

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 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.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of the meetings held January 29, 2013 and January 22, 2013 (open sessions) and January 8, 2013 and January 29, 2013 (closed sessions) as presented.

President Simpkins opened sealed bids for the Commission on Aging Renovation Project. Bid information is as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
1. Harper & Sons, Easton, MD	\$1,079,000
2. Somerset Well Drilling, Westover, MD	\$1,199,651
3. Harkins Contracting, Salisbury, MD	\$1,195,000
4. RBCI, Easton, MD	\$1,236,000
5. Nason Construction, Salisbury, MD	\$1,174,265

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Maintenance and Solid Waste, was also present for the bid opening and provided the Board with a summary of the projected expenses and estimated revenue. The bid information received today will be reviewed by the Architect and a contract will be awarded at the County Commissioners February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

President Simpkins also opened sealed bids for three (3) drainage ditch projects:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Old State Road</u>	<u>William Rd.</u>	<u>McCormick Swamp Rd.</u>
Doug Vann	\$2,750	\$1,225	\$3,275
Mark Bozman	\$2,475	\$1,550	\$3,625
Gerard Dumsha	\$1,980	\$ 950	\$2,550
Paul Jones	\$1,495	no bid	\$3,100
SMI Services	no bid	\$5,499	\$12,900

Upon motion made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried 4-0 to award the William Road drainage project to Doug Vann for his bid of \$1,225.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to award the McCormick Swamp Road drainage project to Gerard Dumsha for his bid of \$2,550.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to award the Old State Road Phase VIII drainage project to Rick Jones for his bid of \$1,495. Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Laird, and Commissioner President Simpkins opposed the motion. The motion failed with a 3-2 vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to award the Old State Road Phase VIII drainage project to Mark Bozman for his bid of \$2,475. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Boston in opposition.

Mr. Steve Marshall, Director of Emergency Services, was now present before the Board to report on the opportunity to purchase equipment for a Swift Water Rescue Team through Homeland Security funding. Mr. Marshall stated that similar teams from other areas of the State assisted Somerset County with rescue missions during Hurricane Sandy. Somerset now has the opportunity to obtain the following equipment:

- a) 15 ft. Zodiac boat -- carries 9 passengers and boat trailer -- estimated cost \$10,440
- b) 30 hp. motor - estimated cost \$4,265

If approved, Homeland Security would pay 100% of the estimated cost totaling \$14,705.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried unanimously to authorize the Emergency Services Director to move forward with securing the grant funding through Homeland Security.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, appeared before the Board to discuss the need to update the Critical Area Ordinance which was adopted in 1988 with revisions since that date. Mr. Pusey reported on the availability of funding through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to update the Ordinance, at no cost to the County. The update may also provide the County with an opportunity to "relax" some of the regulations, particularly pertaining to plantings required. The Critical Area Commission must approve the updated plan before final adoption.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to authorize Mr. Pusey to move forward with securing the grant funding to update the Critical Area Ordinance.

Mr. Paul Jefferson, Chief of Operations for Somerset County Public Schools, appeared before the Board to discuss the Board of Education's Capital Improvement Plan for FY14. Mr. Jefferson began by apologizing for being absent at the previous meeting. He then proceeded to discuss the submittal funding requests for the Greenwood HVAC and roof renovation projects to Public School Construction Program and Board of Public Works. Unfortunately, the State only approved 35% of the necessary funds. However, the Board of Education has appealed that decision. With other needs such as lighting upgrades, Greenwood School may qualify for "limited renovation". Mr. Jefferson will explore that possibility further. The time period for completing the work was also an issue, as it may not be possible to perform all of the required work during the summer months. Mr. Jefferson also reviewed an invoice from Gipe Associates, Inc. for the HVAC Design which reflected the charges incurred for professional services from November 24, 2012 through December 28, 2012. Since the project cannot be completed at this time, due to the lack of funding, the Board suggested Gipe Associates be given a "stop work" order. Commissioner Laird inquired if the \$400,000 local match for the project can be carried over to the next fiscal year. Mr. Jefferson advised that he believed it was possible, if the proper steps were followed. He will research this issue further, as well as pursue additional funding sources through other programs.

