

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015

At 2:00 P.M., The Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in regular session with Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice-President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Rex Simpkins and Commissioner Craig Mathies, Sr.

Also present were Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator-Clerk and Lory E. Ebron, Administrative Aide.

President Laird 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.

The minutes from the Regular and Closed Session meetings held on December 1, 2015 were approved as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher. The motion carried unanimously.

President Laird began with the reading of a Proclamation in honor of Mr. Steve Marshalls' retirement. It was also recognized that Mr. Marshall has achieved the highest regard of his associates and admiration of citizens throughout County, and therefore the Board announced they were designating our Emergency Services Department as the "Steve R. Marshall Emergency Services Center."

Mr. Taylor then invited Ms. Erin Cuff and Ms. Heather Tyler, daughters of Mr. Marshall, to come forward to accept the Proclamation in honor of their father. Following the acceptance of the proclamation, Ms. Cuff and Ms. Tyler assisted with the unveiling of the sign for the Steve R. Marshall Emergency Services Center.

A short recess was taken at this time.

The meeting resumed at 2:16 p.m.

Mr. Taylor continued the meeting with correspondence and discussion items.

The Water Management Administration received an application for the installation of a walkway at 3159 Williams Point Road, Marion Station Maryland. The project will stabilize an eroding shoreline and improve the navigable access to the Pocomoke River.

Price adjustment information was received from Comcast, to be effective January 1, 2016. The new prices will apply to select XFINITY TV and Internet Services and equipment.

A news release from Charter Communications advised that Internet speeds will increase to 60 Mbps from 8 Mbps for Crisfield area customers.

A letter sent to Ms. Rota Knott, Executive Director of the Somerset County Local Management Board advised that during the December 1, 2015 meeting, the Board voted to approve the lease agreement between The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County and Somerset County Local Management Board for a five year term.

Mr. Taylor presented a request for a letter of support from the Humane Society of Somerset County; who is applying for grant funding. After noting how much the Humane Society does regarding the cat population for the county, Mr. Taylor requested the Boards approval for the President's signature on the letter as presented.

On a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to approve President Laird's signature on the letter of support for the Humane Society as presented.

Mr. Taylor next presented the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) for the President's signature. He explained that Ms. Mannion, of Somerset County Social Services and Ms. Michele Canopii, of Catholic Charities-Seton Center, were before the Board on August 25, 2015 to request the approval for the submittal of the application for this grant.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to approve the President's signature on the ESG Grant Program Agreement as presented.

Mr. Taylor requested the Boards approval regarding the Proclamation presented today honoring Mr. Steve Marshall on the occasion of his retirement, which also included the naming of the Emergency Services Department as the Steve R. Marshall Emergency Services Center.

On a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher it carried unanimously to approve the Proclamation as presented.

Mr. Ron DeClement requested to address the Board.

Mr. DeClement referred to an article recently posted in the paper, advising that adults are making destructive decisions, including the decision to consider a marijuana farm in Somerset County. He expressed his opinions, from a teacher's perspective for 30 years, of the marijuana drug problems our children are exposed to in the county. He felt the best protection we can give our children is to not have it here in our county. He ended his comments asking the Board to

consider passing a resolution in closed session to reject the marijuana farm, and kill the idea, as it will just increase our drug problem.

Mr. Phil Riggen requested to address the Board.

Mr. Riggen advised that the Tourism Commission had just met earlier in the day, noting this was their 14th meeting this year. The Commission has been focused on a strategic plan for tourism in the county, and intend to present their plan to the Board at the January 19, 2016 Work Session meeting. He thanked Commissioner Mathies for his recent appointee, noting that he has done well, functioning fully as a welcomed addition to the commission.

With no further business, Mr. Taylor advised the Board of the need to enter into closed session. Therefore, at 2:26 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried unanimously 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; and Section 10-508 (a) (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Administrative Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County