

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 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 Fisher, it carried unanimously to approve the Minutes from the Open and Closed Sessions held March 3, 2015 and March 24, 2015.

President Laird opened sealed bids for the following projects: Scrap Metal Removal from the County Landfill; and Crisfield Airport Mowing. Bid information is as follows:

Scrap Metal Bid:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
1. Fitzgerald's Auto Salvage	\$3.50/per 100 lbs. (\$70/ton)
2. Westover Scrap Metal	\$120.00/per net ton
3. Schultz & Sons Salvage	\$85.00/short ton

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to award the contract to Westover Scrap Metal for their bid of \$120.00 per ton.

Crisfield Airport Mowing (For 2 cuttings: Fall 2015 and Spring 2016):

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
1. Gerard Dumsha	\$3,300 (for 2 cuttings)
2. Adam Smith	\$3,000 (for 2 cuttings)

Upon motion made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to award the contract to Adam Smith for his bid of \$3,000 (for 2 cuttings).

Mr. Clint Sterling, Director of Recreation and Parks, was now present before the Board to discuss two proposals:

1. **Bathroom Facility at the Somerset County Behavioral Health (Gymnasium):**
Somerset County has secured \$45,000 from the State of Maryland, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, for the construction of bathroom facilities adjacent to the gymnasium at the Behavioral Health Building. A Memorandum of Agreement between Somerset County Health Department and Somerset County Government was presented for the Board's consideration. If approved, the County will seek bids for the construction work. Mr. Sterling confirmed there would be no cost to the County.
A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the project and authorize the County Administrator to sign the Memorandum of Agreement. The motion carried unanimously.
2. **Equipment Purchase:**
The Recreation and Parks Department is seeking permission to purchase an aerator for Great Hope Golf Course. After reviewing the cost and purchasing options, Mr. Sterling recommended the equipment be leased at a cost of \$4,000 per year. The equipment could be utilized at both recreational facilities (Great Hope and Westover Recreational Facility).
Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 (with one abstention), to authorize Mr. Sterling to proceed with the equipment lease (for use at both locations). Commissioner Simpkins abstained from the vote.

In other business, Mr. Sterling updated the Board on the status of the proposed Bike Trail. We are still in the deliberation phase for the rail bank; however the first conceptual plan of the trail has been developed.

Warden Louis Hickman was now present before the Board to request permission to purchase a vehicle for the Somerset County Detention Center. The vehicle, a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado, would be purchased off of the state contract. The purchase price (\$25,077) would represent an overage in his current year budget. Warden Hickman advised that the vehicle could be obtained through a 3-year lease at a cost of \$9,041.25 annually, but would cost an additional \$2,046 annually for leasing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commission Boston, to purchase the 2015 Chevrolet Silverado at the cost of \$25,077 (no lease). The motion carried 4-0 (with one abstention). Commissioner Simpkins abstained from the vote.

Ms. Nancy Smoker (Assistant Superintendent for Administration), Ms. Daniele Haley (Supervisor of Capital Planning & Facilities) and Ms. Linda Johnson (Chief Financial Officer) from the Somerset County Board of Education were now present before the Board to discuss their Capital Improvement Projects for FY2016-2019. Ms. Haley proceeded with a review of the projects:

<u>Project</u>	<u>FY16 Estimated Request</u>
1) Greenwood – Roof & HVAC Replacement Phase 2 This request is for the balance of local funds needed to complete Phase 2 of the project.	\$ 379,700
2) J.M. Tawes – Design and CM Services Still awaiting final approval, the \$1.7 Million would be used to proceed with the design costs and to obtain bid documents in order to proceed with the building process in the next fiscal year.	\$1,719,250
3) Washington High – Additional Stadium Upgrades Using remaining “bleacher replacement” funds for other upgrades. This funding will cover the required A/E fees to design and bid the project.	\$ 22,700
4) Princess Anne – Roof Replacement State funding will cover 100% of roof replacement, however, this funding is required to cover the A/E fees and a minor contingency.	\$ 15,500

Ms. Haley advised that Board of Education Officials are hoping to receive confirmation by May 1st on the availability of state funding for Projects #2 & #4. The County Commissioners reiterated their concerns for funding a new school construction project, for both FY16 and FY17.

