

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013

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 motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the meetings held December 3, 2013 (Open and Closed Sessions) as presented.

Dr. John Gaddis, Superintendent of Somerset County Public Schools, appeared before the County Commissioners to request the approval of their Capital Improvement Plan for FY15 and to submit a check to the County as a reimbursement of funding from the Washington High School Renovation Project. Dr. Gaddis began by introducing staff members: Paul Jefferson, Nancy Smoker, and Ed Barber; and Board of Education members: Gen. Warner Sumpter and Dan Kuebler.

The only project to be submitted as a capital improvement project in FY15 will be the roof replacement for Greenwood Elementary School, which will be phased in over a two-year period. Dr. Gaddis also addressed aging schools in the County and the possibility of obtaining state funding for their future replacement. Commissioner Laird discussed the need for lighting at Crisfield High School athletic fields and Commissioner Mathies expressed his concern for advancing technology in our school system to increase employment opportunities and improve the quality and academic standards of our students. At the conclusion of the discussion, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for FY15 for Somerset County Public Schools. The motion carried 4-0.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to authorize President Simpkins to sign the FY15 Forward Funded Projects Assurances Form for the Public School Construction Capital Improvement Program.

Dr. Gaddis also shared with the Board a survey opportunity for the staff and general public to provide their input on the FY15 budget.

In conclusion, Dr. Gaddis presented the County Commissioners with a check in the amount of \$861,000 as a reimbursement from the Washington High School Renovation Project. Although he has no plan to request non-recurring funding for FY15, Dr. Gaddis indicated that he may return at a later date to propose other projects.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, was now present to discuss the contract renewal of their CDBG Consultant, Jack Paul. According to Mr. Pusey, the contract was initially approved in 2007 based upon an hourly rate of \$20 per hour. Mr. Paul has requested an increase to the hourly rate, from \$20 to \$25 per hour. The costs will be covered under the CDBG program.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to renew the contract with Jack Paul and increase the hourly rate to \$25 as requested for a two-year term.

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

Mr. Taylor presented four proposals for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, as shown below, and the action taken by the Board to approve the submittal of the applications:

- 1) Rehabilitation of an existing tidal dyke system southeast of Crisfield. The project will protect the community from flooding associated with severe storm events.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to approve the submittal of this application to the Corps of Engineers.

- 2) Recreating a once existing section of shoreline which protected the maritime community of Frenchtown. This project would serve to protect Frenchtown from erosion associated with waves and currents as well as impacts from future severe storms.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to approve the submittal of this application to the Corps of Engineers.

- 3) Construction of approximately 5000 linear feet of bulkheading to protect the maritime community of Ewell, from erosion created by waves and currents. The project will also protect the community from future severe storms.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to approve the submittal of this application to the Corps of Engineers.

- 4) Construction of approximately 2300 linear feet of new bulkheading to protect the maritime community of Rhodes Point. The project will also include an erosion control enhancement from Sheep Pen Gut to the Maryland/Virginia line on the

Chesapeake Bay side of Hog Neck Island to reduce the impact of future storms on Rhodes Point.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to approve the submittal of this application to the Corps of Engineers.

The Board reviewed a legislative initiative as presented by Maryland Association of Counties for a Collaborative Public Safety Radio System. Maryland "FiRST" will allow public safety officers from State agencies and local jurisdictions to communicate across a single, interoperable system, improving incident management from day-to-day and providing invaluable assistance during catastrophic emergency response.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to submit a letter of support to Governor Martin O'Malley for the passage of this legislation. The motion carried 4-0.