Lighting renovations for Crisfield High School, Marion Sarah Peyton and J.M. Tawes was, however, approved for state funding. In order to complete this project, the County Commissioners approved the transfer of \$70,000 from the HVAC project to complete the

lighting upgrades. Commissioner Mathies suggested the State of Maryland be made aware of the County's situation and our funding formula.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to transfer \$70,000 from the HVAC project to complete the lighting upgrades at the three schools (listed above). The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to recommend a "stop work order" be issued to Gipe Associates, Inc. due to the lack of funding for the HVAC replacement at Greenwood School, pending the final outcome of the state funding request. The motion carried unanimously.

In other business, Mr. Jefferson addressed the issue regarding the construction of a new maintenance building (pole building) at the Board of Education Office in Westover. The County Commissioners allocated \$108,000 in FY13 towards the construction of a pole building, alleviating the need for the maintenance building located behind the County Office Complex. The proposal included the renovation of an existing maintenance building on the Board of Education property as well. As reported by Mr. Jefferson, only one bid was received for the project, from Beauchamp Construction for \$145,000. Since the construction project was properly advertised and bid specifications were adhered to, the Board recommended the bid be accepted from Beauchamp Construction, and transfer \$37,000 from the HVAC capital project to cover the difference.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the transfer of \$37,000 from the HVAC capital project to cover the difference from the Bid amount of \$145,000 and the County's original allocation of \$108,000. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Laird abstaining from the vote.

At this time, Mr. Taylor reviewed correspondence and discussion items with the Board. A Grant Agreement for the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) was presented to the Board for their approval and signature. The additional \$61,466 grant funding will be utilized for homeless prevention, rapid re-housing and for the operation and maintenance for the Wood Home, a transitional shelter for families in Princess Anne.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to authorize President Simpkins to sign the ESG Grant Agreement for an additional funding amount of \$61,466.

During the County Commissioner's meeting of January 29, 2013, the Board discussed a letter received from Shore Transit regarding all transit vehicles that are titled to Somerset County be transferred to Shore Transit to simplify the operations and future disposal of the vehicles. As instructed by the Board, Mr. Taylor contacted Shore Transit for further information in regard to the disposal of the transit vehicles that are no longer used and was advised of the following:

- a) The County may elect to sell/auction the transit vehicles that have been retired from the fleet. However, the proceeds from the sale must be returned to Shore Transit; or
- b) The County may relinquish ownership and sale of the retired vehicles to Shore Transit.

Since the vehicles were not purchased with county funds, the Board agreed to transfer the ownership of the transit vehicles to Shore Transit. Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried 4-1, with Commissioner Fisher in opposition, to transfer the ownership to Shore Transit.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried unanimously to prepare Proclamations for all Fire Departments in the County for their emergency response and assistance provided to citizens in need during Hurricane Sandy.


At the conclusion of the agenda, President Simpkins asked for any questions from the audience. Mr. Dan Kuebler, of Crisfield, reported that fiber optic lines will now be extended to Woodson Middle School, Crisfield High School and the new County Library site. He also urged the County Commissioners to require Charter Communications to utilize the commercial use of the T-1 lines and upgrade their current microwave system.

At 3:55 p.m., the County Administrator advised the Board of the need for a Closed Session. A motion was made by Commissioner Jerry Boston, seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird, 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 and Section 10-508 (a) (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The motion carried unanimously. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner

President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Craig Mathies, Commissioner Vice-President Charles Fisher; County Administrator-Clerk, Ralph D. Taylor; and Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Cynthia R. Ward  
Executive Aide

Approved By:

  
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Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County