

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 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 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 Laird to lead those attending the meeting in the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 3-0 to approve the Minutes from the Open and Closed Sessions held Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, appeared before the Board to present the final County Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 for adoption. Mr. Adkins began with a brief review of the budget process including the public hearing that was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014. Following the hearing, written comments were received from two county citizens: Phil Riggin and Carolyn Marquis (copies were provided to the Board of County Commissioners). Since the public hearing, no changes have been made to the Budget. Mr. Adkins concluded by reviewing the total budgeted amounts for the County Commissioners and County Roads Board:

\$36,266,102.00	County Commissioners
\$ 3,756,266.36	County Roads Board

At this time, the following motions were made to adopt the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget and set the official tax levy for the new fiscal year:

On a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 3-0 that it be adopted and resolved, that for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015, the property tax rate be \$.915 per \$100.00 of the full assessed value of real property and \$2.2875 per \$100.00 of full assessed value of personal and public utility property in Somerset County, except such property as may, by provision of the laws, be exempt from this rate.

On a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried 3-0, that it be adopted and resolved that for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015, the property tax rate of \$.28 per \$100.00 of the full assessed value of public utility property; and, \$.112 per \$100.00 of the full assessed value of all other real property in Somerset County, excepting such property as may, by provisions of the laws, be exempt from this rate, be levied and imposed for the State of Maryland.

On a motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 3-0, that it be adopted and resolved that for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015, the local income tax rate for residents of the County be at the rate of 3.15% of Maryland's taxable income for Tax Year 2015.

On a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 3-0 that it be adopted and resolved for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015, that a service charge of 0.68% be applied to the second installment amount of semiannual tax payments.

On a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 3-0, that it be adopted and resolved that the proposed Levy, reflecting total revenues in the amount of \$36,266,102.00 and total appropriations in the amount of \$36,266,102.00, be adopted as the Official Levy of Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

On a motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 3-0 that it be adopted and resolved that the proposed Somerset County Roads Budget, reflecting total revenues in the amount of \$3,756,266.36 and total appropriations in the amount of \$3,756,266.36 be adopted for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

In conclusion, the County Administrator thanked Mr. Adkins, Ms. Sharon Muir, and the Board of County Commissioners for their hard work during the budget process.

At this time, President Simpkins opened sealed bids for the Treasurer's Office Renovation Project:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
1. Richard Meredith	\$166,200.40
2. Harper & Sons	\$174,900.00
3. RCBI	\$180,000.00
4. Willow Construction	\$228,900.00
5. Underwood Contracting	\$259,546.00

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Maintenance and Solid Waste, was present for the bid opening. He will review the bids and return at a later date for awarding of the contract.

Ms. Starr Mister, Office Manager, Somerset County Sanitary District, was now before the Board to discuss a financial issue. On behalf of the Sanitary Commission, Ms. Mister asked for the Board's consideration for a loan of \$72,000. The purpose of the loan is to supplement the funds needed to pay the annual bond payment due USDA Rural Development on June 26, 2014 for the North Princess Anne Sewer Bypass Project. Due to pending litigation, several accounts are withholding payments, which has led to the funding shortfall. Ms. Mister anticipates the borrowed amount will be repaid within one year, based upon the outcome of the lawsuit. Mr. Adkins, Finance Director, suggested a loan agreement be prepared for a no-interest loan to the

Sanitary District, should the Board approve the request. It was noted that a similar case took place in 1988 in which funds were loaned from the County to the Sanitary District, and the loan was repaid in full.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the loan request and authorize a loan agreement be prepared. The motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Taylor reviewed correspondence with the Board.

A request to waive tipping fees at the County Landfill was received from the Somerset Committee for the Homeless, for the demolition of the Wood Home and the adjacent property also owned by the Committee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to waive the tipping fee as requested. The motion carried 3-0.

A request to waive permit fees was also received from Christian Stronghold Community Church. The permit fees, totaling \$150, are related to a Use Permit and a Special Exception that are required for their planned day care center within the Church.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to waive the permit fees totaling \$150 for Christian Stronghold Community Church. The motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, was now present before the Board, accompanied by staff members Audrey Cornelius and Bob Sperry, to discuss the recently updated FEMA flood maps. Mr. Pusey advised that FEMA representatives will be hosting an Open House at the County Office Complex Gymnasium on Wednesday, June 11th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for interested county citizens that wish to review their property designation and inquire about the proposed changes and how they may be affected by the expanded floodplain. Mr. Pusey indicated that his department is currently investigating the possibility of appealing the new flood maps.

In other business, Mr. Pusey requested Board permission to purchase a new plotter/scanner/printer for large map production. The equipment, estimated at \$7,500, is a non-budgeted item; however, there are savings in other areas of their department budget. Additionally, permission is requested since the equipment is over the department's purchase limits.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the purchase request, under the County Commissioners purchasing limit. The motion carried 3-0.

At this time, Mr. Taylor reviewed discussion items with the Board.

The Board received a request from the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay to adopt a Resolution allowing the Girl Scouts to apply for Maryland Tax Credits for 2015, through Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, under their Community Investment Tax Credit Program.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 3-0 to approve the request for a Resolution.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 3-0 to adopt a Proclamation in recognition of Faith Independent Church celebrating their 30th Anniversary.

A project notification from Maryland Department of Planning, State Clearinghouse, was reviewed by the Board. The project, located within the City of Crisfield, involves the elevation of four residential rental buildings to protect against future flooding. Mr. Taylor recommended the County Commissioners defer to the City of Crisfield in regard to submitting comments on the proposed project. Therefore, we would respond to the Maryland Department of Planning with a P-7 designation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to respond to MDP with a P-7 designation and defer any comments to the City of Crisfield. The motion carried 3-0.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, 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 3-0. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Randy Laird, County Administrator, Ralph D. Taylor; Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; Human Resources Director, Erica Quillen; and Director of Technical and Community Services, Gary Pusey.

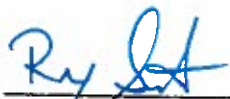
Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried 3-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County