

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 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 Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to approve the Minutes from the Open and Closed Sessions held March 10, 2015 and March 17, 2015. Commissioner Simpkins abstained from the vote.

The Board reviewed the bids received for the sale of county owned surplus land and took the following action:

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to award the bid for Item 2 to Vicki Laird and Clay Outten for their bid of \$1,050.00. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to award the bid for Item 5 to John Cullen for his bid of \$2,502.00. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to award the bid for Item 8 to Mark Labo for his bid of \$2,010.00. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to award the bid for Item 9 to Mark Labo for his bid of \$2,010.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Clint Sterling, Director of Recreation and Parks, was now before the Board seeking permission to proceed with the following projects using Open Space funding and county funds that are already included in his departmental budget:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Baseball/Softball Field Rehabilitations	\$7,000 - \$9,000
2. Exercise –Walking Trail Additions	\$15,000 - \$20,000
3. Great Hope Pavilion Upgrade	\$10,000
4. Mt. Vernon Park Additions	\$5,000
5. Raccoon Point Additions	\$5,000
6. Upper Hill Park Additions/Upgrade	\$3,000

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to authorize Mr. Sterling to proceed with the projects as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

At this time, the County Administrator reviewed discussion items and correspondence.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board of a letter received from Great Bay Wind Energy Center regarding the “Indefinite Suspension of Great Bay Wind Energy Center Investment” and proceeded to read the letter aloud for the audience members present for today’s meeting. After asking for clarification of possible restrictions under the Ethics Ordinance, President Laird queried the Board on taking any action today based upon this new information.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, “to pull the ordinance off the table and the wind project is dead.” Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Mathies, and President Laird voted aye. Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Boston abstained from the vote. The motion carried 3-0 with 2 abstentions.

Mr. Taylor addressed the upcoming expiration of the existing Agreement for Aviation Consulting Services for Crisfield-Somerset County Airport (W-41). The current Agreement with AECOM (formerly URS) will expire in April of this year. A Request For Proposals was advertised in February of this year which resulted in the receipt of three (3) submittals. A review committee consisting of Mr. Taylor, Mayor Kim Lawson, and Anthony Stockus (Friends of Crisfield Airport Member) reviewed and scored the submittals and ultimately recommended AECOM be awarded the contract for consulting services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to award the contract for Airport Consulting Services to AECOM. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board was advised of a request from the Somerset County Sanitary District to extend the due date for an existing loan from the County, which totals \$72,000. The original loan was signed on June 16, 2014 and the Sanitary District has requested a one-year extension, amending the due date from June 26, 2015 to June 26, 2016.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to approve the request for a one-year extension on the loan.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board of the results of the Annual Public Drainage Association (PDA) meetings, held January 10, 2015. The following action was taken by the Board authorizing the County's Tax Collection Office to levy the Drainage Tax Assessment for each PDA:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it was carried unanimously to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Upper Manokin Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2016 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Upper Manokin PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Buddy Powell to serve as Manager for another three-year term, with Tom Pinto and Jerry Bozman continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Tony's Branch Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2016 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Tony's Branch PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried unanimously to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Gary Rathcamp for another three-year term as Manager, with Tommy Smith and Lee West continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried unanimously to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Barkley's Branch Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2016 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Barkley's Branch PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$20.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Robert Finney for another three-year term as Manager, with Ms. Remonia Finney continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried unanimously to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Handy Church Public Watershed Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2016 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Handy Church PWA as follows:

Minimum Billing	\$50.00
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Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Stanley Johnson to serve a three-year term as Manager, with Bernard Johnson and Larry Van Story continuing on from a previous appointment.

The Board was advised of a request to proclaim April 2015 as "Fair Housing Month in Somerset County". Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried unanimously to adopt the Proclamation.

Mr. Taylor reviewed a project notification from the Maryland Department of Planning, State Clearinghouse, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Glenn Martin National Wildlife Refuge, on the northern end of Smith Island. The project is intended to stabilize and reduce further habitat loss along 21,000 linear foot section of shoreline using a living shoreline technique. Mr. Taylor recommended the County respond with a C-5 designation, indicating the project is consistent with our plans, programs and objectives.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to respond to the project notification with a C-5 designation. The motion carried unanimously.

A Memo from Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, was submitted regarding a request to waive permit fees for Christ Fellowship Bible Church. According to Mr. Pusey, the Church has applied to his office to build a 2,400 s.f. pavilion and a small storage building at their building site on Crisfield Highway. The Church has asked the County to waive the \$390 in permit fees related to the construction work.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to waive the fees. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board received a letter from Long Term Recovery Committee, Inc. requesting the County Commissioners waive the landfill tipping fees for the demolition of the house located at 2755 Lloyd Webb Road in Crisfield.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to waive the tipping fees as requested. The motion carried unanimously. The Board followed up the motion with a request to ascertain further information from the Long Term Recovery Committee on the extent of time that is projected for property demolition.

With no further agenda items, President Laird called upon those individuals that requested to address the Board; however, he announced that the Board would not entertain comment related to wind energy or Pioneer Green.

Mr. Ron deClement, of Princess Anne, began by addressing a proposed solar project; however, President Laird rejected any comment on this subject. Mr. deClement also recommended the Commissioners visit other areas that have been successful in attracting and sustaining quality economic development.

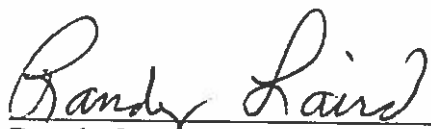
Two other individuals that had requested to address the Board, declined the invitation since the subject matter also pertained to solar energy.

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. Also present for the Closed Session were Commissioner President Laird, Commissioner Mathies, Commissioner Simpkins, County Administrator, Ralph D. Taylor;

Executive Aide, Cynthia R. Ward; Warden Louis Hickman; and Human Resources Director,  
Erica Quillen.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it  
carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 3:12 p.m.

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward  
Executive Aide