

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 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 August 12, 2014, with corrections made on page two of the Open Session Minutes, paragraphs one and three, to change the term "low bidder" to "high bidder".

President Simpkins opened sealed bids for the purchase of a Rooftop Multizone HVAC Unit for the Somerset County Health Department. Bid information is as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Base Bid Amount</u>	<u>Alternate Bid #1</u>	<u>Alternate #2</u>
Wilfre Mechanical	\$184,000.00	-0-	-0-
Zimmer Mechanical	\$145,600.00	-0-	\$1,500.00
Rommel	\$167,500.00	-0-	\$1,260.00

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Maintenance and Solid Waste, was present for today's bid opening. The bid information will now be submitted to Gipe & Associates for review and a recommendation for awarding of the contract.

Ms. Wendy Harrison, CFO for Somerset County Public Schools, was now present before the Board to request approval of Inter-Category Budget Transfers and Amendment to the FY14 Budget. Ms. Harrison reported that the Somerset County Board of Education approved the transfers and budget amendment at their August 19, 2014 meeting. Following a brief review with clarification for some of the transfers, the County Commissioners approved the request:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the Inter-Category Budget Transfers and Amendment to the FY14 Budget as presented today. The motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Sherree Marshall, Director of Somerset County Commission on Aging, appeared before the Board to request approval and signature of FY15 Operating Grant Agreement, through the Maryland Transit Administration, to support the SSTAP (Statewide Special Transportation Assistance) Program, in the amount of \$117,447. Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Grant Agreement.

Mr. Danny Thompson, Executive Director of Economic Development for Somerset County, was now present to discuss a funding opportunity through the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development Office to receive \$65,000 to expand broadband in Somerset County. The funding would be used as a match for a USDA grant in the amount of \$137,000. Mr. Thompson also presented a proposal from Maryland Broadband Cooperative to expand the fiber to several areas such as the Princess Anne Industrial Park; Behavioral Health; Crisfield Library and McCready Hospital. A grant application; Resolution authorizing the County to accept the grant funding from DBED and sign the grant agreement; and a proposal from Maryland Broadband Cooperative, were presented for the Board's approval and signature. At the conclusion of the discussion, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Grant Application for funding in the amount of \$65,000 from DBED. The motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the proposal submitted by Maryland Broadband Cooperative to install the fiber. The motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to adopt Resolution No. 1082, a Resolution authorizing the County Commissioners to accept the DBED funding and execute a grant agreement between the County and DBED. The motion carried 4-0.

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

In a letter from the Somerset County Sanitary District, the County Commissioners were advised of the term expiration of Sanitary Commission Member, Maxine Landon. Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to re-appoint Maxine Landon to another six-year term.

Mr. Taylor reviewed the bid results from the bid opening, held Tuesday, August 12, 2014, for the sale of surplus county property. After the review and recommendation for bid award, the following action was taken:

Item 1: (no bid)

Item 2: Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to award Item 2 to Jay Reading for his bid of \$1,100.00.

Item 3: Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to award Item 3 to Thomas Smith III for his bid of \$5,150.00.

Item 4: Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried 4-0 to award Item 4 to Janet and Timothy Drimal for their bid of \$5,551.00.

Item 5: (no bid)

Item 6: Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to award Item 6 to Clifton Taylor for his bid of \$955.00.

Item 7: (no bid)

Item 8: (no bid)

Item 9: (no bid)

Item 10: (no bid)

Item 11: Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to award Item 11 to Lisa Nagley for her bid of \$4,000.00

Item 12: (no bid)

Item 13: Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to award Item 13 to Wesley Townsend for his bid of \$2,001.00.

Item 14: Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to award Item 14 to Clifton Taylor for his bid of \$800.00.

Mr. Taylor recommended the bid submitted by Franzella Starkey be disqualified due to the fact that she bid on one (1) property, and not the entire item which consisted of five (5) individual properties. Pursuant to the terms of the sale, items may not be split and bid separately. The Board agreed that Ms. Starkey's bid shall be disqualified.

The Board was presented with a Grant Agreement, between Somerset County Commissioners and the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development, for approval and signature. The grant funding, through the Community Development Block Grant Program, will provide \$5,004,410 in disaster recovery assistance. The funds are intended to enable the County to carry out the activities as identified in the approved scope of work as described in Exhibit A of the agreement. Mr. Taylor reported that the County Attorney has reviewed the Agreement and found it to be legally sufficient.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the Grant Agreement. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board was advised of a request for a Proclamation in recognition of Princess Anne Fire Department's 100th Anniversary. Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to authorize the issuance of the Proclamation.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of the Department of Technical and Community Services, was now present accompanied by Ms. Audrey Cornelius and Mr. Robert Sperry, to address the new FEMA flood maps which have been finalized and will go into effect February 4, 2015. The next step will involve the update to the Floodplain Ordinance. Maryland Department of Environment is reviewing the current ordinance and will make recommendations for the new draft ordinance. The County will continue to appeal the implementation of the flood maps by FEMA, however this may be difficult since scientific and technical data will be needed to support the appeal request. Other jurisdictions have not been successful in their attempts to appeal the decision. Mr. Pusey believed the flood maps appear to be correct, based on the 100 year flood maps and the effects of Super Storm Sandy. He is mostly concerned with the drastic increase in the base flood elevation requirements. Mr. Taylor inquired if Somerset County land was graded more stringent than other counties with low lying areas, such as nearby Dorchester County, which was very similar in nature. Mr. Pusey replied yes – there was a significant difference in the grading of Somerset and Dorchester. Mr. Taylor noted that this discrepancy would be very useful in the appeal process. Mr. Pusey also updated the Board on the Biggert Waters Act that was adopted in

2012 to regulate flood insurance rates. Under the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 that amended the Biggert Waters law, mapping will be grandfathered in for properties that meet certain criteria. In conclusion, the Board agreed to allow DTCS to obtain an estimate of proposed costs to appeal the newly adopted flood maps.

Chief Deputy Ronnie Howard appeared before the Board, accompanied by Gene Adkins, Finance Director, to request approval to forward fund equipment costs for leased vehicles for the Sheriff's Office. According to Deputy Howard, the equipment costs were not originally included in the vehicle order. In order to process the vehicle lease, the equipment must be paid in full. Eventually, these costs will be factored into the lease payments and the County will be reimbursed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to authorize the expenditure for the equipment costs as requested. The motion carried 4-0.


With no further agenda items, President Simpkins asked for any questions or comments from the audience.

Mr. Phil Riggin, of Crisfield, offered comment on the FEMA flood maps and the vast discrepancy with the surrounding counties. He suggested the Board seek assistance from the universities to provide the necessary help with the appeal process.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird, seconded by Commissioner Jerry 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 Fisher, Commissioner Craig Mathies, County Administrator, Ralph D. Taylor; Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; Human Resources Director, Erica Quillen; and Warden Louis Hickman.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:


Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County