meetings held Tuesday, December 27, 2011 and Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

Mr. Taylor began by addressing the proposed Cat Ordinance. A public hearing was held Tuesday, December 27, 2011 and written comments were accepted until Friday, January 6, 2012. Due to the large amount of written comments received, Mr. Taylor recommended the Board table the issue until a later date to allow the Commissioners adequate time to review the information presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to table any discussion on the proposed cat ordinance until a later date to allow for the review of the written comments. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board was reminded of the issuance of a Proclamation in recognition of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day, January 16, 2012 and official adoption of the Proclamation is in order.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to adopt a Proclamation in recognition of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day, January 16, 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board was also reminded of a vacancy that exists on the Tourism Commission from District Four.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to appoint Ms. Cheryl Tull to serve as member of the Somerset County Tourism Commission, representing District Four, for a term of three (3) years. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, was now present before the Board. Mr. Pusey reported on the recent public hearing, held January 5, 2012, by the Somerset County Planning Commission, to receive public testimony on an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance concerning large-scale wind turbines. After reviewing all information submitted and testimony presented, the Planning Commission returned with a favorable recommendation to the County Commissioners. As recommended by the Planning Commission, these large-scale wind turbines would only be allowed by Special Exception from the Board of Zoning Appeals in four zoning districts: Agricultural Residential (AR); General Commercial (C-2); Light Industrial (I-1); and General Industrial (I-2). The draft ordinance also contains a number of development standards pertaining to setbacks from property lines and structures, noise, interference with radio and television signals, and other potential impacts from these turbines. If the turbine is approved by the BZA, a site plan must also be submitted to the Planning Commission for its approval. Mr. Pusey also noted that meetings were held with potential wind companies and Patuxent River Naval Air Station Officials during the development process. The next step would include the scheduling of a public hearing by the Board of County Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to proceed with scheduling a public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners, after January 30, 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Pusey briefly discussed a joint land use study for Patuxent River Naval Air Force Base, sponsored by Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland and an upcoming meeting on Monday, January 30, 2012, to address the issue with interested parties.

While still present, Mr. Pusey advised of a recent change pertaining to the housing loan program. Currently, local homeowners that participate in the housing loan program, must submit a credit report as a requirement of the program. This process has been handled through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, which provides the housing funds. However, the State is now asking the local jurisdictions to submit the credit report and

the State will reimburse the counties for this cost. The estimated cost per report is \$17.00, with a grand total of \$170.00 for all of the housing loan applications.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to sign the Agreement with CreditPlus and authorize Mr. Pusey to be the signatory on the credit report requests. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. George "Woody" Barnes, Director of County Roads, was now present to update the Board on a recent meeting with Davis, Bowen & Friedel regarding the final design plan for the Jenkins Creek Dock Renovation Project and recommended the Board approve the plan and move forward with seeking sealed bids for the project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to approve the final design plan and authorize the County Roads Director to proceed with seeking bids for the renovation of the Jenkins Creek Dock. The motion carried unanimously.

At this time, the County Administrator reviewed correspondence with the Board.

A request for two (2) Mortgage Releases for Jessie and Mary Garrison was presented to the Board for signature. Mr. and Mrs. Garrison were the recipients of two housing rehabilitation loans, on two different occasions. The first mortgage was for \$7,990 and filed on March 26, 1987 and the second was for \$9710 filed on June 1, 2001. Pursuant to the terms of the housing rehab. program, the County is required to release the grant mortgage (lien) after a period of five years. According to Somerset County DTCS, Mr. Garrison is now deceased and Mrs. Garrison is attempting to re-finance.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it was carried unanimously to authorize President Simpkins to sign the two (2) Mortgage Releases for Jessie and Mary Garrison. The term of the lien has expired and the debt is thereby considered satisfied.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to proclaim January as "Mentoring Month". The motion carried unanimously and the Proclamation was presented to Jessica Morris, from Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Before adjourning the meeting, President Simpkins asked for any questions or comments.

Mr. Don Howell, President of Princess Anne Little League, asked to be placed on the Commissioners agenda to discuss a funding request for the replacement of the scoreboard on the Little League Field. Since a letter of request had already been submitted, President Simpkins

advised Mr. Howell that the issue will be addressed during the upcoming FY13 budget deliberations.

Mr. Dan Kuebler reported on a meeting held last week with the State Board of Education and the administration of the Somerset County Board of Education. Mr. Kuebler stated that restructuring allows for incompetent teachers to be removed. A realignment of schools is not the answer and is the wrong direction. The data is not there to support this plan. The Board of Education is required to submit a plan to the State by April 24<sup>th</sup> on how they are going to address the low AYP scores at Crisfield High School. In conclusion, Mr. Kuebler confirmed that he has filed as a candidate in the upcoming Board of Education Election.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward  
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County