

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 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 Fisher, it carried 4-0 to approve the Minutes from the Open and Closed Sessions held Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

Mr. Ed Barber, Facilities Planner/Consultant, Ms. Nancy Smoker, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Administration, and Ms. Daniele Haley, Supervisor of Facilities, from the Somerset County Board of Education were now present before the County Commissioners to provide an update on the Greenwood Elementary School HVAC and roof replacement project. According to Mr. Barber, bids received for the roof replacement were very close to the estimated cost for the project. However, the HVAC bid came in \$79,000 over estimated cost, and state funding is not available for this overage. Mr. Barber also reported that Whiting Turner was awarded the contract for construction management on both projects. The County Commissioners thanked the Board of Education Staff for providing this information.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical & Community Services, appeared before the Board to present a Citizen Participation Plan for their consideration. As required by the State, in cooperation with the Community Development Block Grant Program, the County adopted a Citizen Participation Plan three years ago, and due to its expiration, a new plan is submitted for the Board's approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the Citizen Participation Plan. The motion carried 4-0.

In other business, Mr. Pusey discussed an opportunity to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to provide \$44,000 towards a visioning study for Smith Island, with a focus on economic development and tourism. Funding for the study will be provided by Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, and Maryland Historical Trust. This information will form the basis of an action plan for Smith Island which will outline how the community sees itself adapting to changing conditions, threats, and economic opportunities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as described above. The motion carried 4-0.

The County Administrator reviewed correspondence with the Board.

Two letters requesting board appointments were reviewed and the following action was taken:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to re-appoint Doug Green to serve another four-year term as member of the Agricultural Preservation Board.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to appoint the following members to the Local Management Board: Gail Sheldon (replacing Jennifer Ranck); Karen Brimer; and Darlene Taylor.

Mr. Craig Stofko, Health Officer for Somerset County, was now present before the Board. Mr. Stofko reported that Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Health Departments have entered into a contract with United Healthcare that would provide the Health Department with a reimbursement for services from a third party. Prior to this agreement, services were covered under grant funding. Mr. Stofko confirmed that he anticipates a shortfall in reimbursements from the insurance company, most of which can be absorbed by the Health Department. However, they cannot absorb the total cost of providing service without funding assistance. The Agreement must be approved by County Government, but will be forwarded first to the County Attorney for his review.

Mr. Clint Sterling, Director of Recreation and Parks, appeared before the Board to present two letters for signature that support the proposed Somerset County Bike Trail Project:

- Submitted to Harry J. Romano, Rail Program and Policy Manager, Maryland Department of Transportation, approving the Sample Trail Agreement and Statement of Liability; and expressing support and assistance to MDOT and MTA to rail-bank the right-of-way for the trail.
- Submitted to Jason Ridgway, Director, Office of Highway Development, State Highway Administration, supporting the project and assisting with securing the right-of-ways; committing to securing a portion of the construction costs; and assuming the responsibility for maintenance of the path upon completion.

Mr. Taylor also presented a letter for signature by the Board, to be submitted to Joseph P. Gill, Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, prioritizing the project in the County's list of transportation needs; committing to the maintenance after completion; serving as Project Sponsor; and requesting DNR's support for the 20% match. At the conclusion, the following motions were made to authorize the submittal of all three letters:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to authorize the President to sign a letter to be submitted to Harry J. Romano, Rail Program and Policy Manager, Maryland Department of Transportation.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to authorize the President to sign a letter to be submitted to Jason Ridgway, Director, Office of Highway Development, State Highway Administration.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to authorize the President to sign a letter to be submitted to Joseph P. Gill, Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The Board was presented with Resolution No. 1073 for consideration, a Resolution supporting the submittal of an application requesting Community Development Block Grant funding for a Housing Rehabilitation Program in Somerset County, totaling \$460,000. A public hearing was held May 6, 2014 and no public comment was offered on the application submittal.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1073.

Mr. Taylor presented an Inter-governmental Agreement between Maryland State Department of Human Resources and Somerset County Government for the Job Access and

Reverse Commute (STRIDES) program. Under this public transportation program, the State will provide \$200,000 to the County for use by Tri-County Council JARC Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to authorize the County Administrator to sign the Inter-governmental Agreement. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board revisited a discussion regarding the recent termination of the supervised work group program at Eastern Correctional Institution Annex. As requested during their May 20, 2014 meeting, a letter was prepared for signature by the Board, to be submitted to the Governor's Office, as well as other state and local officials.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, authorizing the President to sign the letter asking for the reinstatement of that program. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board was reminded of an existing vacancy on the Somerset County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to appoint Charles Laird as member of the Board for a term of five (5) years. The motion carried 4-0.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to adopt a Proclamation in recognition of Sgt. Clayton Howell upon his retirement from the Maryland State Police.

Mr. Robin Street, Manager of Somerset County Sanitary District, was now present before the Board, accompanied by Starr Mister, Office Manager, to discuss a proposed increase in the reconnection fees for the Sanitary District. A spreadsheet was provided to the County Commissioners showing the actual cost of reconnection, based upon the employee salary (per hour) and the mileage. In order to cover their expenses, the Sanitary District is requesting the fee be increased from \$10 to \$35. Ms. Mister reported that the Sanitary Commission has approved the proposed increase. Pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, the governing body of the County or municipal corporation must set the fee by means of an ordinance. Additionally, a public hearing must be scheduled before an ordinance is enacted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to proceed with scheduling a public hearing to obtain public comment on the proposed increase in reconnection fees. The motion carried 4-0.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, 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 Randy Laird, County Administrator, Ralph D. Taylor; Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; County Attorney, Kirk Simpkins; and Recreation and Parks Director, Clint Sterling.

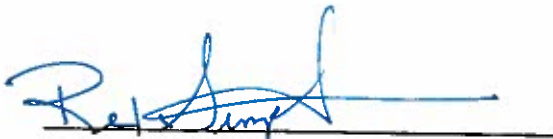
Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County