

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
MAY 22, 2012

At 7:00 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the County Commissioners Office, Commissioner President Rex Simpkins declared a Public Hearing open regarding Somerset County's Budget for Fiscal Year 2013. Also in attendance: Commissioner Vice-President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr., Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Randy Laird, County Administrator-Clerk, Ralph D. Taylor; Finance Director, Gene Adkins; Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; and Internal Auditor, Sharon Muir.

Mr. Adkins began by stating that the Constant Yield advertisement had been published on May 16, 2012 in The Crisfield-Somerset County Times, The Somerset Herald and The Daily Times to announce our hearing. The purpose of tonight's hearing is two-fold:

1. To receive public comment on the proposed budget; and
2. Pursuant to the provision of Section 6-308 of the Property Tax Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, to present the Constant Yield Rate of \$.9750; and proposed tax rate of \$.8837 per \$100 of full value assessment. The proposed tax rate represents no change from last year's rate of \$.8837 per \$100 of full value assessment. However, this is the second consecutive year that our tax rate is below constant yield.

The Budget being discussed tonight is the estimated income and planned expenditures as discussed by the Board through May 22, 2012. Final deliberation on the Budget will continue until Tuesday, June 5, 2012, at 2:00 p.m., at which time the new tax rate for FY13 will be set. The procedure for the Hearing was explained. Anyone wishing to make comments will be asked to come forward, state their name and address, and present their testimony. Written comments on the proposed budget will be accepted until Tuesday, May 29, 2012.

Mr. Adkins reported that the Somerset County Board of Education budgeted appropriation included in this budget for FY13 will be \$8,624,324 to be paid from the County's General Fund for operations. The FY12 appropriation to the Board of Education was also \$8,624,324, so we are providing level funding despite a decline in the enrollment, which is \$75,050 above maintenance of effort.

At this time, Mr. Adkins presented the budget highlights on Powerpoint as currently drafted. Handouts were provided which included the complete budget detail. The presentation included the estimated revenues (totaling \$35,946,664) and planned expenditures (totaling

\$35,946,664) for FY2013. At the conclusion of the budget review, Commissioner President Simpkins asked if there was anyone wishing to give testimony.

Mr. Michael Hall, of 28624 Revells Neck Road, Westover, appeared before the Board. Mr. Hall expressed his appreciation to the Board and staff for the budget preparation and for keeping the tax rate down.

President Simpkins asked for any further testimony or questions.

Mr. Richard Crumbacker, of Crisfield, inquired if the County expects to still have a fund balance. Mr. Adkins confirmed the County will still have a fund balance, however, it will probably be reduced to approximately \$11.5 Million.

President Simpkins asked for any further testimony or questions. There were none.

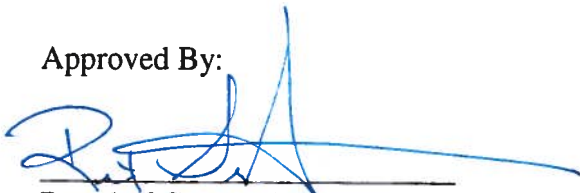
At 7:25 p.m., President Simpkins declared the public hearing closed. Written comments will be accepted until Tuesday, May 29, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County