

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 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 Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Craig Mathies, Sr., and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

Also present was Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator-Clerk; and Lory E. Ebron, Administrative Aide.

President Laird called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Ted Phoebus, who passed away today. Commissioner Mathies then 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 unanimously to approve the Minutes from the Open and Closed Session Meetings held Tuesday, June 16, 2015. Commissioner Simpkins left the meeting at this time.

Additionally, Mr. Taylor advised of a correction needed to the minutes presented for June 2, 2015. With regard to the funding amounts presented for Hurricane Sandy, the total remaining funds for Phase 3 was corrected to \$2,940,000. Upon a motion carried by Commissioner Mathies and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried to correct the June 2, 2015 minutes as noted. Commissioner Simpkins returned to the meeting at this time.

Ms. Melodi Power was asked to come forward to accept a Proclamation congratulating her as being nominated 2015 Teacher of Year.

Mr. Michael Sanderson, Mr. Isiah "Ike" Leggett and Ms. Andrea Mansfield came forward to present the 2015 MACo Legislation highlights to the Board. Mr. Leggett introduced himself, and discussed some of the challenges that Maryland Counties are facing today, noting that they are finding ways to work together, as well as listening to what counties have to say. Mr. Sanderson continued thanking the Board for having them attend today's meeting. A packet was distributed that outlined the 2015 Legislative efforts which included drug overdose miss use, securing additional funds for local roadways, health departments, community colleges, local impact grants and Program Open Space among other accomplishments. Proposed legislation under consideration for the upcoming session was also presented. The Board was reminded of

the upcoming Summer MACo session. It was stated that there will be a lot of engagement from the new cabinet administration who are expected to be in attendance.

Commissioner Fisher mentioned Highway User Funding, and its importance to Somerset County. Additionally, the cost to change over voting machines was also discussed.

Commissioner Boston thanked the MACo representatives for providing the office lunch today. He questioned the passage of the requirement to install sprinkler systems in new home construction, discussing the added cost burden it will bring to new homeowners. It was questioned if the requirement should apply to rural areas, with Mr. