

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 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 Rex 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.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, appeared before the Board, accompanied by Mr. Tom Lawton, Senior Planner; and Liz Zucker, of the Rural Legacy Program. Following her introduction, Ms. Zucker proceeded to update the Board on the status of the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area for Worcester and Somerset Counties, referring to a map which denoted the properties currently enrolled in the Program. Two easements were recently completed in August 2012 on the Somerset County side and two additional easements are awaiting federal funding, expected to be received in six months. The FY2013 grant agreement was submitted and funding, if approved, will be used to purchase easements totaling 100 acres along Dividing Creek. Funding through the Wetland Reserve Program may also be used to purchase qualifying easements in the Dividing Creek area. The FY14 grant application, totaling \$1.9 Million, would fund, if approved, five new easements:

- 1) E.S. Adkins (Parcel 23 - 492 acres)
- 2) Earl and Barbara Dolan (Parcel 1 - 154 acres)
- 3) Brummit (Parcel 42 - 160 acres)
- 4) Hammond Smith (Parcel 14 - 112 acres)
- 5) Frederick Carey et al. (Parcel 6 - 95 acres)

Following a question from the Board, Ms. Zucker advised that easements are recorded with the property deeds in the event the property is sold. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board agreed to authorize Ms. Zucker to proceed with the FY14 grant application submittal.

Ms. Barbara Outten, Administrative Aide for the Somerset County Sanitary District, was now present before the Board to discuss the proposed water and sewer expansion for the Princess Anne Subdistrict. As the result of a recent meeting with USDA-Rural Development, \$1 Million in grant funding will be available for the construction of two wells and the water tower for the Westover site. This funding will lower the debt that would be passed onto the users within the Subdistrict. In a comparison, the users of the Princess Anne Subdistrict would see an increase of \$37.40 (annually) if the project was not completed. If the two wells and water tower are constructed, utilizing grant funding and loan proceeds, the users will see an annual increase of \$45.10. There are no plans to construct a pump/lift station at this time since this portion of the project was totally dependent upon Wal-Mart locating in Somerset County. The Board was also advised that there would be no advantage to seek additional funding sources since the loan proceeds must be expended first before the grant funding becomes available. Currently, \$1.2 Million has been expended on the project for engineering, land purchase, etc. The project, which must be completed by May of 2014, will allow the County an opportunity to grow through additional water allocations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to support the Somerset County Sanitary Commission's proposal for the construction of two wells and water tower, and funding request to the USDA-Rural Development. The motion carried 4-0.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the meetings held Tuesday, January 15, 2013 (open session and closed session) as presented.

Mr. Taylor reviewed discussion items and correspondence with the Board.

The Board was presented with Resolution No. 1054 for their review and consideration. This Resolution would formally adopt standardized rules and procedures for processing Public Information Act requests, including the collection of fees for research, preparation and duplication of the requested documents.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to adopt Resolution No. 1054 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A letter from Shore Transit (Tri-County Council) requesting all transit vehicles that are titled to Somerset County be transferred to Shore Transit to simplify the operations and future disposal of the vehicles listed. The Board questioned the reason for the transfer request since

several vehicles have previously been returned to the County for sale or disposal. Mr. Taylor will ascertain further information on the request.

The Board reviewed a letter from Paul Jefferson, Chief Operating Officer, Somerset County Public Schools, asking for the Board's consideration to allow him to reschedule a meeting with them. The Board agreed to schedule an appointment for Mr. Jefferson at their next regular session.

At 2:46 p.m., the County Administrator advised the Board of the need for a Closed Session. A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to go into Closed Session authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508 (a) (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and 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 Mathies, Commissioner Laird; County Administrator-Clerk, Ralph D. Taylor; Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; County Attorney, Kirk Simpkins; Director of Maintenance and Solid Waste, Charles Cavanaugh; and Human Resources Director, Erica Quillen.

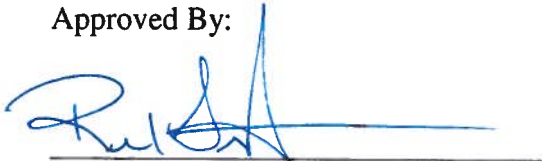
Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County