

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 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 Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the meetings held April 23, 2013 (open and closed sessions) as presented.

The meeting began with the presentation of several Proclamations, as noted below:

- 1) Army National Guard for their assistance following Super Storm Sandy. Accepting the proclamation today was Major General James A. Adkins and several Members of the Guard.
- 2) Ocean City Department of Emergency Services for their assistance following Super Storm Sandy. Accepting the proclamation today was Joe Theobald and Bob Rhodes.
- 3) Wicomico County Department of Emergency Services for their assistance following Super Storm Sandy. Accepting the proclamation today was Steve Schweikert and Lorenzo Cropper.
- 4) Worcester County Department of Emergency Services for their assistance following Super Storm Sandy. Accepting the proclamation today was Fred Webster.
- 5) Caroline County Department of Emergency Services for their assistance following Super Storm Sandy. Accepting the proclamation today was Bryan Ebling and Cindy Towers.
- 6) Daniel S. Kuennen, Executive Director of the Rural Development Center (RDC) upon his retirement after 22 years of service. Mr. Kuennen was instrumental in assisting the operations of facilities such as Carvel Hall, McCready Hospital, Smith Island

Cultural Center, the crabbing community and other entities during challenging economic times.

At this time, President Simpkins opened sealed bids for two (2) lead ditch drainage projects: Jacksonville Road (near Airport) and Old State Road (Phase X). Bid information is as shown below:

**Jacksonville Road:**

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
1) Doug Vann	\$9,444.00
2) Mark Bozman	\$7,975.00
3) Gerard Dumsha	\$10,900.00
4) Rick Jones	\$5,295.00

**Old State Road, Phase X:**

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
1) Doug Vann	\$4,888.00
2) Mark Bozman	\$5,375.00
3) Gerard Dumsha	\$6,500.00
4) Rick Jones	\$2,995.00

After discussing the status of current drainage projects, the Board took the following action on the awarding of the bids opened today:

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to award the Jacksonville Road drainage ditch project to Rick Jones, for his bid of \$5,295.00. The motion carried 4-1 with President Simpkins opposing the motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to award the Old State Road drainage ditch project to Doug Vann for his bid of \$4,888.00. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Fisher opposing the motion.

The County Administrator reviewed discussion items and correspondence with the Board.

The Board was advised of a request for assistance with funeral costs for William "Bill Zack" Ward. Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to contribute \$250 from the County's Pauper Burial Fund towards the funeral expenses of Mr. Ward.

Mr. Taylor advised of the term expiration for the leasing of the Messick Farm. The farm is currently leased by James Beauchamp, for an annual price of \$2,556.00 (\$72.00 per acre; 35.5 acres). Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it was carried unanimously to renew the Lease with James Beauchamp for another three-year term.

The Board was advised of a request for a Proclamation in recognition of the Somerset County Outstanding Citizen Award recipients, Bill and Sharon Harris, as selected by the Del-Mar-Va Council Boy Scouts of America. Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried unanimously to approve the request for the Proclamation, as described above.

The County Administrator reminded the Board of the term expiration of two members currently serving on the Somerset County Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board: John W. King and Christine Gail Allen. Since both members were willing to continue their service, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to nominate John W. King for re-appointment by the Governor to serve on the Somerset County Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to nominate Christine Gail Allen for re-appointment by the Governor to serve on the Somerset County Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board. The motion carried unanimously.

As required by the Governor's Office, two alternate names will be submitted for each nominee.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Law Office of Edmund Widdowson regarding an offer of property to the County from owner, Bill Messick. The property, described as Lot 44 Pine Beach Plat, is located in Mt. Vernon. Due to its proximity to the Mt. Vernon Park, which is currently owned by the County, the Board agreed to accept the property, as offered by the owner.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to accept the donation of property, described as Lot 44 Pine Beach Plat, from property owner, Bill Messick. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor reported that Charles County Commissioners have provided Somerset County with a POW/MIA Flag, in support of the members of the military and their families and the ultimate sacrifice they pay every day for our freedom. Upon motion made by Commissioner

Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to graciously accept the POW/MIA flag and authorize it to be flown at the County Office Complex. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Charles County, along with a photograph of the flag being flown.

At the conclusion of the agenda review, President Simpkins asked for any comments or questions from the audience.

Mr. Phil Riggin, of Crisfield, expressed his appreciation to the County Commissioners for recognizing the Proclamation recipients earlier today for the assistance they provided to our County during Super Storm Sandy.

At 2:50 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. The motion carried unanimously. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr., Commissioner Charles Fisher, County Administrator-Clerk, Ralph D. Taylor; Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; Recreation and Parks Director, Clint Sterling; and Detention Center Warden, Louis Hickman.

At 3:10 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