

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 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 and asked Commissioner Mathies to lead those attending the meeting in 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, February 28, 2012, and approve as presented.

President Simpkins began by opening sealed bids for the Wenona Comfort Station – Sanitary Services. Only one (1) bid was submitted:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Debra Holland	\$175 per week

Mr. George W. Barnes, Director of Somerset County Roads Department, was present for the bid opening. He will review the bids and return at a later date with a recommendation for awarding of a contract.

At this time, Mr. Mike Cantwell, Chief of the Mosquito Control Section of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Board accompanied by Mr. Dan Schamberger, Environmental Specialist Bio Science, and Mr. Dave Scholfield, Program Manager. Mr. Schamberger began by presenting a copy of the proposed budget for the Mosquito Control Spray Program for Fiscal Year 2013 and stated that the Department of Agriculture has received an overall budget cut of \$344,000, which ultimately will be reflected in the local mosquito spray programs. The County's projected share of the program cost is expected to increase by \$34,800. Mr. Schamberger also advised that the airspray program budget will be reduced from \$180,000 to \$132,000, although the total allocation is normally not utilized. The County's overall operating cost for last year's spray program was approximately \$340,000.

In a discussion regarding the Supervisor's position for Somerset County Mosquito Control (Agricultural Field Supervisor), which is currently vacant due to the resignation of Mr. George Barnes (to accept the position of County Roads Director) Mr. Cantwell advised that they are looking into filling the position, however, the response has not been favorable due to the State's hiring freeze. He went on to state that he is not hopeful that the position will be filled and is considering dividing the job duties between the state and county. Mr. Schofield added that similar circumstances exist in Worcester County. He recommended Talmadge Doyle take over the Supervisor's role, due to his many years of experience in the Mosquito Control Office. Mr. Schamberger also advised that he would still oversee the local program. Commissioner Mathies inquired if there would be additional cost to the County if Mr. Doyle was promoted to the Supervisors' role. Mr. Cantwell replied – possibly, but some of the cost would be recovered under the county/state share program. Commissioner Simpkins noted that Dan Schamberger supervised the County Spray Program before Mr. Barnes was hired, and inquired if he would be able to do it once again, particularly since the County will now be paying approximately 62% of the share. Mr. Schamberger stressed the need for a first-hand manager to be in place for the supervision of the drivers and to field phone calls in the local office. He recommended addressing some of the more detailed personnel aspects in a future closed session.

Commissioner Laird inquired about subscription service for residents in the City of Crisfield and the Town of Princess Anne. Mr. Schamberger advised there are certainly advantages to having the additional properties sprayed for mosquitoes, and estimated they could accommodate up to 100-150 additional accounts. The County maintained 580 accounts last year, but cautioned the Board that 750 accounts would be the maximum number of accounts they could handle.

A brief discussion was held in regard to the fee structure for the upcoming summer season. The cost of pesticides has not increased, however fuel prices have dramatically increased. The Board will revisit the discussion at a later date to decide whether to increase the current fee of \$65 per property for private residential mosquito spraying.

Mr. Cantwell concluded by assuring the Board that it is still the intention of MDA to fill the vacant position, but also noted that several positions within their state department have been eliminated.

The County Administrator reviewed correspondence and discussion items at this time.

A Project notification from the Maryland Department of Planning, State Clearinghouse, was reviewed by the Board. According to the notice, Mr. Gary King plans to install a 41.28 KW solar electric system mounted on a roof, at his residence located at 11111 Old Princess Anne Road, Princess Anne, Maryland. The system will contain one array consisting of 172 panels mounted on a shed roof, and all appropriate permits have been obtained. The system is expected to produce about 55,990 KWH annually. Mr. Taylor recommended a C-5 response be submitted indicating that the project is consistent with our plans, programs, and objectives.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to respond to the project notification with a C-5 designation, as indicated above. The motion carried 4-0.

A letter was received from Gary Pusey, Director of the Department of Technical and Community Services, indicating the terms of two Board of Zoning Appeals' members are nearing expiration on April 4, 2012 – Bill Cottman and Donald Price. Both members have indicated they are willing to continue their service on the Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to re-appoint Donald Price to serve as member of the Board of Zoning Appeals for another three-year term. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to re-appoint William Cottman to serve as member of the Board of Zoning Appeals for another three-year term. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board also received a letter from Paige Hurley, Director of Recreation and Parks, requesting the re-appointment of John Dize as member of the Recreation Commission for another three-year term.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to re-appoint John Dize to serve as member of the Recreation Commission for another three-year term. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Fisher abstained from the vote since he is a current member of the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Taylor asked for Board approval to sign a contract with Royal Plus for the repairs at The Caddyshack Restaurant at Great Hope Golf Course, following the fire that occurred in the kitchen area on January 28, 2012.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Rex Simpkins to sign the contract with Royal Plus, in the amount of \$91,017.01. The motion carried 4-0.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried unanimously to waive the permit fees for Royal Plus to make those repairs in the Caddyshack Restaurant.

