

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

MAY 19, 2015

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

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Secretary Lory E. Ebron were also present.

President Laird called the meeting to order, and asked Commissioner Mathies to lead those attending the meeting in repeating the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to approve the following minutes as presented:

Work Session Meeting held April 14, 2015  
Commissioner and Closed Session Meetings held May 5, 2015  
Work, Special and Closed Session Meetings held May 12, 2015

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services and Mr. Mark Konapelsky, Code Enforcement Officer were now present to receive sealed bids regarding the replacement of four houses damaged during Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Taylor advised that there was a time discrepancy made within the spec package documents and the bid notice (1:00 p.m. vs 2:00 p.m.), therefore, bids were accepted until 2:00 p.m. today. President Laird proceeded to open and read aloud the following bids received:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>4678 Crisfield Hwy</u>	<u>35 Wynfall Ave</u>	<u>8480 River Rd</u>	<u>11181 Messick Rd</u>
Eastern Shore Construction	\$133,000.00	\$145,000.00	\$139,000.00	No Bid
The Parsons Group	\$132,000.00	\$142,500.00	\$135,800.00	\$181,400.00
Farina Construction	\$144,738.92	\$146,373.92	\$143,008.00	\$206,341.36
Top Notch Drywall	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	\$159,475.00
Vernon Esham	\$153,126.00	\$155,410.00	\$150,165.00	No Bid
Rudy Carter	No Bid	No Bid	\$136,450.00	No Bid
Ken Build	\$137,450.00	\$131,450.00	\$134,450.00	No Bid
RAD Construction	\$130,900.00	\$134,750.00	No Bid	No Bid

Mr. Pusey advised that his department would review the bids presented, and make a recommendation at a later time.

Next, Mr. Taylor called for any bids received with regard to the Restroom Facility Construction project at the Behavioral Health Building. There were none received.

At 2:15 p.m. in the Meeting Room for the County Commissioners Office, President Laird called the Public Hearing open regarding the consideration of establishing a water reconnection charge. Mr. Tony Stockus and Ms. Starr Mister, representing the Somerset County Sanitary District were now present. Mr. Taylor proceeded to read aloud the notice of public hearing:

“In accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, Environmental Article, Sections 9-662(1)(2), 9-724(c)(iii) and 9-726.1(d)(1), the Somerset County Commissioners will consider the adoption of an Ordinance authorizing the Somerset County Sanitary District, Inc. to establish a water reconnection charge.

#### FAIR SUMMARY

The proposed ordinance will allow the Somerset County Sanitary District, Inc. to establish a water reconnection charge of \$35. This charge will apply when the water service is restored to the property and will be in addition to a disconnect fee for properties that are delinquent on water and/or sewer service bills.

The public is invited to attend and offer comments on the proposed Ordinance. For a copy of the proposed Ordinance, please contact the Somerset County Commissioners Office at 410-651-0320 during regular business hours, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, except legal holidays; or visit the county website at: [www.somersetmd.us](http://www.somersetmd.us)”.

President Laird asked if there were proponents present wishing to testify. There were none.

President Laird then asked if there were any opponents present wishing to testify. There were none.

It was noted that public comment would be taken for ten days, until May 29, 2015, and it was anticipated that the consideration to adopt the ordinance would be made during the next Commissioner meeting scheduled for June 2, 2015. The Public Hearing was declared closed at 2:18 p.m.

Commissioner Fisher left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor proceeded to review correspondence with the Board at this time.

Commissioner Fisher returned to the meeting.

A letter was received from Senator Barbara Mikulski’s office relating to the new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), in response to the letter previously submitted by the Board. Also included was the response her office received from Mr. Roy E. Wright, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration. Mr. Taylor reviewed the correspondence with the Board, that provided an explanation of analysis, and consideration’s given for the FIRM determinations. The letter also advised that similar flood hazards are currently being mapped in counties adjacent to Somerset County. Mr. Taylor noted that the cost of appeal had not been addressed in the letter. The Board was in concurrence to send a follow up letter that would request a response to

Somerset County's concern regarding the cost of appeal, that would be such a costly burden on our county.

