

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 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, April 22, 2014.

President Simpkins declared a public hearing open to obtain the views of citizens on community, economic development and housing needs to be considered for submission of an application to the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Citizens will be furnished with information including but not limited to:

- The amount of CDBG funds available for State Fiscal Year 2015;
- The range of activities that may be undertaken with CDBG funds; and
- The proposed projects under consideration by Somerset County.

The Maryland CDBG Program is a federally sponsored program designed to assist governments with activities directed toward neighborhood and housing revitalization, economic development and improved community facilities and services. It is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), in close cooperation with the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED). The Maryland CDBG Program reflects the State's economic and community development priorities and provides public funds for activities which meet one of the following national objectives, in accordance with the Housing Community Development Act of 1974, as amended:

1. Benefit low and moderate income persons and households;
2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight;
3. Meet other community development needs of an urgent nature, or that are an immediate threat to community health and welfare.

Mr. Pusey updated the Board on the current CDBG Housing Rehabilitation grant that was received in FY13 which totaled \$450,000. Today's hearing is intended to give the public an opportunity to comment on a new housing rehabilitation (two-year) grant, totaling \$460,000, that is separate from Hurricane Sandy related funding, but is designed to assist eligible residents with repairs to their homes to bring them up to Code. The funding request would be distributed as follows:

\$325,000	Housing Rehabilitation
\$100,000	Emergency Repairs (wells, septic, heating systems)
\$35,000	Staff Salaries

President Simpkins called for any proponents wishing to testify on the proposed application. There were none.

President Simpkins called for any opponents wishing to testify. There were none.

In final comments, Mr. Pusey reminded the Board that applicants living within the town and city limits are also eligible to apply for the assistance. He also reported that the Housing Rehabilitation Program has been very successful in the past and asked for the Board's consideration to approve the submittal of the grant application to continue the program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to approve the submittal of the Fiscal Year 2015 Community Development Block Grant Application, in the amount of \$460,000. The motion carried 4-0.

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

The Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee, Inc. has submitted four requests to waive landfill tipping fees for the demolition of homes located at the following addresses: 317 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Crisfield; 9899 Carrollton Court, Westover; 26665 Mariners Road, Crisfield; and 101 Cove Street, Crisfield. After a brief discussion, the following action was taken on the requests:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to waive the landfill tipping fees for the demolition of the house located at 317 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Crisfield.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to waive the landfill tipping fees for the demolition of the house located at 26665 Mariners Avenue, Crisfield.

(Commissioner Fisher briefly stepped out of the meeting room).

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 3-0 to waive the landfill tipping fees for the demolition of the house located at 101 Cove Street, Crisfield.

The fourth request was held until further information could be obtained.

(Commissioner Fisher returned to the meeting).

The Board reviewed a letter from The Oriole Historical Society, Inc. of Oriole, Maryland, asking for a letter of support for their efforts to obtain grant funding for the final phase of the restoration of the historic St. James Church of Oriole and its adjoining cemetery.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize the County Administrator to sign a letter of support for The Oriole Historical Society as requested. The motion carried 4-0.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to authorize President Simpkins to sign a form consenting to the installation of Comcast's cable/fiber and other equipment to the Princess Anne Library, at no cost to the County.

At this time, Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance, was present before the Board to review the bid information received during the meeting of April 22, 2014 for the Crisfield Airport Mowing Bid and for Request For Proposals that were received for the Smith Island Visitor's Center – HVAC Duct Replacement. Mr. Taylor reported that a bid was received late for the airport mowing contract; however, the late receipt was due to an addressing error made by the County Maintenance Department on the bid form. The bid, submitted by Immaculate Lawn Care, was mailed on April 17, 2014 for the scheduled bid opening on April 22, 2014. The Board agreed to open the sealed bid and reported that Immaculate Lawn Care had submitted a price of \$2,500.00, which was now the new low bid for the contract.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to award the mowing contract to the low bidder, Immaculate Lawn Care, for \$2,500, pending the verification of the bid amount. The motion carried 4-0.

