

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

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 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 Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to approve the Minutes of the meeting held January 28, 2014 (Open and Closed Sessions) as presented.

President Simpkins opened sealed bids for the purchase of Waste Compactors and Containers for the County Transfer Stations. Bid information is as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
1. Mid Atlantic Waste	\$202,562.00
2. Bakers Waste Equipment	\$194,923.00

The Board will take action to award the bid at a later date.

The County Administrator reviewed correspondence and discussion items with the Board.

A memo from Gary Pusey, Director of Technical & Community Services, was reviewed regarding the County's participation in the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program (MHRP). If approved, the County would receive an allocation of \$58,741 for housing needs, such as rehabilitation and new home rebuilds. The DTCS Office assists eligible residents who would like to participate in this Program by helping them complete the application required by DHCD.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Letter of Intent to participate in the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Mr. Taylor provided an update from Charter Communications following a telephone conversation with Brian Gregory, Senior Director of Government Relations for Charter. According to Mr. Gregory, Charter will be connecting to fiber sometime in 2015. An exact date was not provided.

The Board was advised that FEMA has issued the revised Flood Insurance Rate Map and Flood Insurance Study report for Somerset County. The "Flood Hazard Determination" has been published in the Federal Register and public notification concerning the appeal process will be published in the local newspapers. Mr. Gary Pusey will appear before the Board in the very near future to provide a more detailed report.

The first Lease for transitional housing was presented to the Board for approval and signature. The property, which was recently purchased by the County, will be leased to a tenant (Raymond Ruark) during the construction and/or renovation of the Lessee's home which was damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Lease. The motion carried 4-0.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to authorize the County Administrator to sign all future Leases for transitional housing.

Mr. Taylor updated the Board on Senate Bill 725 (Chesapeake Bay – Nutrient Management – Poultry Fair Share Act). According to recent reports, Governor O'Malley has indicated that he will veto the Bill and it may therefore, be withdrawn. The County will continue to track the Bill and submit a letter of opposition if necessary.

The Board was advised of a request for a Proclamation in recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the Proclamation request. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board received a request to approve the transfer of ownership of Hangar No. 1, from Vincent J. Jordan Jr. (deceased) to his son, Vincent J. Jordan III. Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to approve the transfer of ownership, as requested.


The Board was advised that Christine Allen has declined the re-appointment to the Tax Assessment Appeal Board. Several nominees have already been submitted to the Governor for the vacant position, therefore the Board is only required to make a recommendation for appointment. The Board will discuss the issue further at a later date.

With no further agenda items, President Simpkins asked for any questions or comments from the audience. There were none.

At this time, the County Administrator advised the Board of the need for a Closed Session. A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner 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 Randy Laird; Commissioner Craig Mathies; County Administrator, Ralph D. Taylor; and Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:


Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County