

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY JUNE 5, 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 Jerry S. Boston and Commissioner Randy Laird. Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr. was absent.

County Administrator-Clerk, Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Secretary, Lory E. Ebron were also present.

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

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried unanimously to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the Budget Hearing held on May 22, 2012, Regular Session Meeting held on May 22, 2012, and the Closed Session Meetings held on May 8, May 22 and May 29, 2012, and approve the minutes as presented.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh was now present before the Board to receive bid proposals presented regarding Architectural/Engineering Services for the renovation project under consideration for the MAC Center located in Westover Maryland. Commissioner President Simpkins proceeded to open the following sealed bids submitted for the MAC Center Project:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Becker Morgan Group	\$84,500.00
Davis, Bowen, Friedel	\$74,900.00
Gannett/Flemming	\$74,000.00
George, Miles & Buhr	\$77,025.00
MAD Engineering Inc.	\$35,012.00
Design Atlantic Limited	\$64,195.00

Mr. Cavanaugh advised the Board that he would review the submissions and make his recommendation at a later time.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, was now present before the Board to review the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget. After a brief explanation of the budget time line, Mr. Adkins advised that no responses in opposition or support had been received by the Commissioner's Office. Mr. Adkins did note that there were two requests for information, which had been satisfied. Mr. Adkins stated that since the Public Hearing, held on Tuesday May 22, 2012, only a few minor

changes have been made. Modifications to fringe and salary figures, as well as an adjustment to the Golf Course and Roads budgets were noted. Mr. Adkins stated that the property tax rate remained the same at \$.8837 per \$100 of the full assessed value of real property, and \$2.20925 per \$100 of full assessed value of personal and public utility property. Lastly, Mr. Adkins stated that the FY2013 total Commissioners budget was \$35,935,678.

Therefore, on a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously that it be adopted and resolved, that for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2013, the property tax rate be \$.8837 per \$100.00 of the full assessed value of real property and \$2.20925 per \$100.00 of full assessed value of personal and public utility property in Somerset County, except such property as may, by provision of the laws, be exempt from this rate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, and carried unanimously, that it be adopted and resolved that for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2013, the property tax rate of \$.28 per \$100.00 of the full assessed value of public utility property; and, \$.112 per \$100.00 of the full assessed value of all other real property in Somerset County, excepting such property as may, by provisions of the laws, be exempt from this rate, be levied and imposed for the State of Maryland.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, and carried unanimously, that it be adopted and resolved that for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2013, the local income tax rate for residents of the County be at the rate of 3.15% of Maryland's taxable income for Tax Year 2013.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, and carried unanimously that it be adopted and resolved for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2013, that a service charge of 0.48% be applied to the second installment amount of semiannual tax payments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, and carried unanimously, that it be adopted and resolved that the proposed Levy, reflecting total revenues in the amount of \$35,935,678.00 and total appropriations in the amount of \$35,935,678.00, be adopted as the Official Levy of Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, and carried unanimously that it be adopted and resolved that the proposed Somerset County Roads

Budget, reflecting total revenues in the amount of \$5,548,074.12 and total appropriations in the amount of \$5,548,074.12 be adopted for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

Mr. Adkins then distributed the Commissioners' Budget and the Roads Department Budget signature cover sheets to the County Commissioners for their signatures. (Original signed Budget is hereto attached to these minutes). Commissioner Fisher thanked Mr. Adkins on a job well done.

Mr. Paige Hurley, Director of Recreation and Parks was now present before the Board with Mr. Clive Graham of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) to discuss the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Five-Year Plan, currently being drafted for the Commissioners final approval. Mr. Graham noted that the plan is a state requirement to be prepared every six years, and must be in place in order for the county to receive Program Open Space funding. Mr. Graham continued, noting that there are 3 basic chapters to the plan; the Recreation and Parks POS Chapter, the Agricultural Land Preservation Chapter and the Natural Resource Conservation Chapter. Mr. Graham advised that he has also coordinated with Mr. Gary Pusey and Tom Lawton of the Planning and Zoning Office, and that the first drafted plan had been submitted in March 2012 to the state. Mr. Graham noted that the draft was returned with very benign comments, and that the plan has met all state requirements. It was noted that both the Recreation Commission and Planning Commission have both reviewed and approved the plan as presented. Mr. Graham noted that the deadline date for submission is July 1, 2012. Commissioner President Simpkins stated that the Board will review the drafted plan and contact Mr. Hurley at a later date.

Mr. Taylor presented Resolution No. 1039 for the Boards consideration to express their approval of the "Girl Scout Leadership Experience" project, provided by the The Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay, to girls residing in the priority funding areas of the nine counties of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The Council is dedicated to reaching out to the girls whose families struggle with the burdens of poverty, crime, drugs, lack of employment, lack of education and hopelessness.

Therefore, on a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to adopt and approve Resolution 1039 to the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay project entitled "Girl Scout Leadership Experience".

