

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
SPECIAL SESSION
TUESDAY JULY 9, 2013

At 2:00 p.m., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in Special Session. Present for the meeting today were Commissioner President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Secretary Lory E. Ebron, Ms. Deborah Parker, President of Crisfield Library Board and Ms. Jennifer Ranck, Library Director were also present.

President Rex Simpkins called the meeting to order, and asked Commissioner Mathies to lead those attending the meeting in repeating the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the Regular Session Meeting held on June 18, 2013, the Special Session Meetings held on June 20, 2013 and June 25, 2013 and the Closed Session Meetings held on June 18, 2013, June 20, 2013 and June 25, 2013 and approve the minutes as presented.

Mr. Taylor began the meeting by stating that Ms. Parker was present today to discuss issues the library had that they wanted to make the Board aware of.

Ms. Parker advised the Board that Ms. Ranck has accepted a position in Worcester County. Ms. Parker noted that they are in the middle of a very big project (the Crisfield Library Project), and therefore the Board of Trustee's has scheduled a Special Session Meeting this evening to accept Ms. Ranck's formal resignation. Ms. Parker told the Board that they will be trying to move quickly to find a replacement, and that a Request for Proposal for a consultant will happen immediately. It is hoped that a consultant be chosen by August 1, and the new director be in place by the first of next year. Ms. Parker explained that they are hoping to find an interim director, possibly someone who is retired in the shore area, to fill in while the search for the new director is underway. Ms. Parker acknowledged that they have been very pleased with Ms. Ranck noting that she has done wonderful things with the library and that she is certain Ms. Ranck will be a success with Worcester County.

Ms. Ranck then thanked the Board for their support of the library project, saying that their funding commitment towards the design of the library assisted in changing the funding for the entire state. Ms. Ranck said that she looked forward to the eventual opening of the Crisfield Library and also looked forward to coming back to attend the Grand Opening of the new library when that happens.

President Simpkins stated that Somerset County's loss is Worcester County's gain, and that he was very sorry to see Ms. Ranck leave.

Ms. Parker closed by saying that Ms. Ranck's last day will be August 10, and invited the Board to a Farewell Party being held in her honor on August 21, 2013 at the Princess Anne Library at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board that state employee Ms. Joanna Emely received a Governor's Citation and was recognized as "Election Official of the Year" for her exceptional dedication and consistent professionalism in the conduct of elections in Somerset County and the State of Maryland. The Board offered their congratulations to Ms. Emely for the recognition.

Mr. Taylor reviewed correspondence received since the last meeting with the Board.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has informed the county that they are accepting grant applications for the Waterway Improvement Fund projects for FY15. Mr. Taylor noted that grant request is completed by Mr. Barnes, Director of the Roads Department. It was noted that the deadline date is August 5, 2013, and any project suggestions can be made at the next Roads Board meeting scheduled for July 23, 2013. The total amount of funding is not known at this point.

Correspondence was received from Mr. Paul Harris of Pioneer Green Energy on behalf of Great Bay Wind Energy Center who has provided an update with regard to the economic impact analysis relating to the wind turbine project. Mr. Taylor said that the projections have changed with the downsizing of the project.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has provided information about a new program that will help to support agriculture tourism in the county. The Maryland Ag-Tourism Signing Program will allow the Maryland State Highway Administration to post directional signs to an approved ag-tourism site only if the county has agreed to participate in the program. Mr. Taylor noted that he is not sure if there are any farmers in Somerset County who meet the criteria as

noted in the letter. The information has been forwarded onto Ms. Carol Bevan at the Extension Office for her review.

Next Mr. Taylor reminded the Board that a citizen with no connection to Fire/EMS was needed to serve on the LOSAP Committee. Additionally, an appointee is needed to serve on the E.E.O. Oversight Committee. Commissioner Mathies had previously advised Mr. Taylor that Kirkwood Cottman was interested in serving on the E.E.O Oversight Committee, however Mr. Cottman resides in Commissioner Boston's district. Commissioner Boston has already asked Mr. Eugene Borden if he would be interested in serving, and expects his answer before next week's regular Commissioners meeting. Lastly, with regard to the Somerset County Tax Assessment Appeal Board, three nominations are still needed (2 alternates and 1 regular member). The names were required to be submitted on June 1, 2013.

Mr. Taylor presented the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Local Health Department Unified Funding Document (UFD) Signature Page. This is a document which is signed by the President on behalf of the county every year, and acknowledges that the local Somerset County Health Officer has reviewed and approved the budget for all awards included within the document for FY14.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mathies, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Local Health Department Unified Funding Document (UFD) Signature Page.

Commissioner Fisher presented a request he received from Ms. Chanelle White on behalf of John Wesley United Methodist Church in Deal Island for a Letter of Support. It was explained that the historical church will be applying for a grant to make restoration repairs. In order to apply for the grant, the church is required to have letters of support for the project.

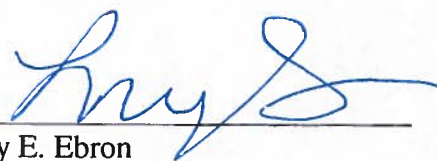
On a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried unanimously to provide a support letter for the restoration work to be completed at John Wesley United Methodist Church in Deal Island.

Now present before the Board were Officer Antuan Martell Torney and Warden Louis Hickman. Officer Torney was chosen as 2012 Officer of the Year by the Somerset County Detention Center. Mr. Taylor stated that Officer Torney was hired on May 28, 2010 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Torney performs all his duties in an excellent manner, and displays a high level of enthusiasm and professional behavior in the

handling of his assigned duties. Officer Torney also has a perfect attendance record for three years. Warden Hickman then congratulated Officer Torney for being chosen as the 2012 Officer of the Year, an honor that is well deserved.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Laird, and seconded by Commissioner Boston to go into Closed Session by 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.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Secretary

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County