

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 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., Commissioner Rex Simpkins, 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 Mathies, it carried 4-0 to approve the Minutes from the Open and Closed Sessions held January 27, 2015. Commissioner Simpkins abstained from the vote.

Dr. John Gaddis, Superintendent of Somerset County Public Schools, was now present before the Board to provide a budget update, and was joined by staff members: Nancy Smoker and Tom Davis. Dr. Gaddis began by notifying the County Commissioners of his request for level funding for the FY16 budget, totaling \$8,785,412. To date, it is estimated that Somerset County Public Schools will receive \$399,750 less in state funding. Although student enrollment has increased by 51 students, we will not see the maintenance of effort benefit in the immediate future. Dr. Gaddis will continue his efforts to work with our legislators to obtain additional funding assistance. In regard to capital improvement projects, the Board of Public Works met on January 28, 2015 and approved projects submitted for Greenwood Elementary (HVAC) and Princess Anne Elementary (roof).

Mr. Tom Davis concluded by discussing a new project at Somerset Intermediate (Activate Research) and also reported on an upcoming visit from Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot on March 9th.

Ms. Gail Sheldon, Director of Somerset County Library System, appeared before the Board to report on the submittal of a grant application to fund a project which would explore the history of Hollands Island and Smith Island.

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

The Board was presented with the proposed budget from Maryland Department of Agriculture, Mosquito Control Section, for operating expenses in Somerset County for the 2015 season. Mr. Taylor reported that the estimated budget was the same as the previous two years (\$277,575).

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the proposed budget for mosquito control for the 2015 season. The motion carried unanimously.

A project notification from Maryland Department of Planning, State Clearinghouse, regarding the 2014 Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Hazard Mitigation Plan, Coastline Floodplain Delineation and HAZUS Analysis was reviewed by the Board. Mr. Taylor recommended a C-5 designation, indicating that it was consistent with our plans, programs and objectives.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to respond to the Maryland Department of Planning, State Clearinghouse, with a C-5 designation. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a letter from Ms. Sherree Marshall, Director of Somerset County Commission on Aging, regarding the nomination of Ms. Gertrude Capers for appointment to the Commission on Aging Board of Directors.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to appoint Ms. Gertrude Capers to serve as member of the Board of Directors for the Commission on Aging.

Mr. Taylor presented a draft letter to the Board for their consideration in regard to the FEMA Maps for Somerset County. The letter, addressed to Senators Cardin and Mikulski, and Congressman Harris, express the Boards' concern for the significant increase in the amount of floodplains in comparison to the maps adopted just four years earlier; and also significantly more than neighboring counties, Dorchester and Accomac.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to authorize President Laird sign the letters as presented.

Commissioner Boston expressed his appreciation to Sara Rayne for offering assistance with contacting legislators to address the FEMA maps; however, the County Commissioners will begin by contacting our legislative representatives.

Mr. Taylor revisited a discussion from the January 27, 2015 meeting, regarding an update to Resolution No. 1014, a Resolution that authorizes the enforcement of regulations regarding scrap metal businesses. The Board was provided with copies of Section 17-1003; Section 17-1006; and Title 12 of the Business Regulations Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which outline the requirements. At the conclusion, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to adopt Resolution No. 1086, which updates the previous Resolution (No. 1014). The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor reported that a Request For Proposals has been advertised in The Baltimore Sun for an "Airport Consultant" and provided the Board with a brief history of our previous contracts for airport consultants. The RFP was also sent to firms that previously submitted bids. The deadline for submittals is March 6, 2015 and a review committee consisting of Mayor Kimberly Lawson; Mr. Anthony Stockus; and Mr. Ralph Taylor has been created to review the proposals.

Mr. Taylor proposed the County hold another surplus property sale for the remaining properties that did not sell in the previous sale. A tentative date of March 10th was suggested, with a bid award date of March 24th. Mr. Taylor also suggested that any properties that remain unsold after the March 24th date, be auctioned on the same day as the county tax sale.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to authorize Mr. Taylor to proceed with scheduling the surplus property sale. The motion carried unanimously.

A request was received to release a grant mortgage for Charles & Beatrice Hall, of 32700 Ed Boston Road, Princess Anne, MD. The grant funding, in the amount of \$18,000.00, was awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Hall for housing rehabilitation in July of 1998 and has met the five year requirement. The debt is thereby considered satisfied.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to authorize President Laird to sign the mortgage release.

With no further agenda items, President Laird called upon those individuals that requested to address the Board.

Mr. Dan Kuebler, of Canal Drive, Crisfield, spoke on the increased student enrollment and its effect on maintenance of effort; classroom size; space limitation; employees in the

classroom; as well as the funding loss. Mr. Kuebler stated that he believed a good school system will bring people to the County and increase tax revenues.

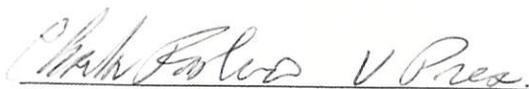
With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to go into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508 (a) (1) (i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The motion carried unanimously by all present. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President Laird, Commissioner Mathies, Commissioner Simpkins, County Administrator, Ralph D. Taylor; Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; Human Resources Director, Erica Quillen; Director of Technical and Community Services, Gary Pusey; Director of EDC, Danny Thompson; EDC Chairman, James East; and EDC Member, Robert Maddox.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide

Approved By:


Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County