

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 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 June 4, 2013; June 6, 2013; and July 2, 2013 (both open and closed sessions) as presented.

Mr. Clint Sterling, Director of Recreation and Parks for Somerset County, appeared before the Board to discuss the planned repairs/renovation to the Glenn Ward Ballpark utilizing Program Open Space funding. The upgrade project includes the following:

1. New roofing for dugouts.
2. Repair of significant holes in parking lot entrance.
3. Painting of existing dugouts and concession stand doors.
4. Repair and staining of picnic tables.
5. Replacement of backstop galvanized fabric.
6. Rehabilitation of backstop steel poles (painting, realignment).

A bid was submitted in July of 2012 from Anderson Fence for the replacement of the backstop galvanized fabric, however, it exceeds the department bid limit. Therefore, Mr. Sterling asked for the Board's permission to make the purchase, \$9,428, under the Commissioners bid limit (\$10,000).

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to approve the purchase from Anderson Fence under the Commissioners bid limit of \$10,000.

The County Administrator reported on a project, as proposed by the State Highway Administration, for a bike trail to be constructed from Westover to Crisfield, upon the old railroad bed along Rt. 413. The project will consist of a twelve (12) foot wide paved trail with parking stops in Kingston and Marion, and a timber bridge over a small portion of the Big Annemessex River at Kingston. Although several properties are located along the track, the State of Maryland has a sixty (60) foot right-of-way the entire length of the state highway. According to SHA Officials, the project will be 80% state funded, through a Transportation Alternatives Program, with assistance provided to the county for the remaining 20%. Pending approval by the Board of County Commissioners, the project will be included in the annual priority letter to State Highway Administration and the Maryland Department of Transportation, and addressed at the annual CTP tour in November. The bike trail is already included in the County's Five Year Recreation Plan. Mr. Taylor believes the project will be an asset and boost tourism for the County. Similar comments were previously expressed in a letter submitted by a constituent earlier this year. Ms. Julie Widdowson, Tourism Director, expressed her support for the project and advised that studies show that similar projects not only boost the economy and tourism, but also promotes extended visits; provides health benefits; and improves traffic safety. Maps and signage could be placed at each parking stop to promote the County and its history. Mr. Sterling, Recreation and Parks Director, also expressed his support for the bike trail. He believes it is a "perfect fit" for Recreation and Parks, as well as, tourism and our economy. Mr. Sterling recommended the Board explore the proposed bike trail. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to include the project in our priority letter to the State Highway Administration and Maryland Department of Transportation.

At this time, Mr. Taylor reviewed correspondence and discussion items.

In a letter from the Somerset County Sanitary District, the Board was advised of the term expiration of Thomas Wilson on the Sanitary Commission. Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to re-appoint Thomas Wilson to serve another six-year term as member of the Somerset County Sanitary Commission.

President Simpkins was presented with a Sub-Recipient Agreement between Somerset County Commissioners and the Somerset Committee for the Homeless, for the administration of the Emergency Solutions Grant. The Homeless Committee was awarded \$ 30,968 in funding from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Since Somerset

County is the recipient of the funding, a Sub-Recipient Agreement is required for the administration of the grant. Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Sub-Recipient Grant Agreement.

Mr. Taylor reported on the Grand Jury visit and inspection of county offices on July 5, 2013. The reports were provided for the Board's review.

The Board was reminded of vacancies that still exist on the EEO Oversight Committee and the Tax Assessment Appeal Board.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to appoint Eugene Borden to serve as member of the EEO Oversight Committee. Mr. Borden will fill the position formerly held by Dr. DeWayne Whittington in District Four.

Mr. Gene Adkins was now present to review the Analysis of Loan Proposals for \$3.95 Million for Board of Education Permanent Financing. An advertisement seeking financing proposals was published on June 14, 2013 which resulted in six proposals. Mr. Adkins reviewed the top three rated proposals:

- 1) Suntrust Bank:
2.13% - 10 years
2.4% - 15 years (Rates held until Aug. 23rd. May adjust rate if Corp. tax rates go below 35%)
\$2,500 – additional fees for legal counsel
- 2) BB&T Bank:
2.39% - 10 years
Good for 45 days after July 12th
\$2,900 – additional fees for legal counsel
- 3) Bank of America
2.44% - 10 years
2.55% - w/5 year call
Interest rate not available after 7/16, 1:00 pm

At the conclusion of the review, Mr. Adkins recommended the Board accept the financing proposal submitted by Suntrust Bank for a term of ten years at 2.13% interest. Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to accept the proposal from Suntrust Bank, as recommended.

Mr. Adkins also reported that the Sanitary District is in the process of refinancing a loan and will be appearing before the County Commissioners next month to request a guarantee from

the County. The Board was also advised of new language in the loan documents relating to the State's ability to withhold money if the Sanitary District defaults on a loan.

Mr. Steve Marshall, Director of Emergency Services, was now present before the Board to present a Resolution for approval and signature. Resolution No. 1063 was developed for the purpose of providing intrastate mutual aid between jurisdictions in Maryland during an emergency and authorizing member jurisdictions to request assistance pursuant to the terms outlined in the Maryland Emergency Management Compact and defined in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Safety Article § 14-801 through 14-803.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1063 as presented by Mr. Marshall.

With no further agenda items, President Simpkins asked for any questions or comments from the audience.

Mr. Terry Pehan, of Crisfield, commended Somerset County Tourism Director, Julie Widdowson, for promoting the Crab Derby and Somerset County in a magazine publication that he was recently viewing. Mr. Pehan also expressed his support for the proposed bike trail and "Ecotourism" in Somerset County, adding that the bike trail will be a good compliment to the water trails.

Commissioner Laird thanked Mrs. Carolyn Marquis for her recommendation regarding the bike trail.

Mr. Dan Kuebler, of Crisfield, advised that he is looking into the complaint about the trash around school property. He also reported that the Board of Education is meeting tonight at 6:00 p.m. at which time the newly appointed Superintendent will give his first 90-day plan.

Mr. Phil Riggin, of Crisfield, inquired about the status of the bidding process for the new Crisfield Library. He will contact the County Administrator to discuss the issue at a later date.

At 2:50 p.m., the County Administrator advised the Board of the need for a Closed Session. A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird, 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. The motion carried unanimously. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President Rex Simpkins,

Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Commissioner Jerry Boston, County Administrator-Clerk,
Ralph D. Taylor; Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; Recreation & Parks Director, Clint Sterling;
and Human Resources Director, Erica Quillen.

At 3:00 p.m., upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner
Boston, 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