

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, MARCH 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.

President Simpkins began by opening sealed bids for Contract SC1415 Waterways Sanitary Services. The only bid received for sanitary services at the Wenona Harbor restrooms, was submitted by Deborah Holland for \$175 per week. Mr. George W. Barnes, Director of County Roads Department, was present for the bid opening and stated that the bid submitted was for the same amount as the current contract, and recommended the contract be awarded to Ms. Holland.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to award the contract (SC1415) to Deborah Holland for \$175 per week.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Maintenance and Solid Waste, was now present before the Board to revisit the discussion regarding Landfill Tipping Fees; Transfer Station Permit Fees for FY15; and the current security deposit policy for tipping fees at the Landfill.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to keep the Transfer Station Permit Fees at the same rate of \$56 (per year) for Fiscal Year 2015. The motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to increase the Landfill Tipping Fees from \$62 per ton to \$64 per ton for Fiscal Year 2015. Commissioner Boston, Commissioner Fisher, and Commissioner Laird voted aye. Commissioner President Simpkins and Commissioner Mathies opposed the motion. The motion carried 3-2.

In regard to the security deposit policy for tipping fees at the Landfill, the Board agreed to leave the current policy in place. (During their February 25th meeting, Mr. Cavanaugh recommended the \$50 security deposit be eliminated since it would not cover the outstanding debt).

In other business, Mr. Cavanaugh discussed a maintenance issue that exists at the County Office Complex that will affect the planned office renovation for the future Treasurer's Office. Mr. Cavanaugh received a proposal from Wilfre Company, Inc. to correct the plumbing/sewer problem, at a cost of \$8,491. Since the cost exceeds his purchasing limit, Mr. Cavanaugh asked for the Board's approval to expend the funds and make the repairs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize the expenditure with Wilfre Company, Inc. to correct the plumbing/sewer problem. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Matt Scassero, Director of UAS Test Site, A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland, was now present before the Board to provide an update on the Unmanned Aircraft System – Test Site Program. Mr. Scassero began by expressing his appreciation to the Board for their letter of support that was submitted for the test site competition. A powerpoint presentation was then provided which addressed the following topics:

- a) Motivation – the Economics of Integration
- b) FAA Test Site Program
- c) Maryland Test Site
 - 1) MOU with Virginia Tech on collaborative research expands test site to include Maryland
 - 2) Crisfield Airport location is beneficial and may serve as primary launch site and recovery.
- d) MAAP (Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership) which now includes Maryland
- e) University UAS programs emerging
- f) Potential UAS jobs to be created
 - 1) UMES will be considered a priority.
 - 2) Employment numbers will depend upon the duration of the test programs.

Mr. Scassero also anticipates the need for a building, launch pads, and a tower at the Crisfield Airport, and proposes to launch the first flight at the Crisfield Airport.

President Simpkins called upon the audience for any questions or comments.

Mr. Phil Riggin, of Crisfield, and owner of property adjacent to the Airport, inquired if there would be any public outreach and information provided to the neighboring residents. Mr. Scassero replied yes – a public outreach campaign is part of the program.

Ms. Gail Sheldon, Library Director, expressed her desire to have information available in the Crisfield and Princess Anne Libraries to get children interested in the program before they reach high school age.

The Board thanked Mr. Scassero for providing this information update.

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

The Board reviewed a letter from Ms. Sherree Marshall, Director of Commission on Aging, regarding a request to appoint Mrs. Katherine Parkinson and Mrs. Carolyn Fitzgerald to serve as members of the Commission on Aging Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to appoint Mrs. Parkinson and Mrs. Fitzgerald to serve as members of the Commission on Aging Board of Directors. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board also reviewed a letter from Mr. Eddie Somers, of Smith Island United, regarding an opportunity to apply for grant funding through various state agencies for historic preservation, planning, and visioning initiatives, and asked for the support of the County Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to authorize President Simpkins to sign a letter of support and authorize the County as the recipient for the grant funding to address the future of Smith Island. The motion carried 4-0.


Commissioner Boston reminded the Board of the need to fill a vacancy on the Somerset County Sanitary Commission, due to the resignation of Mrs. Donna Laird. He followed with a motion to appoint Mr. Adam Riggin, of Crisfield, to serve as member of the Somerset County Sanitary Commission, filling the unexpired term of Mrs. Donna Laird. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Laird and carried 4-0

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Laird, 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. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Vice-President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr., County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Cynthia R. Ward, and Human Resources Director, Erica Quillen.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County