

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

At 1:00 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. County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Secretary Lory E. Ebron were also present.

President Simpkins called the meeting to order, and asked Commissioner Mathies to lead those attending the meeting in repeating the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, second by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to dispense with the reading of the Board of County Commissioner and Closed Session Meeting Minutes held Tuesday, August 26, 2014 and approve the minutes as presented.

Mr. Taylor requested Mr. Mark Konapelsky and Mr. Gary Pusey from Community and Technical Services to come forward for the sealed bid openings regarding four (4) disaster recovery replacement houses. The bids as presented were opened and read aloud by President Simpkins. Bid information as submitted is attached to meeting minutes. The bids will be reviewed by the Community and Technical Services Department, after which award recommendations will be made. Commissioner Laird requested that valid reasoning be provided should the department elect to not to recommend an award to the lowest bidder so that the reason is properly documented within the meeting minutes.

Mr. Konapelsky and Mr. Pusey were excused from the meeting.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance, was now present before the Board to present his award recommendation for the HVAC Top Roof Unit Replacement for the Health Department. It was noted that the engineering firm, Gipe and Associates, has reviewed the bids submitted, and found Zimmer Mechanical's bid submission in the amount of \$145,600 to be the apparent low bid, and the information within the bid was sufficient. Mr. Cavanaugh advised that it was decided to not go with Alternate #2, and it was noted that there were no bids submitted regarding Alternate #1.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston to award the bid for the HVAC Top Roof Unit Replacement for the Health Department to Zimmer Mechanical in the amount of \$145,600. The motion carried 4-0.

Next, Mr. Cavanaugh explained that repairs will need to be made under the old unit being replaced, which had not been included in the bid specifications for the project. It is anticipated that the costs to make the repairs will be approximately \$10,000. Mr. Cavanaugh stated that the project is coming in well under budget, and asked for the Boards approval to allow this additional cost to make the repairs.

On a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to authorize the needed repairs under the existing unit, not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Mr. Cavanaugh was excused from the meeting at this time.

Ms. Suzanne Nevins of Road Runner Rescue Inc., and Mr. Donald Ford, Somerset County Dog Control, were asked to come forward. Ms. Nevins began by explaining her involvement with animal rescue, which began in April 2005. Three years ago, she became a non-profit organization. Generally, she rescues 150-200 dogs annually, providing vaccinations, heartworm and Lyme disease testing. Pictures were shown of recently rescued dogs, some of which were taken from the County Dog Control Office. Ms. Nevins stated that for just this year, she has spent \$2,000 in her dog rescue efforts. She then requested the Boards consideration to approve a funding request for her non-profit organization in the amount \$2,000.00. President Simpkins explained that funding requests are usually presented during budget deliberation discussions, and funding would not be available currently as it had not been budgeted. Commissioner Fisher noted all of the assistance that her organization is providing to the county, and the money the county is actually saving because of Ms. Nevins work. Additionally, exceptions have been made in the past for other entities.

Therefore, Commissioner Fisher made the motion to approve the funding request to Road Runner Rescue, Inc., in the amount of \$2,000.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boston, and carried 4-0.

As time was available before the next appointment, Mr. Taylor reviewed correspondence with the Board.

A letter was received from the Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski with regard to the Rhodes Point Jetty Project. Mr. Taylor noted that he will be attending a meeting scheduled on Thursday

with the Corps of Engineers and Ms. Cindy Stone, DHCD. He believes there will be more information provided about the project at this meeting, which he will report back to the Board.

Maryland Department of Transportation has provided their schedule for the Annual Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) Tour. The CTP Tour for Somerset County is scheduled for next Roads Board meeting being held on Tuesday, September 16, 2014. Mr. Taylor encouraged the Board to address Bike Trail, noted as the number one project listed for Somerset County. This project has been on the list for the past two years.

Somerset County Department of Social Services has advised that the Somerset County Adult Medical Day Care Center operated by Shore Up! closed in June of this year. The letter advised that a team has been established, made up of many professional service providers to address the loss of the center, and hopefully reverse the decision made to close the center. A forum will be held on October 7, 2014 at the Eastern Shore Psychological Office in Princess Anne, and the Commissioners were invited to attend.

The Crisfield Fire Department has requested a Letter of Support as they are applying for a FEMA/Homeland Security Grant to obtain a fireboat to serve the area.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher authorizing a Letter of Support supporting the Crisfield Fire Departments application for a FEMA/Homeland Security Grant to purchase a fireboat. The motion carried 4-0.

The Maryland Aviation Administration has provided the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport with a Proclamation observing September 2014 as Aviation Month in Maryland. The Proclamation will be forwarded to the airport so that it can be displayed.

The Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration has sent notification that the Grant Agreement for the Crisfield Municipal Airport grant to acquire Snow Removal Equipment and have a pavement analysis performed has been reviewed and approved. It was noted that the project continues to move forward.

At this time, Mr. Taylor continued onto Discussion Items.

The Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program Grant Agreement (not to exceed \$200,000), that will provide funding to benefit low and moderate income persons with housing rehabilitation, was presented for the President's signature.

On a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Laird, the President was authorized to sign the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program Grant Agreement. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor presented a request to withdraw bid from Timothy and Janet Drimal who had submitted a bid in the amount of \$5,551.00 for Item #4 during the County Surplus Property Sale, held on August 12, 2014. A forfeited deposit in the amount of \$555.10 (as required) was included with the bid submission. Admitting an error was made on their part, the Drimal's mistakenly thought there was a house located on one of the properties within that group, and as that was not the case, they have formally requested to withdraw their bid.

After review of the request, on a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, the request to withdraw bid from Timothy and Janet Drimal was accepted, however the bid bond in the amount of \$555.10 will be retained. Commissioner Laird opposed the motion, therefore the motion carried 3-1-0.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Community and Technical Services was now present before the Board to discuss violation fee's associated with the County's Nuisance Ordinance. Mr. Pusey advised that President Simpkins has contacted him inquiring as to what can be done to encourage landowners, who are repeatedly allowing grass on their properties to grow unreasonably high, to mow their lawns. It was explained that current policy is to send a letter out to offending landowners, allowing them 15 days to mow the grass. If not addressed, a contractor is paid to have the grass cut, and a lien is placed against the property. It was noted that the county is eventually paid, but it may take a while in some cases. The current fee structure is \$25.00 for the first offense, \$50.00 for the second offense and \$100.00 for the third offense in addition to the cost paid to the contractor to mow the grass each occurrence. Mr. Pusey made the suggestion to change the current fee schedule, which will require the passing of a Resolution (and does not require a public hearing). The President recommended the following revised fee schedule; \$25.00 for the first offense, \$150.00 for the second and \$300.00 for the third. The Board concurred with the President's recommendation. Mr. Pusey advised he would contact the County Attorney to have a Resolution drafted to amend the fee schedule as proposed.

Mr. Taylor presented a request from Mr. Clint Sterling, Recreation and Parks Director, requesting the Boards approval to transfer funding available in the Equipment Repairs line item to purchase a used Tri-King Rough Mower, said to be in 'great shape'. The cost of the purchase

is in the amount of \$4,900.00 which falls under the approved threshold (\$5,000) for the Director. It was explained that the current mower at the golf course can't be repaired.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird, seconded by Commissioner Boston to authorize Mr. Sterling to transfer funds from the Equipment Repairs line item to purchase the mower at a cost of \$4,900.00. Commissioner Mathies abstained; therefore the motion carried 3-0-1.

Ms. Sally Rankin was now present before the Board to present a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Maryland Judiciary, Administrative Office of the Courts and Somerset County Government. Ms. Rankin explained that it is being proposed to install video conferencing at the Detention Center for Bail Hearings. With video conferencing, the need to manually transport detainee's to other locations for Bail Hearings will be eliminated, saving transportation and fuel costs to the county. Video equipment is already installed at Circuit Court. Video conferencing installation at the Detention Center would be part of a 'Statewide Plan' to expand video conferencing services throughout the state (who would be absorbing the cost in the amount of \$8,500.00). The only obligation to the county will be the requirement of yearly maintenance (\$840.00) and cost of training. It was noted that the annual maintenance fee would be an ongoing expense to the county. Mr. Taylor advised that the County Attorney has reviewed the MOU being presented today, and found it to be acceptable.

Therefore, on a motion made by Commissioner Laird, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to authorize the President's signature on the MOU between Maryland Judiciary, Administrative Office of the Courts and Somerset County Government as presented.

Ms. Rankin was excused from the meeting at this time.

Dr. John Gaddis, Ms. Nancy Smoker and Mr. Tom Davis were now present before the Board.

Dr. Gaddis began by introducing Mr. Tom Davis, the new Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. Mr. Davis began his career in Somerset County, moving to Worcester County, and now back to Somerset. Mr. Davis then introduced himself to the Board, providing a short summary of his previous experiences.

Dr. Gaddis presented the following updates:

- He thanked the Board for approving the requested category changes for the FY14 Budget, presented by Ms. Harrison at the last meeting.
- Dr. Gaddis advised that he, Ms. Hailey and Mr. Barber met with Dr. Lever in Annapolis to discuss the CIP program. It was noted that for FY16-18 there will be 100% funding

provided regarding the Tawes project. The meeting was held to make sure everything is moving forward with the project. He noted that a team is being put together to ensure current programs at the school stay in place, and new programs are established.

