

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 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 Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

Also present was Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator-Clerk; Lory E. Ebron, Executive Secretary; and Shannon L. Evans, Executive Secretary.

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

Now present before the Board was Mr. Kirkland Hall, Sr., member of the Citizen's Review Board for Children. Mr. Hall discussed the recent deaths of the Todd family due to carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator used to heat their home. It was reported that Delmarva Power disconnected their electric service because of a stolen electric meter being used at the property. Mr. Hall requested a letter of support from the Board regarding a law change that would require power companies to notify law enforcement in the case of a stolen electric meter. Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to approve a letter of support for Mr. Hall to pursue the law change.

Mr. Tom Lawton, Senior County Planner, was now present before the Board in regards to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program. Mr. Lawton explained the program and advised that there is currently \$4,058 in the "less than three year old money" available that is offered on a 40% County and 60% State basis resulting in an additional \$6,087, totaling \$10,145, which would be available toward easement purchase. A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, and carried unanimously to participate in the Local Matching Program and commit \$4,058 in local matching funds toward the FY 2015/2016 easement offer cycle.

Next, Mr. Gary Pusey, Planning Director, and Ms. Danielle Haley, Facilities Planner, were now before the Board requesting the Board's approval to move forward with the Crisfield Head Start addition to Crisfield High School, which is being relocated from the previous location due to damage from Hurricane Sandy. The Somerset County Board of Education received 2

submittals for architect engineering services for this project and approved the highest ranking firm, Becker Morgan Group, Inc. A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, and carried unanimously to award the contract to Becker Morgan Group, Inc. for the Crisfield Headstart Project.

Mr. Taylor then advised of additional expense to the County for our consultant, CBG Communications, to negotiate an extra franchise due to the recent termination of merger of Comcast with Time Warner Cable. Mr. Taylor requested authorization to add an addendum to our original contract with CBG Communications, not to exceed \$6,500 for additional negotiations. A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, and carried unanimously to add an addendum to our original contract to allow up to \$6,500 in additional negotiating cost.

Mr. Taylor then presented a request from Somerset County Long Term Recovery to waive the tipping fees for the demolition of property at 153 S. Fourth Street in Crisfield, MD. A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, and carried unanimously to waive tipping fees for demolition of property located at 153 S. Fourth St.

Next, Mr. Taylor discussed the need to reappoint a slate of nominees for the Adult Guardianship Review Board. The Board was also advised of two vacancies that currently remain as well. The nominees are as follows:

1. Chairperson, Kay Parkinson, Citizen's Representative
2. Christie Sterling, Somerset County Health Department
3. Sherree Marshall, Somerset Commission on Aging
4. Gina Swift, Medical Representative, McCready Foundation
5. Dr. Vincent Siracusano, Psychiatrist
6. Charlotte Jones, Citizen Representative
7. Earl Smith, Citizen Representative
8. Tysheika Warner, Shore Up, Inc.
9. Lisa Fortune, Somerset County Department of Social Services

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, and carried unanimously to reappoint the slate of nominees listed.

Mr. Taylor presented a letter from Gary Pusey, Planning Director, advising that Mr. Kevin Anderson's term on the Planning Commission will be expiring on May 11, 2015. A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to re-appoint

Kevin Anderson to the Planning Commission for a five year term expiring May 11, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

A letter was presented to the Board from Tom Johnson of Eastern Shore Forest Products, Inc. requesting a personal property tax exemption for fiscal year 2014. Mr. Johnson also noted in his letter that this exemption had previously been granted for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. Mr. Taylor advised that under our local code we can grant up to five years of manufacturer's tax exemption leaving Mr. Johnson ineligible for this exemption. No action was taken.

The Board was then presented with a request to adopt a Proclamation for the Somerset Junior Senior High School Class of 1965 for their 50th Class Reunion. Mr. Taylor also noted that the Board is invited to attend this event. A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to adopt a Proclamation for the Somerset Junior Senior High School Class of 1965 in honor of their 50th Class Reunion. It carried unanimously.

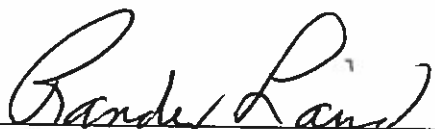
A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the minutes from Open and Closed Sessions held April 21, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

At 2:42 p.m., Mr. Taylor advised of a need to enter into Closed Session. A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, and carried unanimously to enter 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 10-508 (a)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

With no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, and carried unanimously to adjourn Open and Closed session at 3:38 p.m.

Approved By:

Respectfully Submitted:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County



Shannon L. Evans
Executive Secretary