

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 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 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the meetings held March 26, 2013 and April 9, 2013 (open and closed sessions) as presented.

At this time, the County Administrator announced the nomination of the Employee of the Quarter, Mrs. Traci B. Martin, Computer Operator II with the Somerset County Finance and Accounting Department. Mrs. Martin's accomplishments and outstanding work performance, particularly during the transition to the new general ledger software, was shared with the Board. On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, Mrs. Martin was presented with a Certificate of Recognition and a gift card.

Mr. Matt Lankford was now present before the Board to discuss the conditions of the J.M. Tawes Vocational & Technology Center. According to Mr. Lankford, in the school's 38 year history, the roof is the only new renovation that has taken place. One-third of the building is utilized by the Board of Education for office space, which dramatically downsized the original plan for vocational use. The following statistics were provided for the Board's review:

- 58% of the County's population has a high-school education, or less
- Median Household Income in Somerset County: \$41,737
Average Household Income: \$50,907
- Drop-out rates - 2011: 19.91%
- Graduation Rate - 2011 - 79.11%

Mr. Lankford stated that he is seeking support of the Board to construct a new vocational school and increasing curriculum options to include welding, and other related vocational classes. Higher education will increase income levels, property values and revenues. The cost of

building a new vocational school would be infused back into the community and would also improve unemployment rates and provide a skilled and educated workforce. In a discussion regarding the condition of the school, photographs were presented which showed areas of the school in need of repair. In conclusion, Mr. Lankford, as the father of three school-age children, asked the Commissioners to encourage the Board of Education to support this endeavor.

Commissioner Fisher cautioned Mr. Lankford that a new building will not change the children that are in the school. He also spoke on the process utilized by Somerset County to obtain funding through the Public School Construction Program. New schools in other counties have often been constructed utilizing the bond market.

The County Commissioners commended Mr. Lankford for his efforts to improve our school system and directed him to the officials that are elected for this purpose.

The County Administrator reviewed discussion items and correspondence at this time.

Mr. Taylor reported on several requests for proclamations and the following action was taken:

- 1) Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to adopt a Proclamation in recognition of the National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2013.
- 2) Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to adopt Proclamations for Caroline County, Worcester County, Ocean City, Wicomico County, and the Army National Guard for their assistance during Hurricane Sandy.
- 3) Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to adopt a Proclamation in recognition of Bill and Sharon Harris for being selected as the recipients of the Somerset County Outstanding Citizen Award.

The Board was advised that Edward "Ned" Shores has resigned from his appointment as member of the Somerset County Planning and Zoning Commission. In an effort to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term, the Board took the following action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to appoint Kevin Anderson to serve as member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the remainder of Mr. Shores' five-year term. The motion carried unanimously.

The County Commissioners were advised that Ms. Laverne Wright, recently appointed to serve on the Social Services Board, has advised that she will be unable to fulfill the obligation and wished to be replaced. The Commissioners will seek a replacement for Ms. Wright.

Mr. Taylor reviewed two project notifications from the Maryland Department of Planning, State Clearinghouse:

- 1) Town of Princess Anne Enterprise Zone Renewal – Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried unanimously to authorize the County Administrator to respond to the notification with a C-5 designation – that it is consistent with our plans, programs, and objectives.
- 2) Guarantee of Loan for the construction of two (2) broiler houses and manure shed on a poultry farm located at 27440 Holland Crossing Road. Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried unanimously to authorize the County Administrator to respond to the notification with a R-1 designation, to include the following comments: ““We have no objections to the Applicant seeking a loan guarantee to construct 2 poultry houses and a manure shed on the referenced property. Prior to construction, the Applicant will be required to obtain building permits for the three structures from the County's Department of Technical & Community Services, at which time the application will be reviewed to ensure all zoning requirements are met, including setbacks and stormwater management. The Applicant should be advised that currently the property is not within a 100 year floodplain, but revised floodplain maps prepared by FEMA indicate the property may be within a 100' year floodplain (these maps are expected to be adopted in 2014). It also appears the property may contain non-tidal wetlands, which are regulated by DNR.”

The Commissioners received a request to waive permit fees for the construction of “Living Hope Ministries of the Eastern Shore, Inc.”, to be located at 27331 Crisfield Marion Road. A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to waive all construction related permit fees, totaling \$2,025. The motion carried unanimously.

A request was received from The Oriole Historical Society for a letter of support from the Board of County Commissioners for their application for an African American Heritage Preservation Grant to complete phase II of the renovation of the historic St. James Church in Oriole.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it was carried unanimously to submit a letter of support as requested by The Oriole Historical Society.

Commissioner Fisher reported that the American Legion Post in Crisfield is seeking contributions for the upcoming “Freedom Fest” in July. The contributions would be utilized towards the cost of the fireworks. The Board will discuss the request during their next budget session.

At 2:48 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 Charles Fisher, 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; Section 10-508 (a) (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto;

and Section 10-508 (a) (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. The motion carried unanimously by all present. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr., Commissioner Randy Laird, County Administrator-Clerk, Ralph D. Taylor; Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; Human Resources Director, Erica Quillen; Human Resources Assistant, Kimberly Widdowson; Recreation and Parks Director and Staff, Clint Sterling, Tim Brittingham, Lee Simms; Tourism Director, Julie Widdowson; Director of Technical & Community Services, Gary Pusey; Department of Housing and Community Development Officials, Cindy Stone and Anne Stringer; Mayor Percy Purnell; Mark Konapelsky; and County Attorney, Kirk Simpkins.

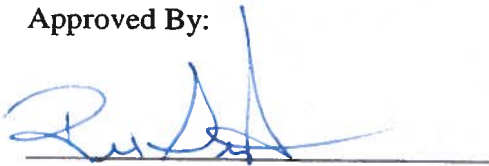
At 4:50 p.m., upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it was carried unanimously to adjourn the Closed and Open Sessions.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County