- Ms. Anna Breland is a State finalist for Teacher of Year. Dr. Gaddis noted she is one of seven finalists. She presents herself and the county very well.
- The CEP Program has gone over very well. This program provides breakfast and lunch to students at no cost. There is also no cost to the BOE to participate in the program. Dr. Gaddis noted that he feels positive about the program, which is receiving good local and state press.
- The Board of Ed has approved twelve new policies and updated current policies that address discipline and code of conduct. These new policies create consistency in the handling of various offenses.
- As part of teacher evaluation, teachers are working on what's called a Student Learning Objective. The State Department has asked Somerset County to be a 'Vanguard County' and was one of only six counties in Maryland asked to participate in this grant program.

Dr. Gaddis closed his comments by asking if there were any questions from the Board.

Commissioner Mathies clarified that the disciplinary actions addressed in the new and revised policies just mentioned are suggesting that each Principal and Vice Principal at each school will adhere to the same standards for every student. Dr. Gaddis stated absolutely, and explained the consistency that was created with the newly adopted policies.

Commissioner Laird stated that it sounds like policies are going in the right direction, noting that bullying has been a problem in his district. Dr. Gaddis stated that bullying is a topic addressed in the new policy.

Dr. Gaddis thanked the Board for the flexibility they provided with the Greenwood Elementary renovation project, noting they are working to use state funding first. A update for the Greenwood School project was also provided.

A ten minute recess was taken at this time. The meeting resumed at 2:18 p.m.

Mr. Taylor provided a brief summary with regard to the next appointment on the agenda which was to have a discussion with all involved parties relating to the Whittington Primary School and funding for renovations relating to the damage that was incurred during Hurricane Sandy. Before the storm, the school (owned by the County, and leased by Shore Up!) housed both It Takes A Village and Head Start (a Shore Up! program). Ultimately, project funding for the school, presented by Mayor Purnell, was approved in the amount of \$3.0 million dollars. The purpose for today's discussion is to decide how we can move forward with limited funding and provide an adequate facility for both It Takes A Village and Head Start. Mr. Taylor noted that the numbers being presented are only estimates, not engineered figures.

Now present before the Board to discuss this matter were Ms. Darlene Taylor of It Takes A Village, Mr. Freddie Mitchell of Shore Up!, Crisfield Mayor Kim Lawson and Mr. Gary

Pusey, DTCS. Also present in the audience regarding the matter were Dr. John Gaddis, Superintendent of Schools, and on behalf of Crisfield City Council Mr. Mark Konapelsky, Ms. LaVerne Johnson, Ms. Charlotte Scott and Mr. Eric Emely.

Mr. Gary Pusey began by explaining the time frame involved with the FEMA projects; which is broken down into 2 phases. Phase I for Whittington School in the amount of \$500,000 will involve demolition of the current building, and design plans for a new building. This phase will end in July 2016. The second phase, involving the balance of approximately \$2.5 million will need to be spent before August/September of 2017. Therefore it was noted that time is of the essence.

Ms. Darlene Taylor presented the following comments to the Board:

- She approached the Mayor/City when it was obvious the building was not in good enough condition to be used, to request disaster funding. Ms. Taylor initiated the request for funding presented as Head Start and It Takes A Village via the City of Crisfield.
- In past discussions It Takes A Village believed they would be a part of whatever is built and she is having concerns about what is under consideration to be built, as it may not include It Takes A Village.
- She requested to hear from the Board on where It Takes A Village stands regarding this project.
- Her facility serves between 70 and 120 children and is primarily funded by Local Management Board.

Mr. Freddie Mitchell presented the following comments to the Board:

- Funding requests for various sources were obtained to make repairs, replace the heating unit and work on the roof initially after the hurricane.
- After it was realized that a funding request was submitted replace the building, only minimal temporary repairs were made Whittington School.
- Head Start has moved to temporary facilities because of the extent of the damage to Whittington School even after the minimal repairs were made. It Takes A Village continues to operate in the less damaged section of the school however.
- It was emphasized that we need to move on this project with whatever is decided, as Head Start only had a lease agreement in the temporary facility (former Adult Day Care Center) for one year.
- Head Start serves approximately 80 children.

Mayor Kim Lawson presented the following comments to the Board:

- He agreed that Mayor Purnell put the request for funding in for both It Takes A Village and Head Start.
- There are two purposes asking to be served up for discussion:
 - o A potential Head Start facility at Crisfield High School
 - o Where does It Takes A Village go if Whittington School is demolished- is the Armory a possible location.
- It was noted that City Council has taken a position that the Armory location would not be in the best interest for Salvation Army, who is currently using the building, in addition to several other issues that exist.
- City Council supports It Takes A Village to be given an option that is workable for them.
- Could the 'core' middle of Whittington School be saved and the ends of the building be demolished and rebuilt, lowering the grade price. From the Parks & Recreation Plan, there is a shortage of gymnasiums in Crisfield. It would be a request from the Mayor's

office that consideration be given that repairs be made to the Whittington School (as it has a gym), and having It Takes A Village use the Head Start end of the building.