A request was received from Somerset County Sanitary District, Inc., requesting the Board's approval to reappoint Mr. Charles T. Northam, Jr. to the Sanitary Commission, as his term expired.

Therefore, a motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher to unanimously reappoint Mr. Northam to a 6-year term on the Sanitary Commission.

Mr. Taylor presented the Environmental Review Document, provided by the Great Bay Solar Project. The document can be viewed at the Department of Technical and Community Services at no charge. Mr. Taylor made the recommendation that the document also be scanned and placed on the county website as well. The Board agreed with the recommendation. Additionally, it was noted that we have received correspondence advising that the application of Great Bay Solar I, LLC for the construction of a 150.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Somerset County has been filed.

A Clearinghouse Review request was received with regard to the application filed by Tri County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, for a funding request made under the Rural Business Development Grant program for "Making the Shore a Craft Beer Destination". Mr. Taylor recommended a C5 designation (It is consistent with our plans, programs, and objectives).

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to approve the C5 designation for the Clearinghouse Review project submitted by Tri County Council. President Laird and Commissioner Mathies abstained, therefore, the motion carried 3-0-2.

Dr. John B. Gaddis, Ms. Daniele Haley and Ms. Nancy Smoker, representing Somerset County Public Schools, were now present before the Board to present their proposed FY16 Capital Improvement request. Dr. Gaddis began by noting that the Governor's Office has officially announced reduced funding, but added that he has been actively campaigning to obtain some of the lost funding. The total requested funding in the amount of \$1,305,900 encompassed projects for Greenwood Elementary, Washington High School, Princess Anne Elementary and J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center.

It was noted that the Tawes school funding project was the largest amount presented (\$888,000) for architectural and engineering costs associated with the proposed new facility. A PowerPoint presentation was distributed that showed the impact of the funding reduction. A discussion was held with regard to the J.M. Tawes project, and it was noted that in order to have 100% funding locked in for FY16-18, they must meet the November 1, 2015 deadline. Several funding options relating to the Tawes project were explained as Dr. Gaddis stated that this project is of "top priority".

President Laird recognized Mr. Dan Kuebler, District 4, Vice Chairman, who at this time addressed the Board. Mr. Kuebler expressed his support of the J.M. Tawes project, believing it will bring people into Somerset County and be a reason of children to go to our schools. He closed his comments in saying that he feels this school project will pay for itself.

The Board thanked the school representatives for attending the meeting today, noting that the Board will take the Capital Improvement funding request for FY16 into consideration.

Mr. Taylor presented a proposed resolution (#1087) regarding the need to establish rules and policies pertaining to open meetings, and also establishing Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11<sup>th</sup> Edition as the parliamentary procedure the Board will follow.

Therefore, a motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to approve Resolution #1087, establishing an open meetings policy. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Taylor presented a proclamation request received from the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education who have named Somerset Intermediate School a 2015 Maryland Green School for their outstanding environmental education programs and significant contributions from students and staff.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, and carried unanimously to prepare a proclamation for Somerset Intermediate School for this notable achievement.

The Board was reminded of current vacancies on the Workforce Investment Board and Social Services Board. Additionally, there are two vacancies on the Adult Guardianship Review Board, and two nominee names are needed to be submitted with the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board recommendation.

Ms. Cynthia R. Ward was now asked to come before the Board. Ms. Ward was presented with a Proclamation acknowledging her 30 years of service to Somerset County. Ms. Ward has served the county in many positions over the years, and has been a valuable asset. The Board thanked her for her years of service, noting that she will be greatly missed.

With no further business, at 3:03 p.m., on a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, 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.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to adjourn the open and closed session meetings at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Elron  
Executive Secretary

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County