

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2012

At 2:00 P.M., The Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in regular session with Commissioner Vice-President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr., Commissioner Jerry S. Boston and Commissioner Randy Laird. (Commissioner President Simpkins was absent from today's meeting)

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

Vice-President Fisher 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 Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried 4-0 to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the meetings (open session and closed session) held on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, and approve them as presented.

Mr. Woody Barnes, Director of Somerset County Roads Department, appeared before the Board to present a Quit Claim Deed for signature by the Board for a portion of Lloyd Webb Road, which was sold to Harry Daisy (Tyler Cove Hunt Club, LLC), as approved by the Board on June 14, 2011. A public hearing was held by the Board on May 31, 2011 to receive public comment on closing the end portion of Lloyd Webb Road as requested by Mr. Daisy. The roadway is shown on Tax Map 79, Grid 4, which divides Parcel 17. The portion of the road begins approximately .16 miles southwest of the intersection with Calvary Road, continuing approximately .03 of a mile in a southwesterly direction to the terminus of Lloyd Webb Road. The Board was advised that payment has been received from Mr. Daisy for his purchase of the county roadway.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to sign the Quit Claim Deed for the sale of a portion of Lloyd Webb Road, as described above.

In other County Roads business, Mr. Barnes updated the Board on a tractor that is in the need of extensive repair work. According to Mr. Barnes, the tractor can be used as a trade-in for purchasing from the state contract. Further information will be forthcoming at a later date.

The County Commissioners were presented with a Certification Statement for signature which confirms the Board of Education budget submittal totaling \$9,104,448. Commissioner Laird inquired about the bleacher replacement at WHS and was advised (prior to today's meeting) that State funding for the bleacher replacement project will not be available, and questioned whether the County Commissioners should leave the matching funding in place if the bleachers cannot be purchased. Commissioner Laird also suggested the Board of Education consider the repair of the bleachers, if they cannot be replaced at the current time. At the conclusion of the discussion regarding the bleachers, the County Commissioners agreed to leave the funding appropriation in place.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to authorize Commissioner Vice-President Fisher to sign the Certification Statement for the Board of Education.

At this time, the County Administrator reviewed discussion items and correspondence.

A discussion was held in regard to the Webster house, adjacent to the Wenona Harbor. The Webster house, which was purchased by the County as part of the Wenona Harbor property, may represent a liability to the County due to its deteriorating condition and the reported drug activity taking place in the structure. A proposal was received from an individual that wished to transform the property into an art gallery. As an alternative, a suggestion was made to allow the fire department to burn the building thereby using it as a training opportunity for firefighters, however, the asbestos shingles would have to be removed prior to burning. The building could also be demolished utilizing county personnel and equipment. The Board will consider the options and make a decision at a later date.

The County Administrator reviewed two project notifications received from the Maryland Department of Planning, State Clearinghouse:

- 1) MD20120615-0469 – State Highway Administration - Draft 2013 Statewide Planning Research Program (Part 1, Planning Portion). Mr. Taylor recommended the Board reply to the notification with a C-5 designation. Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 4-0 to respond with a C-5 designation for the project.
- 2) MD20120608-0435 – Maryland Hawk Corporation – Hawk Plaza, Graduate Student Housing Project. Mr. Taylor recommended the Board reply to the notification with a

C-5 response, provided the project meets all county building and zoning requirements. Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to respond with a C-5 designation for the project, with the provision as stated by the County Administrator.

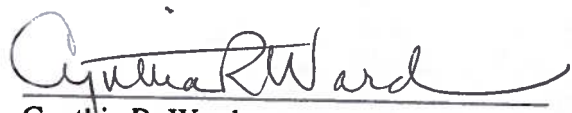
The Board reviewed a letter from the Office of the Attorney General, Department of the Environment, which states that Somerset County Landfill has been cited with a violation of §4-413 of the Environment Article regarding discharges that were observed on February 24, 2012. Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of the Solid Waste Department, is investigating the matter and will report his findings to the Board when further information has been obtained.

At the conclusion of Mr. Taylor's agenda items, ^{Vice-Fisher} President ~~Simpkins~~ asked if there was anyone present today wishing to speak.

Mr. Phil Riffin, of Crisfield, reported on a news conference held earlier today by officials at Eastern Correctional Institution regarding a new program "America's Vetdogs", a program in which inmates provide training to service dogs for disabled veterans. On behalf of the American Legion, he expressed his support for this program by stating that it was a good use of taxpayer money and a win-win situation for all involved.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County