

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 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 Craig N. Mathies Sr., and Commissioner Jerry S. Boston.

Also present was Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator-Clerk; and Cynthia R. Ward, Executive 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.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously by all present to approve the Minutes from the Open and Closed Sessions held January 13, 2015; and the Minutes from the Special Session, Work Session and Closed Session on January 20, 2015.

Mr. Tom Lawton, Senior Planner, appeared before the Board to ask for consideration to apply for Fiscal Year 2016 funding (\$2.9 Million) for the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Program. If approved, the funding would be divided between Worcester and Somerset Counties and involve five properties. Since the inception of the Rural Legacy Program in FY2008, nine properties have been settled spanning 1100 acres.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously by all present to authorize Mr. Lawton to apply for the Rural Legacy Program funding.

Mr. Herb Geary, of TGM Group, LLC, was now present before the Board to review the audit for Fiscal Year 2014. Mr. Geary began by reporting that there were no instances of non-compliance and provided the following information:

- The County and its component units have approximately \$159 Million in assets and approximately \$93 Million of revenues.
- The County ended 2014 with a General Fund Balance of \$12.9 Million; and total governmental fund balance of \$15.3 Million.
- Total debt obligations are \$22.3 Million; and total debt to total fund balance ratio is 1.46 to 1.
- Results of operations of the General Fund for FY14 – overall \$793,000 decrease in General Fund Balance.

- Actual revenues totaled \$33.6 Million and were over budget by \$390,000.
- Actual expenditures totaled \$42 Million and were over budget by \$5 Million due to the refinancing of several debt obligations.
- Results of operations of the Roads Board for FY14 – overall decrease in fund balance of \$105,000.
- Actual revenues totaled \$2.9 Million (\$1.5 Million from General Fund) and were under budget by \$1.7 Million.
- Actual expenditures totaled \$3.0 Million and were under budget by \$1.6 Million.

Mr. Geary concluded his presentation by expressing his appreciation to the County's financial staff for their cooperation.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, was now present before the Board, accompanied by staff members: Audrey Cornelius, Bob Sperry, and Cathy Landon. The Board was reminded of a public hearing held during their last meeting, January 13, 2015, to accept public comment on the proposed revision of the existing Floodplain Management Ordinance to meet new federal regulations in order for the County to continue its participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Board was also reminded of the need to make a decision on the possible inclusion of a "freeboard" requirement.

Mr. Sperry updated the Board on a change to the Ordinance since the public hearing. FEMA officials have reduced the size of a structure that can be built without conforming to the elevation requirement of the Ordinance. Previously, a "Declaration of Land Restrictions for Flood Management" could be filed with a deed for structures of less than 1200 square feet provided it was not living space. Mrs. Cornelius cited "agriculture buildings" as an example of a structure that would be exempt from the restriction if constructed under the 1200 square foot limit. FEMA has now changed their position on this issue and will only allow structures under 900 square feet to be constructed in the floodplain without conforming to the elevation requirements. At the conclusion of the discussion, the following action was taken on the adoption of the proposed revision of the existing Floodplain Management Ordinance:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to adopt Ordinance No. 1084, an Ordinance which revises the existing Floodplain Management Ordinance, without the "freeboard" requirement. The motion carried 4-0.

In other business, Mr. Pusey presented the Board with two Subrecipient Grant Agreements for approval:

1) A Subrecipient Agreement between Somerset County and the Town of Princess Anne, for a grant in the amount of \$35,000 under the Community Development Block Grant Program, a federal program under HUD and administered by DHCD. The funds will be utilized to purchase property (11847 Somerset Avenue, Princess Anne, MD) and the removal of blight.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously by all present to authorize President Laird to sign the Agreement.

2) A Subrecipient Agreement between Somerset County and the Somerset Committee for the Homeless, Inc., for a grant in the amount of \$640,000 under the Community Development Block Grant Program, a federal program under HUD and administered by DHCD. The funds will be utilized to construct a homeless shelter in Princess Anne.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously by all present to authorize President Laird to sign the Agreement.

At this time, the County Administrator continued with a review of discussion items and correspondence.

A request was received to release a grant mortgage for Martha Fallon, of 8245 River Road in Manokin. The grant funding, in the amount of \$10,114.60, was awarded to Ms. Fallon for housing rehabilitation in June of 1983 and has met with five year requirement. The debt is thereby considered satisfied.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize President Laird to sign the Mortgage Release for Martha Fallon. The motion carried unanimously by all present.

Mr. Taylor proposed a revision to Resolution No. 709, Somerset County's Procurement Policy. The existing Resolution was amended in 1999, and due to the rising cost of materials and supplies, Mr. Taylor recommended the purchasing limits be increased as authorized in Article 25 Section 3(1)(I) of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to adopt Resolution No. 1085, a Resolution amending the County's Procurement Policy. The motion carried unanimously by all present.

The Board briefly discussed a possible revision of Resolution No. 1014, a Resolution that authorizes the enforcement of regulations regarding scrap metal businesses. Since there were several questions regarding the specifics of the regulations, the Board agreed to delay action until their next meeting, when additional information can be provided.

Mr. Taylor reminded the Board of vacancies that still remain on the Planning Commission, Ethics Commission, and the Social Services Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to appoint Kathleen Garton to serve as member of the Planning Commission to fulfill the remainder of Mary Fleury's term. The motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to appoint Elmer Barkley to serve as member of the Somerset County Ethics Commission for a four-year term. The motion carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources advising them of a vacancy on the Somers Cove Marina Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to nominate Dr. John Gaddis to serve in the vacant position, representing the Board of County Commissioners. The motion carried 4-0.

In a letter submitted by Mayor Kimberly Lawson, for the City of Crisfield, the Board was asked to waive the tipping fees for the materials from a demolition of city property located at 216 Maryland Avenue. A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to waive the tipping fees as requested. The motion carried 4-0.


A Proclamation request was submitted by Melissa Hampton, of Peninsula Home Care, in recognition of their 30th Anniversary. A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the request for a Proclamation. The motion carried 4-0.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, 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. The motion carried unanimously by all present. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President

Laird, Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Simpkins (arrived late), County Administrator, Ralph D. Taylor; Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; County Attorney, Kirk Simpkins; Finance Director, Gene Adkins; Maintenance Director, Charles Cavanaugh; Sheriff Ronnie Howard; Attorney, Karen Kruger; and Human Resources Director, Erica Quillen.

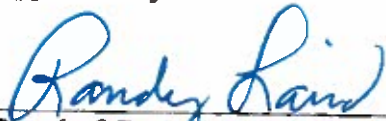
Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously by all present to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County