

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2014

At 2:00 P.M., The Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in regular session with Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice-President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr., Commissioner Rex Simpkins, and Commissioner Jerry S. Boston.

Also present was Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator-Clerk; and Cynthia R. Ward, Executive Aide.

President Laird 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 unanimously to approve the Minutes from the Open and Closed Sessions held December 16, 2014.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical & Community Services, appeared before the Board to discuss the National Disaster Resilience Grant Funding, which is the third round of federal (HUD) funding. Mr. Pusey reported that \$1 Billion will be available nationwide for areas that experienced climate change related events. Since the funding will be distributed through a competition, the federal government has established guidelines that each project must meet in order to qualify. According to Mr. Pusey, large projects that are innovative will be viewed more favorably than smaller individual projects. A Smith Island project would be a good example of a project that would meet the criteria. The scope of work may include the elevation of homes, roads, bridges; water and sewer support; bulkheading; and possibly solar energy. The deadline for submittal is March 16, 2015. The Board was also reminded of the "Visioning Study" that is currently underway on Smith Island. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board agreed with pursuing the federal funding; however, they requested that a meeting be held with the Smith Island residents before submitting a project that would involve any changes to Smith Island.

Mr. Robert Murphey, Chairman of the Board of License Commissioners, was now present before the Board to request support for proposed legislative items pertaining to the sale of alcoholic beverages in Somerset County. The requested changes are as follows:

- 1) Article 2-B, Section 9-220: Eliminate this section completely, which would allow the Board of License Commissioners the ability to grant alcoholic beverage license applications at their discretion, in regard to proximity of surrounding churches and schools.
- 2) Article 2-B, Section 11-520: Change the hours in which a holder of a Class B or Class C, on sale, beer, wine, and liquor license, may sell alcoholic beverages on Sunday. Currently, the sale of alcoholic beverages cannot begin until 12:30 p.m. The proposed legislation would allow those sales to begin at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Mathies stated the need for consistency with the laws that govern the sale of alcoholic beverages. At the conclusion of the discussion, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, to support Item 2, regarding the time change for selling alcohol on Sunday, from 12:30 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Mathies in opposition.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to support Item 1, regarding the proximity of churches and schools to businesses that are granted a license to sell alcohol. Further discussion took place at this time and Commissioner Mathies asked for clarification of the "grandfathering" clause that was included in this section during a previous legislative session, and asked to delay this vote until further information was available. The motion remained on the table and President Laird called for a vote. Commissioner Simpkins, Commissioner Fisher, and Commissioner Boston voted aye. Commissioner Mathies and Commissioner President Laird opposed the motion. The motion carried 3-2.

At this time, the County Administrator reviewed correspondence and discussion items.

With Mr. Pusey present, the Board briefly discussed a recent Planning Commission meeting in regard to poultry house requirements and how the County's Zoning Code affects "mega" poultry farms. At their December 4th meeting, the Planning Commission voted to request the County Commissioners direct the Planning Commission to review the poultry house regulations contained in the County's Zoning Code for possible updates. Before giving any direction to the Planning Commission, Commissioner Fisher suggested the Board wait until Delmarva Poultry Industry (DPI) and other agriculture-based organizations have held their meeting on this topic. The Board agreed with the suggestion and will consider the information that is derived from DPI's meeting before proceeding any further.

Mr. Taylor reported on the submittal of a grant application by the Somerset County State's Attorney's Office for a "Law Enforcement Training Scholarship (LETS). The federal

funding, made available by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, will provide \$2,022.00 in training funds. There is no local match required.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to approve the submittal of the grant application.

The Commissioners were reminded of the need to appoint a representative and alternate from the Board to serve on the Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee. Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 4-0 to appoint Commissioner Fisher to serve as the Board's representative on the Legislative Committee. Commissioner Fisher abstained from the vote.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 4-0 to appoint Commissioner Boston to serve as the Alternate. Commissioner Boston abstained from the vote.

The Board was advised of a request to proclaim January as "Mentoring Month". Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to issue a Proclamation in recognition of Mentoring Month.

At this time, the Board discussed several board vacancies and took the following action:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to re-appoint Glenn Ains to serve as member of the Planning Commission for another five-year term.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to re-appoint Ernest Satchell, Piet deWitt, and Clarence Johnson to serve as members of the Ethics Commission for another four-year term.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to appoint Joe Howard to serve as member of the Ethics Commission for a four-year term.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to appoint (Ret.) Brig. General Warner Sumpter to serve as member of the Tourism Commission for a term of three years.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried unanimously to appoint Phil Riggins to serve as member of the Tourism Commission for a term of three years.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried unanimously to appoint Billie Jo Chandler to serve as member of the Tourism Commission for a term of three years.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to re-appoint Dwight "Duke" Marshall and Bonita Porter to serve as members of the Tourism Commission for another term of three years.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to appoint Jackie Wheatley to serve as member of the Social Services Advisory Board for a term of three years.

With no further agenda items, President Laird called upon the individuals that requested to address the Board.

Mr. Klaus Trepczyk, of 5757 Dockside Lane in Marion, advised the Board of his plans for an aquaculture project on Smith Island. Mr. Trepczyk reported that a similar project is being carried out by another party on county-owned property and requested a letter be issued by the Commissioners substantiating this information.

Mr. Phil Riggin, of 4930 Thomas Long Road in Crisfield, addressed a previous discussion held during today's meeting regarding the National Disaster Resilience Federal Grant Funding opportunity. Mr. Riggin expressed his concern for the lack of consistent leadership on the part of MD. Department of Housing & Community Development, particularly with some of their decisions regarding Smith Island. Mr. Riggin concluded by thanking the Board for the letter that was submitted to Mayor Kim Lawson and the City Council regarding the proposed Bike Trail. Mr. Riggin reiterated his recommendation that a City Council representative attend each County Commissioner Meeting.

Mr. Dan Kuebler, of 5010 Canal Drive in Crisfield, advised that he would videotape the Superintendent's State of the County Address and make it available to the Commissioners.

Mr. Terry Pehan, of 5095 Old Auger Road in Crisfield, provided a copy of a newspaper article from Lancaster, PA, regarding an increase in rates for Comcast customers.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, 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 unanimously. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President Laird, Commissioner Mathies, Commissioner Simpkins, County Administrator, Ralph D. Taylor; and Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward.

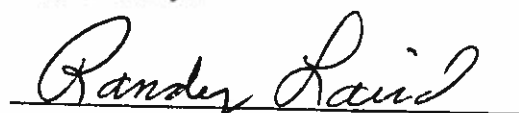
Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:


Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County