

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
SPECIAL SESSION  
TUESDAY MAY 14, 2013

At 2:03 p.m., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in special session with Commissioner President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston and Commissioner Randy Laird. Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr., was absent from today's meeting.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Secretary Lory E. Ebron and Director of Planning and Zoning Mr. Gary Pusey were also present.

Commissioner President Simpkins acknowledged the individuals in attendance today, noting that today's Special Session Meeting was not a public hearing, and the information being provided today was being presented to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Taylor began by advising the Board that he had been notified by Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) that a decision was needed from the Board as soon as possible with regard to the "Buy-Out" option that had been for Smith Island owner/occupied residents. Furthermore, the DHCD would like direction from the county with regard to the matter. Mr. Taylor said that he was advised that the deadline date for the plan submitted to HUD of June 5, 2013 must include a 7-day comment period prior to submission. Mr. Taylor continued, noting that as the plan as now written states; "a voluntary Buy-Out Program for residents on Smith Island, including incentives as assistance in finding another home in Somerset County only for owner-occupied houses." Mr. Taylor stated that other options may be:

- Offer the "Buy-Out" option county wide
- Remove "Buy-Out" as an option

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Planning and Zoning noted that he has been contacted by Ms. Cindy Stone of DHCD who stated she would appreciate direction from the Board as soon as possible as she is running out of time to meet the deadline date.

Next, Mr. Taylor distributed a letter received from Raymond A. Skinner, Secretary of DHCD, dated May 13, 2013, and read the following portion of the letter aloud:

“In light of your request, the Department of Housing and Community Development’s (DHCD) submission of a plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will include rehabilitation on Smith Island as an eligible activity.”

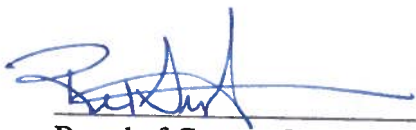
After the reading of the statement, on a motion by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to not offer the Buy-Out option county wide. It was noted that there will be funding for rehabilitation assistance available as advised by the DHCD in their letter dated May 13, 2013.

With no further business, on a motion by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried to go into Closed Session by the Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508 (a) (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Lory E. Ebron  
Executive Secretary

Approved by:

  
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Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County