

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2013

At 9:00 A.M., The Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in regular session with Commissioner President Rex Simpkins, 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.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of the meetings held December 4, 2012 and December 18, 2012 (open and closed sessions) as presented.

Mr. James Henderson, Dog Control Supervisor, appeared before the Board to discuss a proposal for "Free" Rabies Clinics to be held in the County. The proposal was first discussed last year during the Board's deliberation of a newly drafted cat ordinance, due to the potential risk of rabies transmission in cats, particularly feral cats. The "Free" clinics would allow an opportunity for pet owners to have their pets vaccinated at no charge, and lower the potential risk of rabies. (Commissioner Vice-President Charles F. Fisher was now present for today's meeting)

Initially, Mr. Henderson proposed ten (10) "Free" clinics to be scheduled in the County at an estimated cost of \$5,000. According to Mr. Henderson, the Somerset County Health Department holds approximately eight (8) rabies clinics per year, plus three (3) "free" clinics that were added to last year's schedule. President Simpkins suggested the Dog Control Office scale back from the proposed ten (10) free clinics to a lesser number since the Health Department is also offering the same service. Assuming the Health Department would continue with several "free" rabies clinics next year, the County could also schedule a few clinics throughout the year as a supplemental service. Mr. Henderson then suggested scheduling four (4) "free" clinics at the Dog Control Office, in addition to the Health Department clinics. Commissioner Mathies suggested the clinics be held at different locations throughout the County. This may be beneficial to citizens that may need to transport several animals to receive the rabies vaccination. Mr. Henderson was authorized to contact Mike McIntyre at the Health Department to coordinate

the scheduling of the clinics. Additionally, a sample citation was provided for the Board's review. Pursuant to Maryland Law (Maryland Code/Health-General/Title 18/§18-318) this citation could be issued to an owner or keeper of a dog, cat, or ferret that is four months old or older that is not vaccinated against rabies. Commissioner Laird inquired about clinics that are held in other counties. Mr. Henderson advised that Worcester County holds several clinics throughout the year, but not all are "free". Henderson also provided statistical data for animals that were suspected of having rabies in the County since September. At the conclusion of the discussion, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to authorize the Dog Control Supervisor to coordinate with the Health Department for the scheduling of "free" rabies clinics at various locations throughout the County at a cost not to exceed \$1,250.00. The motion carried unanimously.

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

The Board gave final review to several proposed legislative items for the upcoming General Assembly. In particular, the "Distance Restrictions Regarding the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages". Concern was expressed by the Board for an amendment that would allow alcoholic beverages to be sold within a 300 foot measurement from a church or place of worship. The County Commissioners agreed that existing establishments holding a liquor license, within the 300 foot measurement, should be grandfathered in. Additionally, the Commissioners agreed that the actual geographical location/site (not just the current establishment or owner) would be grandfathered in if a liquor license was ever approved for that site, with no limitation on time. Commissioner Boston had expressed concern that new business opportunities may be limited if alcoholic beverage sales were restricted to a small number of areas in the County based upon their proximity to churches. In conclusion, the Board agreed with the revision as discussed.

Mr. Taylor presented a draft Resolution for the Board's consideration. The Resolution is intended to adopt standardized rules and procedures for processing Public Information Act requests, such as establishing fees for researching records and reproduction of documents. The Board will review the Resolution and take action at a later date.

The Board was advised that forty-three (43) properties (Certificates of Sale) were received back following the County's tax sale on June 14, 2012. The Board will consider the possibility of having a surplus property sale at a later date.

The Board was reminded of existing vacancies on the Housing Review Board, Social Services Board and Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to appoint Tammy Truitt to serve as member of the Planning Commission, filling the unexpired term of Dr. DeWayne Whittington, which terminates in September of 2014. The motion carried 4-0.

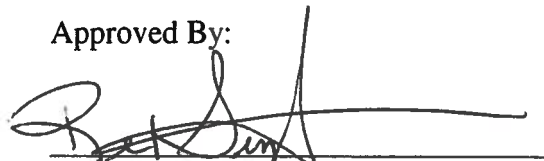
With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to adjourn the meeting and go into Closed Session, authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508 (a)(1)(i) – the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The motion carried unanimously and the regular session was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward  
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County