After reviewing the results of the Requests for Proposals for the Smith Island Visitor's Center HVAC project, a motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner

Boston, to award the contract to Eastern Shore Refrigeration for their bid of \$22,275.00 for a Mitsubishi heat pump ductless system. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Ernest Satchell, of the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, was now present before the Board for the presentation of a Proclamation in recognition of their 30th Anniversary.

Mr. Satchell thanked the Board for their recognition and for their support of the Community Foundation.

Mr. Steve Marshall, Director of Emergency Services, appeared before the Board, accompanied by Claudia Nelson, Shelter Committee Member, to present a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Board's consideration. The purpose of this Agreement is twofold: The first is for pharmacies to verify prescription status for evacuees who do not have an adequate supply of medication to last the duration of their stay at the shelter. The second is to provide for reimbursement of medications needed by evacuees in the shelter during a period when the emergency operations plan is activated in Somerset County. Mr. Marshall assured the Board that the County would be reimbursed for any medication costs for evacuees. The County Attorney has reviewed the agreement and found it to be legally sufficient. Ms. Nelson advised that it was their intent to provide medication only during the shelter stay. An Agreement for each pharmacy was presented to President Simpkins for signature.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Simpkins to sign a Memorandum of Agreement between Somerset County and the following pharmacies: Rite Aid Pharmacy, Three Lower Counties Pharmacy, Marion Pharmacy, Apple Discount Drugs, Karemore Pharmacy, and Crisfield Discount Pharmacy. The motion carried 4-0.

In conclusion, Ms. Nelson reported that Somerset County Board of Education has agreed to assume the responsibility of all food ordering, preparation, etc. for the evacuees that are sheltered at Washington High School when the Emergency Operations Center is activated.

At this time, the County Administrator resumed with a review of discussion items.

The Board revisited a request received from Eastern Shore Forest Products, as presented during their last meeting (April 22, 2014), to exempt the personal property taxes for Fiscal Year 2013-14, totaling \$18,680.07. Mr. Taylor provided the Board with a history of exemptions granted to Eastern Shore Forest Products in recent years:

Fiscal Year 2009	\$14,140.63
Fiscal Year 2010	\$40,508.10
Fiscal Year 2011	\$58,259.03
Fiscal Year 2012	\$51,503.58

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to grant a personal property tax exemption to Eastern Shore Forest Products for Fiscal Year 2013-14 taxes, totaling \$18,680.07. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, was now present before the Board to discuss a possible text amendment to the County's Zoning Ordinance. At the request of the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Planning Commission has reviewed how "digital or electronic signs" should be addressed in the Zoning Ordinance. As required, a public hearing was held by the Planning Commission in February 2014 to review information provided by other jurisdictions and local sign companies, as well as, receive public comment on the proposed text amendment. Mr. Pusey advised that all existing digital signs in the County would be grandfathered in. After reviewing the proposal, a motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to proceed with scheduling a public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. The motion carried 4-0.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to authorize President Simpkins to sign the FY15 Grant Agreement between Maryland Department of Natural Resources Critical Area Commission and Somerset County for the Grant-In-Aid Program. The grant, which totals \$15,000, is designed to assist local jurisdictions in implementing their local Critical Area Programs in compliance with the Critical Area Act.

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Simpkins asked for any questions or comments from the audience.

Mr. Phil Riggin, of Crisfield, stated that he would like to see more CDBG funding directed to economic development. Mr. Riggin also asked for clarification on the fiber connection by Comcast at the Princess Anne Library. He concluded by thanking Ms. Claudia Nelson for her work on the Long Term Recovery Committee and encouraged everyone to attend the Strawberry Festival this weekend.

(Ret.) Brig. Gen. Warner Sumpter thanked the Board for their letter in support of his grant application (Somerset County Historical Society, War of 1812 Bicentennial


Commemorative Committee Grant) and provided the Board with a copy of the driving tour brochure and spoke on various planned activities of the Committee.

Commissioner Laird addressed the recent termination of the supervised work group program at Eastern Correctional Institution Annex. Commissioner Boston reported that the program has been cut by the State as a cost savings measure due to overtime expenses. The Board agreed to forward a letter to the local Delegation in support of the program.


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 Internal Auditor, Sharon Muir.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:


Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County