

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 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 Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried 3-0 to approve the Minutes from the Open and Closed Sessions held Tuesday, March 25, 2014. Mr. Taylor noted that a correction will be made on the misspelling of the name "Wendy Harrison".

Ms. Cindy Stone, of Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, was now present before the Board, accompanied by Gary Pusey, Director of Somerset County Department of Technical and Community Services. Mr. Pusey began by advising that a public hearing is scheduled for April 22, 2014 to provide the public with an update on the \$8.6 Million in CDBG funding received for housing assistance that was awarded to the County following Hurricane Sandy.

Ms. Stone addressed an issue regarding the Crisfield Housing Authority and a problem with mold that is currently affecting 110 units. At this time, DHCD is asking the Commissioners to approve the use of \$700,000 of CDBG grant funding to rehabilitate 16 units (or more). Mr. Charles Goldsborough (Housing Authority Director) was also present for the meeting and reported that mold continues to grow up the walls in many of the units. Work has been performed in 62 units to remove the growth of mold. Mr. Goldsborough concluded with a discussion regarding an insurance issue with FEMA that may result in a shortfall of \$4 Million.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to concur with the State's request to amend the Action Plan for the use of \$700,000 of CDBG grant funding to rehabilitate 16 units at the Crisfield Housing Authority. The motion carried 4-0.

The County Administrator reviewed correspondence and discussion items at this time.

As outlined during the March 25, 2014 meeting of the County Commissioners, a letter was submitted to Federal Aviation Administration on April 1, 2014 regarding the Airport Capital Improvement Plan for the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport. The County Administrator asked for the Board's approval to authorize his signature of the Letter.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to authorize the County Administrator to sign the letter.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board of the results of the Annual Public Drainage Association (PDA) meetings, held January 11, 2014. The following action was taken by the Board authorizing the Treasurer to levy the Drainage Tax Assessment for each PDA:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried 4-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Upper Manokin Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Treasurer be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2015 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Upper Manokin PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

and to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Jerry Bozman to serve as Manager for another three-year term, with Mr. Tom Pinto and Mr. Robert Powell continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried 4-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Tony's Branch Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Treasurer be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2015 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Tony's Branch PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

and to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Thomas Smith for another three-year term as Manager, with Gary Rathcamp and Walter West continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 4-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Barkley's Branch Public**

Drainage Association that the Somerset County Treasurer be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2015 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Barkley's Branch PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$20.00

and to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Ms. Remonia Finney for another three-year term as Manager, with Mr. Robert Finney continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried 4-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Handy Church Public Watershed Association** that the Somerset County Treasurer be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2015 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Handy Church PWA as follows:

Minimum Billing	\$50.00
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and to concur with their recommendation to appoint Mr. Larry Van Story to serve a three-year term as Manager, with Bernard Johnson and Stanley Johnson continuing on from a previous appointment.

Mr. Taylor presented several requests for proclamations, and the following action was taken by the Board:

- 1) Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to issue a Proclamation in recognition of Monte Franklin upon his retirement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- 2) Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried 4-0 to issue a Proclamation in recognition of Jane Riggin and Donnie Price for being selected by the Del-Mar-Va Council Boy Scouts of America to receive the Somerset County Outstanding Citizen Award.
- 3) Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to issue a Proclamation in recognition of the 2014 Crisfield High School Boy's Basketball Team for capturing the 1-A East Region title.
- 4) Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried 4-0 to issue a Proclamation in honor of Anna Breland for being named the 2014 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Taylor reported on a request received from Delmarva Power to rent a portion of the county owned property located behind the Somerset County Sheriff's Office, at the rate of \$500 per month. The property would be utilized to store equipment, poles and vehicles from May through September while they work on a project nearby. A construction trailer will also be placed on the site, which will house a security guard at night.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to approve the request. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board also reviewed a letter from Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee requesting landfill tipping fees be waived for the demolition of the property located at 8 N. First Street in Crisfield.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to waive the landfill tipping fees as requested. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor reminded the Board of the passage of Ordinance No. 1070 in December of 2013, which provides the authority to implement an Emergency Burn Ban during drought conditions. This Ordinance also empowers the County Commissioners to enact a Resolution that establishes a fine and procedure for issuance of such fine for any person who violates any provision of the Ordinance. A draft copy of a proposed Resolution was presented to the Board for their review. The Board will further discuss the Resolution at a later date.

In conclusion, Commissioner Boston reported on a recent United Way Banquet in which he attended. During the banquet ceremony, the County's Director of Emergency Services, Steve Marshall, was acknowledged for his service.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to go into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508(a)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. 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; Daniel Karp, Esquire; and Robin Cockey, Esquire.

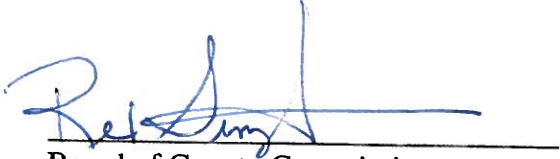
Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County