Ms. Sharon Muir, Internal Auditor, was now present before the Board to review two issues:

- 1) Approval from the Board for the sponsorship of the Somerset County Library and the Somerset County Sanitary District to obtain primary liability and property coverage insurance through Local Government Insurance Trust. Somerset County Commissioners have sponsored both entities for the last ten years.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it was carried unanimously to approve the request and authorize the President's signature.

- 2) Approval from the Board to sign the Certification of Approval for a State Bond Grant for \$1.6 Million received for the renovation of the former Westover Elementary School Building. The currently renovated building now houses the Behavioral Health Section of the Somerset County Health Department, and will become the future site of the Somerset County Department of Aging – Senior Center.

“Certificate of Approval: Hereby certifies that all documentation and statements made in connection with this application are correct to the best of our knowledge and belief. Also, that all construction and the plans and specifications therefore shall comply with all requirements, assurances and representations relation to such construction and the operation and maintenance of the facility or facilities constructed. In addition, we agree that this facility shall be used for the purpose set forth in this application for a period of thirty (30) years and that any proposed change in use shall require Board of Public Works approval. The regulations governing the use of State Bond Program Grant funds shall be complied with.”

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize the President to sign the Certification of Approval. The motion carried 4-0.

The County Administrator advised of a request received from the City of Crisfield for software that is currently owned by the County. The software (Black Bear Software) was purchased several years ago by the Planning & Zoning Director, Joan Kean, for \$4,095.00 but was not used. The software program is now obsolete and has no value to county operations. The

County Attorney was consulted regarding the transfer of property and he has recommended the software license agreement be researched first. According to Planning and Zoning personnel, the software company, Black Bear, is no longer in business and cannot be contacted. The County Attorney will, however, review the license agreement first.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the transfer of the (software) property. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board was advised of the availability of consultant services for the review of the remaining items housed in the Burgess Museum. Mr. Eric Jodlbauer, of 30458 Prince William Street, Princess Anne, Maryland, has offered his services to complete the following tasks:

1. Suggest limited items that would make possible exhibits
2. Determine the condition of those items
3. Establish what needs to be done to stabilize those items and estimate costs
4. Help us estimate building dimensions, needs, etc. for a new museum space

Mr. Jodlbauer proposes to accomplish these tasks in approximately 20 hours, at \$40.00 per hour, plus travel, billed at half of the rate. Commissioner Laird inquired if there was an immediate need to perform this work. Mr. Taylor reminded everyone of the existing conditions of the Burgess Museum, which is rampant with powder post beetle, and the need to move the most valuable items into a controlled environment. The Board felt the need to give further consideration to this proposal before taking action.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to table the Burgess Museum – Consultant Proposal issue until a later date. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board took a brief recess from the meeting.

At 3:00 p.m., the Board resumed in session with Dr. Marjorie Miles, Superintendent of Somerset County Public Schools; Rodger Daugherty, Director of Facilities and Transportation, Vicki Miller, (current) Director of Finance, and Roxane Rounds, Interim Director of Finance . Dr. Miles began by discussing the declining enrollment in the secondary and intermediate levels, a decrease of 163 students. The elementary enrollment has increased, however, by 133 students. There are currently 262 more students at the elementary level than the secondary. Dr. Miles is requesting level funding to support the increased elementary population, in the amount of \$8,624,324. This is \$75,050 over maintenance of effort.

Dr. Miles advised that \$273,230 in state revenue will be lost based upon the Governor's proposed budget and \$170,789 in Jobs for Education funds. However, \$343,299 has been

received in Race to the Top funds for Year 2. These funds are to be used for specific “projects” aligned with the MSDE RTTT grant, including: Common Core Curriculum professional development; Comprehensive Data System; and Highly Effective Teachers and Principals. A Data Design Specialist (working with the comprehensive data requirements for teachers and principals) and a Technology Facilitator (working with technology integration through the 1:1 lap top initiative) have been hired using these funds.

Budget requests from staff for 2013 include:

- 1) Technology hardware: next grade of 1:1 laptops for students, replacement laptops for SIS teachers, expansion of hi tech classrooms to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
- 2) Central Office Support
- 3) Employee Assistance Program (have received grant funding for part of the cost)
- 4) Technology Enhanced Learning
- 5) Certified Nursing Assistant – Woodson Elementary
- 6) Transportation – increasing diesel fuel costs correlate to the need to increase the amount per mile.
- 7) Transportation – changing radio bandwidth (required as of 1/1/13) requires updating radios.