A request to waive permit fees was submitted for the Board's consideration by the Department of Technical and Community Services. Ms. Catherine Maddox is attempting to relocate her mobile home from Wilson Landing Mobile Home Park to R. Maddox Road. Due to her limited income and financial status, she has asked for a waiver for the fees which total \$396.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to waive the permit fees (\$396) for Ms. Maddox, as requested. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board was presented with the FFY 2013 Federal Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program and SFY 2014 State supplemental funds for the ESG program. The service provider that will receive funds under this grant to the County is the Catholic Charities Seton Center, for an amount totaling \$20,835.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the grant agreement as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor concluded his correspondence review with a letter that was submitted to Raymond A. Skinner, Secretary of Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, regarding the County's concerns that we may be competing with other counties for viable projects regarding the \$16 Million funding allocation. Concern was also expressed for the timetable for submitting application to the State. Since the letter was sent (December 10<sup>th</sup>) Mr. Taylor reported that confirmation has been received that the entire \$16 Million will be coming to Somerset County, however, there is still a concern for meeting the deadline in submitting projects for approval.

Commissioner Laird suggested the Economic Development Commission send a Memo to the watermen, similar to the Memo that will be sent to all county property owners, encouraging potential recipients of the funding to contact the EDC Office.

Commissioner President Simpkins asked for any comments or questions from the audience in regard to today's agenda.

General Sumpter reported on information received from House Speaker Michael Busch regarding the list of aging schools in the State, including two schools in Somerset County. According to General Sumpter, the State is aware of our plight and they will provide whatever assistance they can.

At this time, the County Administrator advised the Board of the need for a Closed Session. A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to go into Closed Session authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508 (a)(1)(i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The motion carried unanimously. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President Rex Simpkins; Commissioner Charles Fisher; Commissioner Craig Mathies; County Administrator, Ralph D. Taylor; and Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward.

The Board resumed in open session at 3:00 p.m., at which time President Simpkins declared a public hearing open relating to the following:

“Somerset County will conduct a Public Hearing to obtain the views of citizens and organizations related to remaining needs resulting from Hurricane Sandy and Hurricane Irene as part of the preparation of a Needs Assessment that must be completed prior to submission of an application for funding which the County proposes to submit to the State on or before the January 28, 2014 deadline.

The State of Maryland has been awarded \$20 million through the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) to be used for unmet needs related to disaster recovery efforts for various storms. The CDBG Program is a federally funded program designed to assist units of general local government with community and economic development activities. It is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

This funding is to be targeted to disaster relief, long-term recovery activities, restoration of infrastructure, housing, and economic revitalization. Activities must address a direct or indirect impact caused by the disaster(s). Projects and activities to be considered must be eligible for CDBG funding *and* meet a CDBG national objective as well as other federal and state program requirements.”

After reading the public notice into the record, the County Administrator read aloud the CDBG National Objective that all projects must meet. President Simpkins then provided the instructions for today's hearing for those wishing to testify. A summary of the proposed projects and the presenter is attached to these Minutes.

At the conclusion of the hearing, President Simpkins advised that the County will submit the projects for review. The qualifying projects will then be prioritized and submitted to the State for funding.

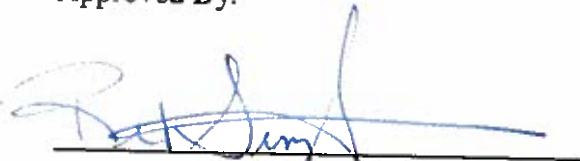
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward  
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECTS

SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARING OF 12/17/13

PRESENTER /AGENCY	PROJECT TITLE	DESCRIPTION	COST (EST.)
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Great Point Restoration	Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to restore Great Point and to install barriers to attenuate future storm surges. Corps is providing \$5 million with a local match of \$2.6 million over 4 years	\$2.6 million (local) \$5 million (Army Corps)
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Street Resurfacing	All streets in Crisfield were flooded during Sandy, and since have deteriorated and are in need of resurfacing.	\$2.5 million
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Bulk Heading Next to the Depot	The bulk heading on the property next to the new Depot has been damaged and the land partially washed away behind the bulk heading. This project would replace the existing bulk heading with steel bulk heading.	\$400,000
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Maryland Avenue Well Generator	This well was damaged during Sandy because there was not a back-up generator. The commercial power was fluctuating, losing one phase and causing the motor to burn up. The City's ability to supply water was impaired both during and after the storm as a result. This project would provide a new generator elevated 4' and a transfer switch that includes phase loss protection.	\$85,000
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Cove Street Lift Station	The Cove Street Lift Station serves the entire Lawsonia District, plus the entire east side of the City and County sewer collection systems, and was nearly flooded out during Sandy. To prevent the	\$100,000

