

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 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 Jerry S. Boston and Commissioner Randy Laird.

Also present was Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator-Clerk; and Sharon Muir, Internal Auditor.

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.

At this time, the County Administrator announced the nomination of the Employee of the Quarter, Ms. Wendy Robertson, Tourism Assistant with the Somerset County Tourism Office. Ms. Robertson's accomplishments and outstanding work performance was shared with the Board. On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, Ms. Robertson was presented with a Certificate of Recognition and a gift card.

Ms. Sherree Marshall, Director of Somerset County Commission on Aging, was now present before the Board. In conjunction with the Statewide Specialized Transportation Assistance Program Large Urban Transportation Assistance Program(SSTAP), her office is required to submit an executed copy of the Program Assurances and Civil Rights Information for program funding in Fiscal Year 2014, totaling \$117,447.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Program Assurances and Civil Rights Statement for the SSTAP funding program.

The Board was advised of the term expiration of Chris Lyons for his membership on the Somerset County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board. Since Mr. Lyons has expressed his willingness to serve another term, the Board voted to reappoint him for another five year term.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to re-appoint Mr. Chris Lyons to serve another term as member of the Somerset County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board.

Mr. Taylor reported that aerial spraying for mosquito control is scheduled to begin on June 28, 2013 for the following areas: Champ, Chance, Dames Quarter, Deal Island, Fairmount, Oriole, Smith Island, St. Stephens and Upper Hill.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Somerset County Department of Technical and Community Services, was now present before the Board to review a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. A public hearing was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2013, to receive public comment on the amendment, which adds a definition of "commercial" to the Ordinance and clarifies that a "target range for firearms" does not pertain to private ranges and private ranges are not regulated by the Zoning Ordinance. No opposition was presented during the hearing and no written correspondence was received following the hearing. At the conclusion of the review, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to adopt the Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board briefly discussed the formation of a committee to oversee the "Length of Service Awards Program" (LOSAP), a program that was proposed by the County Commissioners during their recent budget deliberations for the benefit of volunteer fire fighters in the County. The Board will seek the passage of a legislative bill during the next General Assembly Session before implementing the program. Under the proposed program, qualifying fire fighters will receive a stipend each year for their volunteer services. The Board will consider the appointment of members to the LOSAP Committee and take action at a later date.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Somerset County Finance Director, was now present before the Board to discuss the Board of Education Capital Budget. Mr. Adkins reported on the \$774,000 capital budget, which includes \$338,000 carried over from the prior year. The HVAC replacement and roof renovations for Greenwood Elementary School are estimated to cost \$436,000. Mr. Paul Jefferson, Chief Operations Officer for Somerset County Public Schools, has requested that funds remaining from the Washington High School Bleacher Replacement/Repair be carried over for use at Crisfield High School, totaling \$175,082.26. Mr. Jefferson has also requested the Board's support to allocate \$38,000 in matching funds in order to receive \$366,000 in leftover funds from the Washington High School renovation project. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board took the following action regarding the Board of Education requests:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to approve the request to carry over \$175,082.26 in capital funding into the new fiscal year. The motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to approve the request to allocate \$38,000 in matching funds to receive \$366,000 in left over monies from the Washington High School Renovation Project. The motion carried 4-0.

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


Mr. Dan Kuebler, of Crisfield, expressed his support for mandatory full time Pre-K and asked for the County Commissioner's support. Mr. Kuebler also invited the Commissioner's to a meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council, September 24, 2013 at Salisbury University. This meeting and luncheon will include the final leadership and training seminar for the Somerset County Planning Team.

Mr. Phil Riggin, of Crisfield, expressed his appreciation to the Board for supporting his request for inmate labor.

At 2:38 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. The motion carried 4-0. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Craig Mathies, Commissioner Randy Laird, County Administrator-Clerk, Ralph D. Taylor; Internal Auditor, Sharon Muir; Finance Director, Gene Adkins; and Recreation and Parks Director, Clint Sterling.

At 3:20 p.m., upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried unanimously to adjourn the Closed and Open Sessions.

Respectfully Submitted:



Sharon Muir
Internal Auditor

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County