The following information was provided to the Board regarding the restructuring of CHS (and anticipating WHS):

- A) Staffing plans have been prepared and are being reviewed to re-assign staff and evaluate the needs of the students and consolidate classes to more appropriate class sizes.
- B) SCPS will be contracting with High Roads which will provide targeted intervention to identified students receiving special education services. It also will provide interventions to students with other academic deficiencies or discipline problems. This will be funded through MSDE.

At this time, Mr. Rodger Daugherty reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan for the FY2013 Budget. In particular, Mr. Daugherty recognized two items that have been prioritized:

- 1) the design of the HVAC renovation for Greenwood Elementary School; and 2) new bleachers

for Washington High School. The Board of Education is asking these two items to be carried forward from the FY12 capital improvements budget.

The remaining items were then reviewed by the Board, in order of priority.

Mr. Daugherty also reported on a company that has approached the Board of Education with a proposal to install a cell phone tower on Board of Education property (Milestones). The company would pay all fees, permits, and marketing costs. Any other company wishing to rent space on the tower would have an opportunity to do so. Certain school-owned properties would not be suitable. Commissioner Fisher expressed his concern for the safety factor. Commissioner Mathies recognized the value of the proposal, stating that it would save the County money and generate revenue, provided there was no liability to the County. Mr. Daugherty advised that Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties have agreements with Milestones and several other counties are considering similar agreements.

The County Administrator addressed the existing maintenance buildings, owned by the Board of Education, and located behind the County Office Complex. Since the County is in need of additional storage space behind the Complex, the Commissioners are proposing to assume ownership of the existing maintenance buildings and build two (2) new buildings for the Board of Education Maintenance Department at their Westover location. A proposal has been submitted by Beauchamp Construction in the amount of \$107,000. The County Commissioners will consider this proposal during their upcoming budget deliberations.

In conclusion, Commissioner Laird inquired about the outdoor security lighting around Woodson School. Mr. Daugherty advised Mr. Laird that the security lights are on a timer and go out at midnight.

Commissioner Boston inquired about a proposal to install a wind turbine at the Woodson School site. Mr. Daugherty advised that the Board of Education is looking at the proposal, however, it is located across the street on the spoil site, and not on the school grounds.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance, was now before the Board to discuss Landfill tipping fees and transfer station permit fees for FY2013. After reviewing the projected revenue, the Board took the following action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to keep the landfill tipping fees at the same rate of \$62.00 per ton for FY13. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to keep the transfer station permit fees at the same rate of \$52.00 (first permit/sticker); \$10.00 (for an additional permit/sticker); and \$15.00 (for the third permit/sticker). The motion carried unanimously.

In a discussion regarding the hours of operation at the transfer stations, Commissioner Laird suggested the transfer stations remain open one hour later during daylight savings time. On these days, the transfer stations would open one hour later to eliminate the need for additional work hours. At the conclusion of the discussion, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to change the hours of operation at the transfer stations on Mondays and Fridays to 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during daylight savings time; and operate with the current schedule of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the remaining days of the week. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Boston opposing the motion.

The Board reviewed a letter from Maryland Department of Environment regarding a citation and fine of \$1,000.00 for leachate discharge at the Fairmount Road Landfill. Mr. Cavanaugh advised that it was primarily stormwater runoff due to the construction and recent heavy rains, but it was deemed to be leachate by MDE. After a brief discussion, the following action was taken by the Board:

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to pay the \$1,000.00 fine as issued by the Maryland Department of Environment. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cavanaugh also asked for the Board's permission to proceed with the purchase of a mower for the Maintenance Department, which was included in his Departmental Budget. Mr. Cavanaugh recommended purchasing the Toro mower, rather than the John Deere. The Board approved the request.

In conclusion, Mr. Cavanaugh updated the Board on The Caddyshack Restaurant, which sustained damage from a fire on January 28, 2012. Royal Plus has completed the clean-up phase of the project and began work today with making the necessary repairs. A proposal was discussed regarding the replacement of the HVAC compressor, upgrading the current four ton unit to a five ton unit. Mr. Cavanaugh noted that the existing four ton unit was unable to



maintain a comfortable temperature in the kitchen and restaurant area during the summer season. The upgraded unit would cost an additional \$4,342.60.


A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to upgrade the HVAC compressor to a five ton unit, for an additional \$4,342.60. The motion carried 4-0.

With no further business, President Simpkins asked if anyone from the audience wished to address the County Commissioners.

Mr. Percy J. Purnell, Mayor of The City of Crisfield, indicated that he would like to meet with the County Commissioners regarding the wind turbines. He also expressed his concern that some companies are trying to circumvent the City's services and franchise agreements to obtain internet connectivity.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Cynthia R. Ward  
Executive Aide

Approved By:

  
Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County