			loss of this valuable facility and sewer capabilities for an extended period of time, a barrier wall is proposed to be built around this facility, with a tight gate and pad.	
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Armory Roof		The former National Guard Armory roof was heavily damaged by Sandy, with leakage causing rooms on the second and third floors to be flooded, as well as the basement and creating a mold situation in the basement. This project would replace the roof and would renovate the basement.	\$500,000
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Business Renovation on Main St.		The City acquired a 3-unit business building on Main Street through a tax sale. The units were severely damaged by flooding during Sandy. This project proposes their renovation so they can be made available for small businesses at a reduced or time deferred rental rate to encourage new business establishment in the City.	\$1 million
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Commercial Building Purchase and Renovation		A number of commercial buildings within the City were damaged by flooding from Sandy and have not been repaired and will be eventually be abandoned by the existing owners. This project would allow the City to purchase these buildings, renovate them, and re-lease the buildings to new businesses.	\$5 million
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Home Rehabilitation and Elevation		A number of houses within Crisfield were damaged by flooding from Sandy and will need to be raised and repaired. Current owners and landlords will abandon the structures and allow them to eventually go to tax sale, and will eventually be torn down and removed from the tax base with	\$5 million

		the land becoming property of the City of Crisfield. This project proposes to rehab and elevate these structures for sale or lease to new occupants.	
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Crisfield Police Station	The police station was damaged during Sandy. Although the City has partially renovated the building with insurance money, the building is low and will flood with another storm. This project would replace the building raised to a sufficient height.	\$750,000
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Crisfield City Hall	City Hall came within inches of being flooded during Sandy. The City bulk headed the doorways up to 3'. A similar storm will probably flood this facility in the future. This project proposes to construct a new facility at a sufficient height.	\$3 million
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Crisfield Housing Authority	Approximately 130 units of this complex were flooded during Sandy. These units were repaired and re-occupied with insurance money. The units will flood again with a storm similar to Sandy. This project proposes to re-build these units at a higher elevation in another location within the County to prevent future harm.	\$10 million
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Crisfield Library	The new Crisfield Library is being designed to combat flooding. The first floor will be elevated to meet new flood standards. The cost for this elevation and the access walkways will cost approximately \$750,000 versus building the library at the normal elevations.	\$750,000
Percy Purnell, Mayor City of Crisfield	Former Whittington Elementary School	This former school, a County owned and leased facility, has been housing the "Head Start" and "It Takes A Village"	\$3 million



		<p>after-school and summer programs. The building was completely flooded out during Sandy and the roof severely damaged. Although the building has been cleaned, there are reports of mold sickness and other dampness problems. A complete renovation of the building would cost \$700,000 but this would not protect it from future storms, as the building is at ground level. Renovation would not be allowed without raising the building, due to floodplain regulations. A new facility would cost approximately \$3 million, which includes tearing down the existing building and re-building at the proper elevations. This facility serves 200+ low to moderate income children daily. A new building could also serve as a multi-purpose building for other activities, a facility desperately needed by the low to moderate income population.</p>	
<p>Tracy Grangier, Town of Princess Anne</p>	<p>Princess Anne Estates Drainage Project</p>	<p>The Princess Anne Estates Subdivision suffered severe street flooding during Sandy, rendering streets virtually impassable and threatening homes with flooding. It has been determined that the flooding could have prevented through a minor clearing/ditch project. The project would require some engineering, permits, clearing and the replacement of a natural fence. This project is located in an area of mostly low to moderate income residents.</p>	<p>\$70,000</p>
<p>Tracy Grangier, Town of Princess Anne</p>	<p>Warwick Property Acquisition</p>	<p>This project consists of three contiguous parcels located adjacent to the Manokin River that would be purchased by the Town. One parcel is improved with a</p>	<p>\$35,000</p>

