

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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 sessions and closed sessions) held on August 21, 2012, August 28, 2012, and September 4, 2012 and approve them as presented.

Ms. Dottie Butler appeared before the Board to accept a Proclamation recognizing the week of September 17 through 23 as "Constitution Week". In celebration of "Constitution Week", we ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties.

At this time, the County Commissioners welcomed Dr. Juliette Bell, newly inducted President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. President Simpkins welcomed Dr. Bell to Somerset County, our community and our campus. Dr. Bell stated that she has received a very warm welcome from a wonderful community and from the institution since her arrival on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She is looking forward to working closely with the members of our community, beginning with the 126<sup>th</sup> Founders Day Celebration. The University will also be participating in a community clean-up project on Saturday. Mr. Danny Thompson, Executive Director of Economic Development, was also present to welcome Dr. Bell. Mr. Thompson reminded everyone that former UMES President, Dr. William Hytche, was a founding member of Economic Development Commission (EDC) in Somerset County. His community outreach was a significant factor in establishing a good partnership between business, government and community. Mr. Thompson stated that he hopes to continue that partnership with UMES.

Commissioner Fisher inquired about the status of the greenhouses at UMES. Mr. Thompson stated that they are hoping to pursue funding assistance through Rural Development. Dr. Bell also stated that the University is dealing with insurance issues, but it is her goal to rebuild the greenhouses. In conclusion, President Simpkins welcomed Dr. Bell to the County and encouraged her to contact the County Commissioners for any assistance they may be able to provide.

Mr. Taylor reviewed correspondence and discussion items.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Somerset County Volunteer Fire Chiefs Association, respectfully requesting that input from the Fire Chiefs be considered before implementing or lifting a burning ban in the County. The Board will consider this request and take action at a later date.

Mr. Taylor advised of a request for waiver of permit fees for Trinity United Methodist Community Worship Center. The Worship Center applied to the County's Department of Technical and Community Services in November 2008 to construct a new building at 12060 East Ridge Road, Princess Anne. They paid and received all of their needed permits, however, the work has not been performed and the permits have now expired. The Trustees are now ready to begin construction and since the original application in 2008, the fee schedule has now changed to reduce the amount of fees required for churches. The permits at issue are for a new zoning certificate (\$100) and an HVACR permit (\$30) for a total of \$130. Since the church has already paid for these fees once before, once before, it is asking for a waiver of the \$130 fees. Since the County Commissioners have historically waived permit fees for church construction, a motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to waive the \$130 permit fees and reimburse Trinity United Methodist Community Worship Center for the permit fees they initially paid. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a Resolution to re-establish the Housing Board of Review, which was created some years ago to assist the Department of Technical & Community Services with the review and approval of applications from homeowners who seek grants to do rehab work on their homes. The Resolution also addresses the membership and terms which was not previously recorded. There are three previous members that have expressed interest in remaining on the

Board, leaving four vacant positions to fill. After a review of the proposed Resolution, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to adopt Resolution No. 1046, a Resolution to re-establish a Housing Board of Review to assist the Department of Technical and Community Services with implementation of a Housing Rehabilitation Program throughout the County; and to re-appoint Ms. Katie Nurmi, Ms. Annette Cottman and Mr. Eugene Borden to continue their service on the Housing Board for another three-year term.

The Board reviewed a request from Ms. Tara Whittington for financial assistance from the County for the burial of her husband, James Whittington, Jr. whom passed away on August 27, 2012.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried unanimously to allocate \$250 from the pauper burial fund to assist with the burial of James Whittington Jr.

Mrs. Sherree Marshall, Director of Somerset County Commission on Aging, was now present before the Board to request approval and signature of FY13 Operating Grant Application through the Maryland Department of Transportation for the SSTAP Program. The funding, totaling \$117,447 provides transportation services for elderly and disabled citizens in Somerset County. Mrs. Marshall advised there is no cash match from the County. However, Somerset does provide a \$90,000 soft match.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the FY13 Operating Grant Application in the amount of \$117,447. The motion carried unanimously.

At the conclusion of today's agenda items, President Simpkins asked for any comments from the audience. Mr. Phil Riggan, from Crisfield, stated that effective July 1, 2012, the Comptroller's Office is in charge of all non-profit slot machines. New rules are now in place that will affect how their revenue is allocated. The recipient of the revenues generated by the slot machines must be 501C3, which will eliminate many former benefactors from receiving this money. A meeting has been scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for all non-profit agencies that wish to obtain information on how to apply for the 501C3 status.

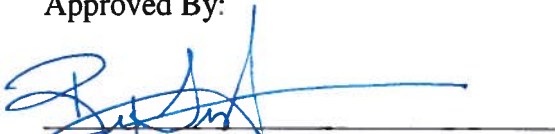
With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward  
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County