

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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 September 9, 2014.

President Simpkins opened sealed bids for two drainage ditch maintenance projects: Polks Road/Foggy Bottom Lane; and Cash Corner Road. Bid information is as shown below:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Polks Rd./Foggy Bottom</u>	<u>Cash Corner Road</u>
Doug Vann	\$4,410.00	\$3,200.00
Mark Bozman	\$5,200.00	\$3,950.00
Gerard Dumsha	\$4,600.00	\$3,650.00

After a review of the bid information, the following action was taken to award the contracts:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to award the contract for the Polks Road/Foggy Bottom Lane Drainage Project to the low bidder, Doug Vann, for his bid of \$4,410.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to award the contract for the Cash Corner Road Drainage Project to the low bidder, Doug Vann, for his bid of \$3,200.00.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, was now present before the Board accompanied by Mr. Mark Konapelsky, Code Enforcement Officer, to review the bid information received during the meeting of September 9, 2014, for the construction of four (4) disaster recovery replacement houses. Following a review of the bids and a recommendation submitted by Mr. Konapelsky, the Board took action to award the contracts as shown below:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to award the construction project, located at 8093 Halls Creek Road, to the low bidder, Ken Build, for his bid price of \$143,100.00.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to award the construction project, located at 4350 Paul Gumby Road, to Farina Construction (second lowest bidder), for their bid price of \$144,480.00.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to award the construction project, located at 4292 Lawson Barnes Road, to the low bidder, Eastern Shore Construction, for their bid price of \$158,000.00.

Due to a request for further information on the project located at 26371 Old State Road, a motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to table the contract award for this project. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Tom Lawton, Senior Planner, now joined Mr. Pusey to present the FY 15 Grant Agreement for the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Program. Mr. Lawton advised that Somerset County is entering the 7th year of the program and we have been fortunate to maintain consistent funding. To date, eight (8) farms have been settled with 885 acres protected. The grant agreement presented today will provide \$600,000 in program funding through Maryland Department of Natural Resources, if approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Simpkins to sign the grant agreement. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Pusey presented a letter from the Planning Commission in regard to their review of the Draft Wind Turbine Ordinance. Due to the amount of material and public input, an extension of the October 3rd deadline may be necessary. Although they are hopeful they will meet that deadline, an extension of one month was requested.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to grant the Planning Commission a one-month extension for their review of the Draft Wind Turbine Ordinance and recommendation to the County Commissioners.

In other business, Mr. Pusey presented a contract for approval and signature by the Board. The Contract, between Somerset County Commissioners and CBI (Consensus Building Institute) authorizes the Consultant (CBI) to perform the "Smith Island Visioning Study" at a cost not to exceed \$90,000, with funding for the study being provided by the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to authorize President Simpkins to sign the contract.

At this time, Mr. Taylor reviewed correspondence and discussion items.

The Board reviewed a letter from Gregory Sutton, Somerset County Public Schools, requesting use of the County Office Complex as an Emergency Staging Area for Washington Academy and High School during emergency evacuations.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to approve the request for use of the Office Complex during emergency evacuations.

A letter requesting the assistance of an inmate workforce crew from ECI – Annex was presented to the Board for consideration. Ms. Carol Bozman, of Asbury United Methodist Church, has requested assistance with general maintenance related work in their Fellowship Hall.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the request submitted by Asbury United Methodist Church. The motion carried 4-0.

Copies of the Legislative Audit that was performed for the Somerset County Board of Education were distributed to the County Commissioners.

Mr. Taylor reported on the results of the recent Grand Jury inspection. The information has been forwarded to Charles Cavanaugh for the correction of maintenance related repairs.

The Board was reminded of the term expiration of a member on the Planning Commission (September 29, 2014). Mrs. Tammy Truitt was appointed to the Planning Commission on January 2, 2013 to fulfill the unexpired term of Dr. DeWayne Whittington. In a memo from Gary Pusey, Director of Technical & Community Services, the Board was advised that Mrs. Truitt has expressed her interest in continuing to serve on the Planning Commission. During the Board's deliberation, it was noted that there is currently no representation on the Commission from District One; however, four members of the Commission are residents of District Four. At the conclusion of the discussion, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Laird, to appoint James Mullen to serve as member of the Planning Commission for a term of five years. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board was also reminded of a vacancy on the Workforce Investment Board. Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to appoint Joy Strand, CEO, McCready Foundation, to serve as member of the Workforce Investment Board.

Mr. Taylor reported on a request to abate county taxes for Mr. Scott Rayfield, whom was attempting to acquire property. The previous owner (Mr. Cannon) had received a reduction in his taxes for a veterans exemption, which was issued in error. There is now an outstanding balance of \$859.64 for back taxes due on the property which is preventing the new owner from obtaining financing for the property. The County Attorney was consulted for a legal opinion. He recommended the County abate the outstanding balance since legal proceedings to resolve the situation may result in a higher amount than the actual taxes due.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to abate the outstanding county taxes for Account No. 03-57445, for an amount of \$859.64. The motion carried 4-0.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird, seconded by Commissioner Craig Mathies, to go into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508(a)(3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The motion carried 4-0. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Vice-President Charles Fisher, Commissioner Jerry Boston, County Administrator, Ralph D. Taylor; and Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward.

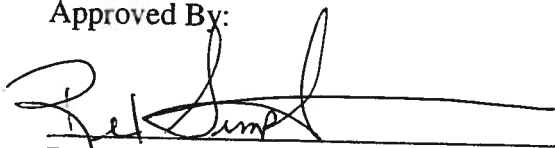
Upon motion made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Laird, it carried 4-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County