Next, Mr. Taylor presented a 'Letter of Support' request from the Friends of Teackle Mansion that will be sent to the PNC Foundation with regard to the application submitted to aid in further restoration work at the Teackle Mansion. Teackle Mansion is one of the most significant historic sites in the region, and is a key tool in educating the county's 4th grade school children about historic preservation and cultural history.

On a motion by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner President Simpkins was authorized to sign the Letter of Support for the Friends of Teackle Mansion. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Rodger Daugherty, Director of Facilities and Transportation, was now present before the Board to present the Somerset County Public Schools Educational Facilities Master Plan. Mr. Daugherty explained that the plan is a yearly requirement by the State, and the purpose of presenting it to the Board of Commissioners for Somerset County is to make both the County and the State aware of the current needs of Somerset County schools. Mr. Daugherty explained that projections have been calculated and verified with the Planning and Zoning office in that there will be minimal growth for the county this fiscal year. No new buildings will be proposed, only renovations and ongoing improvements to the current structures. Commissioner Laird asked if any school consolidations have been planned. Mr. Daugherty stated that he would not think so, and explained that they have embarked on an ambitious reorganization of school programs and facilities. It was noted that Somerset County schools have experienced a steady decline from 4700 students in the mid 1970's to 2882 in 2012. Commissioner Fisher asked if the school board has approved the plan. Mr. Daugherty replied that they have. Commissioner Laird asked if funding for Greenwood School was still budgeted. Mr. Daugherty said that it was, and that the design phase of the project is expected to begin within the next few weeks. Commissioner Boston asked if there was air conditioning at all Somerset County Schools. Mr. Daugherty replied that there was. Commissioner President Simpkins pointed out an error with regard to Washington High School being listed in "poor" condition on the "Facilities Inventory" page. Mr. Daugherty noted the error. Commissioner Boston asked if the field renovations had been completed at Washington High School. Mr. Daugherty stated they were working on it yesterday.

Therefore, after their review, on a motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to acknowledge that the Educational Facilities

Master Plan for Somerset County Public Schools is consistent with the goals of the Commissioners for Somerset County, and County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor was authorized to sign the Statement of Support.

Mr. Taylor began review of correspondence received since the last meeting.

On the calendar of events, Mr. Taylor noted the Commissioners had been invited to attend the Maryland Wine Week Kick-Off at Teackle Mason on June 7, 2012 and the Music Festival, being held by the Somerset County Recreation and Parks office on June 16, 2012.

A letter of support has been drafted to Somerset County Department of Social Services with regard to the transportation proposal grant for FY2013-2015 which was presented to the Board by the Tri-County Council/Shore Transit Division. Public transportation service for the citizens of Somerset County is of prime importance to ensure job accessibility in Somerset County. Mr. Taylor requested the Board's approval to authorize Commissioner President Simpkins to sign the support request letter.

Therefore, on motion by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was approved to authorize Commissioner President Simpkins to sign the DHR Grant for FY2013-2015 support letter as requested.

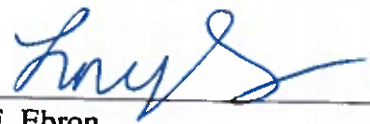
At the conclusion of Mr. Taylor's correspondence review with the Board, Commissioner President Simpkins asked if there was anyone present today wishing to speak.

Mr. Dan Kuebler stood, and began by congratulating the Board on the excellent work that had been completed with regard to the budget. He knows that many hours were given and he appreciated the attention to detail. He said that the county is being run like a business, noting that there are fewer employees at the Planning and Zoning office. Mr. Kuebler then briefly discussed the letter from Charter with regard to high definition television, and recommended a note be sent back to Charter suggested they research the issue as to HD being available in the Crisfield area. Mr. Kuebler discussed the fiber optic cable currently being installed along Route 413, and the businesses that could benefit from the installation of fiber optic cable, noting that it is troubling to him regarding the area's and important businesses that will not be able to get the fiber optic option. Mr. Kuebler then mentioned the ROTC school system issue that is not completed and is of great concern to him. He suggested a meeting be scheduled so that explanation can be provided as to the future plans of the ROTC program.

Mr. Phil Riggin was now present before the Board. Mr. Riggin noted that he was out of town at the time the hearing was held with regard to the budget, stating that the biggest revenue for the county is the collection of property tax. Noting that the second largest revenue being local income tax, Mr. Riggin expressed the same concern presented last year in that he hopes the state is providing all the information needed so that the county gets their fair share.

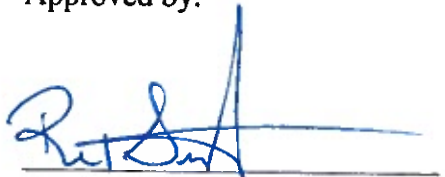
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Secretary

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County