

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
JANUARY 3, 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 20, 2011.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Solid Waste & Maintenance, appeared before the Board to review the bid proposals received for the purchase of one (1) 2012 Tandem Axle Dump Truck for the Solid Waste Department. A bid opening was held on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, which resulted in only two bids being received, from Barr International, Inc. and Barr Freightliner. Following a brief discussion, the Board voted to award the contract:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to award the contract for the purchase of a dump truck to the low bidder, Barr International, Inc. for their bid of \$128,489.80. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Cavanaugh also discussed a proposal received from Curtis Engine & Equipment for the replacement of a generator at the Somerset County Detention Center. The 100 kw, 125kva John Deere Diesel, can be purchased from the State's contract for an amount of \$39,146. This amount includes additional options, however, certain options can be deleted and the generator can be purchased for \$37,016.75.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to accept the proposal as submitted by Curtis Engine & Equipment for the purchase of a 100 kw generator from the State's contract, with the deletion of certain options for \$37,016.75. The motion carried 4-0.

While still present, Mr. Cavanaugh addressed the electronic recycling program, which currently operates at no cost to the County. According to Mr. Cavanaugh, Creative Recycling has indicated their intent to charge \$.10 per pound for computer equipment and \$.15 per pound for televisions. Since the program's inception, July 2011, at least 16 tons of electronic waste has been recycled. If the County were to eliminate the electronic recycling program, Mr. Cavanaugh estimates the additional landfill waste to cost \$10,000-\$12,000. In an effort to avoid the new charges, he has been looking at other companies that provide similar services, but has been unsuccessful to date. Commissioner Boston suggested the County establish an "Electronics Amnesty Day". However, Mr. Cavanaugh expressed his concern that the volume would not allow it to be profitable. In an effort to allow the program to continue, Mr. Cavanaugh suggested the Board approve the contract, with a provision that allows the County to terminate the contract within 30-days, should an alternative plan be deemed more profitable, and pending review by the County Attorney.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the contract with Creative Recycling, which includes a cost for the electronic recycling, with the provision of a 30-day termination clause (by both parties) and pending review by the County Attorney. The motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Amy Ortez, of the Somerset County Department of Social Services, and Ms. Lisa Hernandez, of the Catholic Charities/Seton Center, appeared before the Board to recommend approval of the FFY2011 Grant Agreement for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant Program Agreement, under which Somerset County Commissioners have been awarded \$33,500 by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). This funding will support homeless assistance administered by the following service providers:

<u>Service Provider</u>	<u>ESG Funding</u>
Dept. of Social Services - (Somerset Committee for the Homeless)	\$13,400.00
Catholic Charities/Seton Center	\$20,100.00

Ms. Ortez advised that up to sixty families may receive assistance through this funding source during the two-year program. Funding allocated to the Somerset Committee for the Homeless is utilized to operate and maintain the "Wood Home", a transitional shelter for families in Princess Anne. Ms. Ortez also spoke on the Seton Center's efforts to prevent

homelessness by providing assistance to those families that have received disconnect notices from utility companies. Previous funding received through the HPTS program, totaling \$169,000, provided 100 families with homeless prevention services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Emergency Solutions Grant. Commissioner Boston, Commissioner Laird, and Commissioner Simpkins voted aye. Commissioner Fisher and Commissioner Mathies abstained from the vote due to their membership on the Social Services and Homeless Boards. The motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Louis Hickman, Warden of the Somerset County Detention Center, was now before the Board to discuss a proposed change in the Conmed contract (a contract between Somerset County Detention Center and Conmed Healthcare Management to provide medical services to Detention Center inmates). According to Mr. Hickman, Conmed has proposed a 2.5% increase in next year's contract, which equates to \$9,700, but reducing service by three hours. In addition to his opposition to the increase in contract costs, Mr. Hickman also discussed their lack of response, on certain occasions, during the nightshift. The Board also opposed the contract increase and inquired as to who provides medical services at ECI. Mr. Hickman will further investigate the proposed contract increase and will return at a later date if necessary.

While still present, Mr. Hickman advised of training deficiencies at the Detention Center, specifically fifteen correctional officers that are not current with training standards for 2011. Before addressing other training issues, Mr. Hickman suggested former employee and trainer, Karin Whittington, be allowed to conduct the correctional officer training in order to meet the state's requirements. The training can be conducted in four days at an estimated cost of \$544.00. The Board inquired if ECI could provide assistance with training. Mr. Hickman indicated that assistance from ECI may be minimal since their own correctional officer training will take priority. The County Administrator will contact Warden Green to discuss the issue.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to allow Karin Whittington to conduct the correctional officer training in order to meet the requirements, at an estimated cost of \$544.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor reviewed correspondence with the Board.

The Board reviewed a letter from Ms. Jennifer Ranck, Director of Somerset County Library System, advising that the Library Board of Trustees has nominated Mr. John Samus for re-appointment to the Board of Trustees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to re-appoint Mr. John Samus to serve as member of the Library Board of Trustees for another five-year term. The motion carried 4-0.

