

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 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 August 13, 2013 (Open and Closed Sessions) as presented.

Dr. John Gaddis, Interim Superintendent, Somerset County Public Schools, appeared before the Board for an official introduction. Afterwards, Dr. Gaddis proceeded to report that schools opened on Monday with no problems. He also spoke of his plan to keep the Commissioners up to date with actual and factual information and be very transparent with all documentation and issues. In October, his staff will begin their budget deliberations and assured the Board that his budget will be submitted early. Dr. Gaddis concluded by stating that he is looking forward to an open and positive relationship with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Boston welcomed him to the County and looks forward to a good working relationship with him. Commissioner Mathies indicated that he would like to discuss issues in a private setting. He would also like to be advised of any movement of what appeared to not be transparent. Commissioner Laird stated that he appreciated his efforts to start early on his budget and submit it early. In conclusion, the Board wished Dr. Gaddis much luck in his new position.

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

The Board reviewed a letter from the Susan G. Komen Maryland Foundation inviting the County to participate in a statewide pink lighting project in an effort to raise awareness of breast

cancer as we observe National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. Mr. Taylor reminded the Board that Somerset County participated last year by lighting up the Great Hope Golf Course sign in pink. The Board agreed to light the sign in pink again this year.

A memo from Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, advised that a request had been submitted by Roy Whitlock for a fee waiver of an electrical permit (\$30). Mr. Whitlock was the victim of a house fire at 11620 Freetown Road and is currently having financial difficulties. The electrical permit would allow him to perform repairs to a travel trailer that would be placed on the property temporarily until his house can be rebuilt.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to waive the \$30 permit fee for Mr. Whitlock. The motion carried 4-0.

With Dr. Gaddis still in the audience, Commissioner Boston inquired about the fencing work being done at Princess Anne Elementary School. Dr. Gaddis reported that the fencing changes were part of a security audit performed and any fencing that is removed will be re-used at another facility.

Mr. Taylor addressed Ordinance No. 146, an Ordinance enacted in 1976 which sets a time limit in which a person may use the County wharfs and docks and provide for the violation thereof. Mr. Taylor recommended the Ordinance be amended to address the mooring of vessels in boat slips without proper authority or payment. The Board agreed to consider an amendment to the Ordinance.

The Board was advised that cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in Worcester and Wicomico Counties. Spraying operations have been stepped up in Somerset County in an effort to prevent West Nile. Aerial spraying was performed in Fairmount and Rumbley communities last night. The Mosquito Control Office will continue to monitor the situation.

Ms. Sharon Muir, Internal Auditor, and Gene Adkins, Finance Director, were before the Board to present the Bond Closing for Landfill Cell 4 Project. Ms. Muir provided the following project summary:

“In April 2010, USDA obligated \$4,050,000 in order to complete the fourth and final cell of the Fairmount Road Landfill project. The project reached substantial completion on July 5, 2012 and is now complete. Cell 4 of the Fairmount Road Landfill cost \$2,274,496.38 to construct. We are happy to report that the Cell 4 Project came in well under the original

construction budget and thus, approximately \$1,776,000 of the obligated funds remained after the project was completed.

The County requested USDA's concurrence in utilizing part of the remaining funds that were originally obligated for Cell 4 to pay off two smaller USDA loans for Cell 3 of the landfill that closed at higher interest rates in 2008.

- Bond R-1 in the original principal amount of \$910,800 with an interest rate of 4.375% and a term of 40 years will be paid off with a balance due of \$869,639.24. The new rate will be 2.125% with a term of 30 years.
- Bond R-3 in the original principal amount of \$688,000 with an interest rate of 4.125% and a term of 40 years will be paid off with a balance due of \$654,864.38. The new rate will be 2.125% with a term of 30 years.
- PNC Bank will be paid off for the interim financing loan in the amount of \$2,274,496.38 plus any accrued interest. The USDA rate on this portion of the permanent financing is also 2.125% and for a term of 30 years.
- The County will save approximately 1.1 million over the term of the loan."

President Simpkins called for a motion for the approval and signature of the Loan Resolution. A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to sign the Loan Resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was also made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize the signature of the Bond. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Deputy Ronnie Howard and Sgt. Les Tyler, of the Somerset County Sheriff's Office, were now present before the Board. Sgt. Tyler described an emergency situation that exists in their office regarding the loss of their software program and thirteen years of stored data (regarding process service) following the system failure of the server. Additionally, some of the modules used in the data base could not be recovered. In order to utilize the new server, a new software system is needed to begin inputting data once again. According to Sgt. Tyler, there are already 95 criminal arrests that are waiting to be entered into the system. After researching systems that were used in neighboring counties, Sgt. Tyler proposed the purchase of an integrated software product, PSSI, at a cost of \$60,500. There is an additional \$7,000 annual maintenance fee. The Detention Center and Emergency Services could be added as users of the system also. Sgt. Tyler confirmed that training costs are included in the purchase price.

Commissioner President Simpkins inquired about backing up the new system. Sgt. Tyler advised that PSSI will back up the data at their headquarters. In a discussion regarding the virus

that infected their previous system, Sgt. Tyler suspects the virus gained entry through cell phone pictures that were taken and entered into system as an attachment.

Although Sgt. Tyler proposed a manner in which the cost could be spread over several budget years, Mr. Adkins clarified the issue by stating that it would be considered an unbudgeted expense and overage to their department budget. Unless it was purchased through loan funding, there would be no need to spread the cost over several years.

Ms. Sharon Muir stated that each department is responsible for their own back up and recommended an on-site back up system be installed at the Sheriff's Office and a flash drive containing a copy of the stored data, taken off-site as well. Mr. Taylor inquired about the origin of their previous program. Sgt. Tyler advised that Byron Schultzan provided the program to them in 2001. Commissioner Mathies inquired if the County's I.T. Department was made aware of the fact there was no backup in place at the Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Tyler replied yes – nothing sufficiently was done. The tape back-up system that was previously used had been removed. Commissioner Mathies stated this was a "lesson well learned".

At this time, President Simpkins called for a motion on the proposed software purchase. A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to authorize the expenditure of the software program, as presented today. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor reported on a recent meeting regarding fiber optics in the County and looking for ways to get the fiber to the new library site, McCready Hospital, and possibly others. They are also looking for funding options in order to accomplish this task. Mr. Taylor will also make Charter Communications aware of this information.

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


Mr. Dan Kuebler reminded everyone of the Crab Derby festivities going on in Crisfield this Labor Day Weekend.

At 2:50 p.m., the County Administrator advised the Board of the need for a Closed Session. A motion was made by Commissioner Craig Mathies, 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 Jerry Boston, Commissioner Randy Laird, County Administrator-Clerk, Ralph D. Taylor; Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; and Human Resources Director, Erica Quillen.

At 3:55 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