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

Mr. Taylor reported that the Somerset County Ethics Commission has submitted their Findings in regard to the complaints issued to them by “Safe For Somerset”. In addition, they have submitted several recommendations for changes to the Ethics Ordinance, such as Financial Disclosure requirements for all appointed officials and employees; and to amend certain “definitions” that are included in the Ordinance. Mr. Taylor acknowledged the tremendous amount of work performed by the Ethics Commission. Action is not required today; however, Mr. Taylor suggested the Board review the recommendations presented and discuss them further at a later date.

The Board was presented with a (federal/state) permit application for signature to allow URS Corporation to enter tidal/non-tidal wetlands around the Crisfield Airport, in conjunction with the Tree Obstruction Removal Project. Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried unanimously to authorize the County Administrator to execute the permit application.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board that Jennifer Lutz, Aviation Department Manager, AECOM (URS), will be attending next week's work session to discuss our options on which way the County and City should proceed in the tree removal and land acquisition process, including mitigation. Mr. Taylor warned the Commissioners that the County will be required to forward fund any land acquisitions and reimbursements from FAA will not be forthcoming until all easements have been received.

In an effort to recognize Somerset County's Teacher of the Year, Commissioner Fisher suggested a Proclamation be adopted by the County Commissioners. Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to prepare a Proclamation to be presented to Melodi Power, Somerset County's Teacher of the Year for 2015.

The Board reviewed a letter from Julie Widdowson, Director of Tourism for Somerset County, advising that Greg Cain has resigned from the Somerset County Tourism Commission. Ms. Widdowson also advised, in a separate message, of a possible candidate to serve on this Board (Nancy Goldsmith). Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried unanimously to appoint Nancy Goldsmith to serve as member of the Tourism Commission, fulfilling the remainder of Mr. Cain's term, which expires in June of this year.

A letter was received from Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee requesting the County Commissioners waive landfill tipping fees for the demolition of property located at 316 Locust Street, Crisfield. Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried unanimously to waive the landfill tipping fees for the demolition of the Locust Street property as requested.

The Board reviewed a letter from Somerset County Local Management Board regarding the submittal of nominees for appointment to their Board of Directors. The nominees are as follows: Clifton Harcum; Garland Hayward; Kelly Hawkins; Lisa Renegar; Dawn Scher; Lt. Patrick Metzger. Also, the Local Management Board recommended Claudia Nelson and Sister Cecilia McManus be reappointed for a second term.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to appoint the slate of nominees as submitted; and to re-appoint Ms. Nelson and Sister Cecilia

McManus for a second term on the Board of Directors for the Local Management Board. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Mathies abstaining from the vote.

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

Mr. Ron DeClement, of Princess Anne, commented on the Findings of the Somerset County Ethics Commission, stating that he disagreed with their decision that there was no conflict of interest among the Board Members. Mr. DeClement suggested the County's Ethics Ordinance be forwarded to the State for an opinion. Mr. Taylor clarified that the existing Ethics Ordinance was submitted to the State and received approval. Commissioner Simpkins inquired if Mr. DeClement was willing to be appointed and serve as member of a board. Mr. DeClement confirmed that he would be willing to serve. In response to Mr. DeClement's opinion on the Findings of the Ethics Commission, Commissioner Simpkins expressed his support and respect for the members of the Ethics Commission and the service they provided, without compensation, and any other opinion would have been "ludicrous".

Mr. Phil Riggin, 4930 Thomas Long Road, Crisfield, expressed his support for Clint Sterling for his leadership skills and for his work with the bike trail project. In regard to the tree obstruction removal at the Crisfield Airport, Mr. Riggin encouraged the Board to be actively involved in this project and to reduce the size and impact this project will have on the surrounding properties.

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; and State's Attorney, Dan Powell.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 3:30 p.m.

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Cynthia R. Ward
Executive Aide