			now abandoned auto repair shop that was damaged by a snowstorm in 2010 and suffered further damage through flooding from Sandy that reached a height of 3-4 feet. The purchase would remove a blighted structure susceptible to future flooding.	
Charles Goldsborough, Crisfield Housing Authority	CHA Community Center		The Community Center at the Somers Cove development was damaged by flooding during Sandy. This facility is used by the City of Crisfield also. Funds to repair damage sustained are requested.	\$1 million
Dwight Marshall Jr., Smith Island United	Rhodes Point Jetty		This project proposes a jetty be constructed west of Rhodes Point, considered to be one of the most vulnerable areas of Smith Island. A study conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers was initiated some years ago but final funding was not approved at that time.	\$11 million (Army Corps) \$1.1 million (Local)
Dwight Marshall Jr., Smith Island United	Smith Island Drainage Ditches		This project proposes that drainage ditches be developed and maintained to assist with water runoff.	???
Dwight Marshall Jr., Smith Island United	Smith island Home Elevations		This project proposes that existing homes be elevated to mitigate damage from flooding.	\$600,000 (20 homes at \$30,000 each)
James Porter, Homeless Coalition	Transitional Housing & Homeless Shelter		The Somerset Committee for the Homeless owns three adjacent lots just north of Princess Anne. Two of the lots have dwellings which are dilapidated and need to be removed. The Coalition proposes a new building that would house up to 16 people (i.e., a shelter) and another house that could be used for transitional housing for one family at a time. Associated costs would address	\$616,000

			drainage and road issues with these properties	
Maria Morris, Shore-Up	Boiler System Replacement		This project would replace the boiler system at Crisfield Head Start.	\$50,000
Jerry Redden, Maryland Hawk Corporation	Chase Research Park		This project requests funding to leverage \$38 million from other sources in order to design and construct infrastructure and commercial space on property owned by the Hawk Corporation (a private fundraising arm of UMES). The project is anticipated to create jobs during construction and provide full-time employment after construction is complete.	\$5.1 million
Darlene Taylor, It Takes A Village	Repair/Replacement of Facility		The building used by this group and by Head Start (Note: see above under "Former Whittington Elementary School") was damaged during Sandy. Their group assists about 140 children from low and moderate income families during the summer and they are requesting consideration for a new facility.	???
Phil Riggin, Citizen	Recruitment of a Large Employer		Mr. Riggin stated the recruitment of a large employer to a centralized location in the County (e.g., Westover) would greatly enhance recovery efforts.	???
Dan Kuebler, BOE	Various Projects TBD		Mr. Kuebler stated a list was being compiled from the Board of Education and would be submitted.	???
Rev. Charles Bagley, Westover Resident	Westover Water System		Rev. Bagley noted that public sewer is available to residents of Westover, but public water is not – residents rely on individual wells. During Sandy with the loss of power residents did not have a water supply. This project would make	???

Jack Mills, Humane Society	Cat Sanctuary	public water available to this area. Mr. Mills noted that the County had a facility for abandoned dogs but no such facility exists for cats. His organization provides a volunteer system to address homeless cats. Sandy resulted in an increase of abandoned/feral cats in the County and his organization is requesting consideration of funding for a 25-30 acre property with suitable buildings.	\$400,000
Carolyn Marquis, Friends Of Crisfield	Tourism	Ms. Marquis noted that the County's Tourism Office does an outstanding job but that additional funding should be allocated to allow them to increase their efforts.	???
Lamar Brown, Champ/Oriole Resident	Housing Rehabilitation	Mr. Brown stated he knew of elderly residents in the Champ and Oriole area whose homes were damaged during Sandy who had not received assistance. [NOTE -- it was pointed out that earlier funding sources could be used to help these residents and County Staff met with Mr. Brown after the meeting to obtain more information.]	N/A
Rev. Phil Huber, Long-term Recovery Committee	N/A	No specific proposals were put forth by Rev. Huber, who stated his organization would like to have a unified front with the County and the City of Crisfield to support the application submitted to the State.	N/A
Danny Thompson, Somerset EDC	Marina/Harbors; Infrastructure	Previously submitted to County Admin.	???