

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 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 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 meetings (open session and closed sessions) held on July 24, 2012 and July 31, 2012 and approve them as presented.

Mr. Paige Hurley appeared before the Board to announce his resignation from his position as Director of the Recreation and Parks Department, a position he has held for 8 ½ years. Mr. Hurley reported that he has accepted a position in Worcester County and wished to thank the Board for the opportunity to serve the residents of Somerset County. The Board wished him well in his new venture.

Mr. Brandon Dampier, of Dewar Properties, Inc., Valdosta, Georgia, was now present before the Board to request county support for his company's plan to rehabilitate the Stewart Neck Apartment Complex, a 36 unit complex that was originally built in the 1970's. The project would also include the addition of a community center. Mr. Dampier plans to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for financing and tax credits for the building rehabilitation, estimated to cost \$3Million. In order to comply with the program requirements, local government must provide support for the project. As an alternative to a funding allocation, Mr. Dampier asked for the Board's consideration to waive the building permit fees, not to exceed \$8,000. Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, estimated the fees to be \$7,000 or under. President Simpkins predicted an increase in property tax revenues once the project was completed which would help offset the loss of county permit fees. Mr. Dampier also spoke on their plan to utilize a local workforce

which would be an additional asset to the County. He also predicted minimal displacement of the occupants. The County Commissioners approved two similar requests in 2010, however, the State only funded three projects statewide.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to adopt Resolution No. 1045, a Resolution to support the Stewart Neck Apartment rehabilitation project, as presented, and waive the building permit fees, up to \$8,000, associated with the project. The motion carried 4-0.

At this time, the County Administrator reviewed correspondence.

In a letter from Ms. Patricia Mannion, the Board was advised of several vacancies on the Social Services Board. They will consider the request to fill the vacancies and take action at a later date.

The Board reviewed a request for a Release of Grant Mortgage, for property owned by Eunice Lankford, of Marion. In 2001, Ms. Lankford was the recipient of grant funding for housing rehabilitation, in the amount of \$17,183. Ms. Lankford is now deceased and her family is selling the property. Since the five-year term of the lien has expired, the debt is thereby considered satisfied.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Release of Grant Mortgage, as described above. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a letter from The Crisfield Heritage Foundation, Inc. requesting a tax exemption be granted pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, Tax Property Article, Subsection 9-321, for the following county taxes due:

Acct. #07 125259	The J. Millard Tawes Library	\$2,705.01
Acct.#12 9100	Ida Ward Linton Home	\$ 400.32
Acct.#12 10230	J. Millard Tawes Library	\$ 98.09
Acct.#12 5741	Calvary Road Property	\$ 95.44

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to approve the tax exemption for The Crisfield Heritage Foundation, Inc. as requested for the properties listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor advised of a request received from the Somerset Committee for the Homeless, Inc. for a letter of support for their efforts to obtain grant funding to support the expansion of homeless services. Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner

Laird, it carried 4-0 to provide a letter of support to the Somerset Committee for the Homeless, Inc. Commissioner Fisher abstained from the vote due to his membership on the Homeless Board. According to Commissioner Fisher, the letter of support would be endorsing the grant that Jack Paul, of Paul Associates, is writing.

Mr. Taylor also reported on the expiration of the contract between Somerset County Commissioners, The City of Crisfield, and URS, for consultant services associated with the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport. Due to the extensive project currently underway (obstruction removal), Mr. Taylor recommended the contract be extended for a period of one or two years to allow for the completion of the project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to extend the contract with URS for two years. The motion carried 3-1, with Commissioner Fisher opposing the motion.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, was now present before the Board to request approval for a loan extension. The temporary loan through M&T Bank, in the amount of \$3.5Million, was approved for Board of Education capital projects, primarily Washington High School renovations in June of 2010. According to Mr. Adkins, M&T has agreed to extend the loan with the same terms in place until September 2013. At that time, the loan may be transferred into a permanent loan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the loan extension. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Robin Street, Manager of Somerset County Sanitary District, was now present before the Board, accompanied by Mrs. Barbara Outten, Administrative Aide for the Sanitary District, to request the Board's guarantee of a loan in the amount of \$1,655,368 for the Princess Anne Water and Sewer Improvements (Crisfield Lane, Loretta Road and Hawk Lane). The construction loan is moving into a full term loan at the rate of 3.5% for a forty year term through USDA Rural Development. Commissioner Mathies inquired as to the significance of the forty year term. Mr. Street advised that most of their loans are for the same term due to the cost. In the past, residents have expressed concern for the costs that were passed along to the users within that district. Commissioner Fisher inquired as to the status of the County's borrowing limit. Mr. Adkins confirmed the County is in a good position, as this is the first loan in the new fiscal and calendar year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to adopt the borrowing Resolution and guarantee the USDA Rural Development loan for the Somerset County Sanitary District in the amount of \$1,655,368. The motion carried 4-0.

At the conclusion of today's meeting, a motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to place an advertisement in the Crisfield Hard Crab Derby Booklet. The motion carried 4-0.

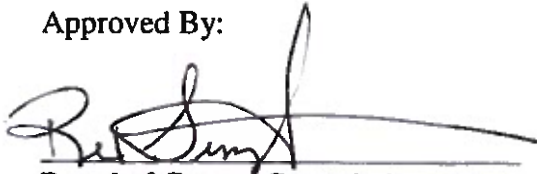
With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County