- There is a concern with the ability of the City to assist financially if funding doesn't complete the project.
- It was acknowledged that having a Head Start Program out of Crisfield High School would be an asset to the City.
- It was acknowledged that both programs serve an extreme need in the City, so having to make a decision will be difficult.

Mr. Mark Konapelsky, representing City Council stated the following:

- Council did not speak about the option of the Armory at all
- There would be a problem using Federal Funds to drop a section of the building as guidelines advised that the building, if rebuilt, would have to be raised.
- There are State funds available to help with repairs to the Armory (lighting, heat) and the school system is willing to give classroom units in the interim.
- Building onto to Crisfield High School will help the school system.
- It would make sense to go to a higher ground area.

Councilwomen Johnson stated that she agreed with Mr. Konapelsky, and his comments regarding Whittington School. She also confirmed that the Salvation Army suggestion had not been discussed by City Council.

President Simpkins questioned if both entities could use a new facility build at Crisfield High School. Ms. Taylor stated it would limit what her organization can do as an organization, and she would like to have a facility of their own. There is also an age difference between the two, with It Takes A Village serving 5-17 year olds and Head Start serving birth to 5 years old. Ms. Taylor said if it's not possible to have a separate facility, she would like to co-lease the new one. President Simpkins noted that it was his impression that the disaster funding's purpose was to get people back to the way they were before the storm.

Commissioner Mathies stated that it is the children we need to be concerned about, and that both programs provide nutrition and guidance. He stated that we need to make sure both programs continue. It was also stated that both have to be accountable for their own liability. A discussion was held regarding how It Takes A Village is funded as well.

Dr. Gaddis discussed the advantages, from school board perspective, of having the Head Start Program operate out of Crisfield High School. A discussion was held with regard to other possible locations for It Takes A Village should Head Start be placed at CHS. Ms. Taylor advised that she would be open to using one of the aforementioned facilities on a temporary basis, not as a permanent facility.

Mr. Taylor advised that there is a potential to get additional funding for the project by moving funds for projects that get diverted, such as the Army Corps of Engineers for example.

Commissioner Mathies suggested that It Takes A Village and Crisfield City Council decide on a project plan, and then return to the Board of Commissioners with what is decided.

Councilwomen Scott expressed the Council's support of It Takes A Village, noting that there is support in Crisfield for her project, and good things have been said of her program.

President Simpkins then suggested that all parties involved have a meeting, and obtain a solution that they can come back to the County Board with. He then asked if there was anyone present wishing to speak.

Mr. Dan Kuebler, School Board District 4 Commissioner asked to address the Board. Mr. Kuebler expressed concern that a commercial non-profit organization had applied for government funding, noting that he could see other entities requesting the same. He stated that care should be taken to make sure it is all legal.

President Simpkins suggested that Ms. Cindy Stone be asked to attend the meeting with the parties if possible.

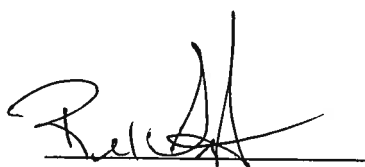
With no further business, at 3:18 p.m., on a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher it carried 4-0 to go into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508 (a) (1) (i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Secretary

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Bid Information
September 9, 2014

Bid Bond Y/N	Company:	4292 Lawson Barnes Road	4350 Paul Gunby Road	26371 Old State Road	8093 Halls Creek Road
Yes	Three Guys Construction	No Bid	No Bid	\$ 178,328.00	\$ 151,830.00
Yes	Regent Homes	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	\$ 155,900.00
Yes	Ken Build	\$ 163,000.00	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 190,000.00	\$ 143,100.00
Yes	Eastern Shore Construction	\$ 158,000.00	\$ 137,500.00	No Bid	No Bid
Yes	Vernon Esham	\$ 161,052.00	\$ 146,315.00	\$ 144,835.00	\$ 148,780.00
Yes	RAD Construction	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	\$ 155,435.00
Yes	Parsons Group	\$ 159,000.00	\$ 148,880.00	\$ 179,400.00	\$ 151,850.00
Yes	Top Notch Drywall	\$ 168,765.00	\$ 146,500.00	\$ 162,875.00	\$ 149,430.00
Yes	Farina Construction	\$ 163,740.00	\$ 144,480.00	No Bid	No Bid
Yes	Rudy Carter	No Bid	\$ 153,095.00	No Bid	\$ 173,050.00