A written request was received regarding the need for financial assistance with funeral expenses for Karen Corbin. The funeral arrangements are being handled by Anthony E. Ward Funeral Home.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to authorize an expenditure of \$250 from the County's Pauper Burial Fund towards the funeral expenses of Karen Corbin. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Mathies abstained from the vote.

An Agreement for Appointment as Emergency Feeding Organization was provided to the Board for approval and signature. The Agreement designates Shore Up! Inc. as the Emergency Feeding Organization under The Emergency Food Assistance Program and outlines the duties and obligations imposed in the Agreement as it relates to the distribution of USDA food commodities. A similar agreement was previously approved by the County Commissioners, however, the Maryland Department of Human Resources indicated their previous correspondence had contained the wrong form, and is now requesting the County submit the Agreement in this format.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the "Agreement For Appointment As Emergency Feeding Organization", as described above. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board revisited a request from the December 20th County Commissioner Meeting regarding several vacancies that exist on the Somerset County Tourism Commission. During that meeting, re-appointments were made for representatives in Districts One, Two, Three, and The Town of Princess Anne. Ms. Widdowson included possible nominees for the Board's consideration in her correspondence for appointments in Districts Four, Five and The City of Crisfield.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to appoint Mr. Dwight "Duke" Marshall to serve as member of the Somerset County Tourism Commission, as representative of District 5. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board was advised of three (3) requests for letters of support:

- 1) Humane Society – Applying to The William Snyder Foundation for Animals for a \$3,000 grant to continue their work with the Feral Cat Management Program.
- 2) Three Lower Counties Community Services, Inc. –Applying to the Health Resources and Services Administration for grant funding to continue healthcare services in Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico Counties.
- 3) Eastern Shore Regional Library – Applying to the Maryland State Department of Education for grant funding to provide new or revised facilities master plans for the eight county library systems and ESRL.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to authorize President Simpkins to sign a letter of support for the Somerset County Humane Society. The motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Simpkins to sign a letter of support for Three Lower Counties Community Services, Inc. The motion carried 4-0

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Simpkins to sign a letter of support for the Eastern Shore Regional Library. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor reported on a request to install a security camera at the Liquor Dispensary (Pocomoke Store) located at U.S. Rt. 13 and Dividing Creek Road, due to several acts of vandalism. Two proposals were received for the installation of the cameras and the monthly monitoring fee:

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| 1) Absolute Security | \$1,800 plus \$25 monthly fee |
| 2) Alarm Engineering | \$2,600 |

Based upon a recommendation of the County's I.T. Department, a motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to accept the proposal submitted by Absolute Security, for their quote of \$1,800 plus \$25 monthly fee. The motion carried 4-0.

The cost of the security cameras will be paid by the Liquor Board, however, it will be subtracted from the County's revenue collected from alcohol sales.

A project notification was received from Maryland Department of Planning, State Clearinghouse, advising that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' has applied to the U.S. Department of Commerce for \$457,900 to develop the Monie Bay Research and Education Center, including the renovation of the existing house; the repair of old buildings; the demolition of certain out-buildings, dock renovation, and construction of new pavilion. Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, has reviewed the project and offered additional comments regarding county permits. Mr. Taylor recommended the County respond to the notification with an R-1 designation, which indicates the project is generally consistent with our plans, programs and objectives, but qualifying comments are attached for consideration.

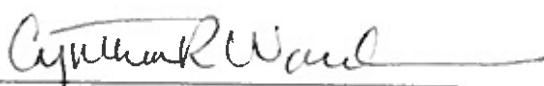
A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to respond back to Maryland Department of Planning, State Clearinghouse, with an R-1 designation for the Monie Bay Research and Education Center project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor addressed the current (and planned) operational status of The Caddyshack Restaurant at Great Hope Golf Course. During the FY12 budget deliberations, the Board agreed to close the restaurant during the months of January and February when golf play was slow or even nonexistent due to inclement weather. This action was taken in an effort to keep the golf course open but reduce expenses. Upon a review of the statistics comparing golf play in December 2011 vs. previous years, the number of plays so far is considerably higher than in previous years when weather conditions were considerably worse. In light of the mild winter weather that we have experienced so far, Mr. Taylor recommended the Board reconsider the closure of the restaurant. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to keep The Caddyshack Restaurant open during the winter months, provided the weather is cooperative. Should the weather begin to deteriorate, the Board will close the restaurant as originally proposed.

In conclusion of today's meeting, President Simpkins inquired if anyone wished to offer comment on today's meeting. Mr. Dan Kuebler referred to the electronic recycling program discussed earlier today and stated that he believes the television recycling issue will resolve itself in the near future.

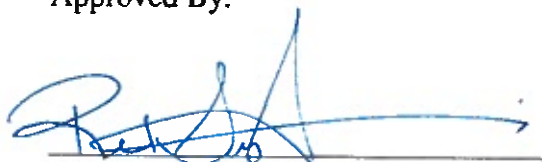
With no further business, President Simpkins adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County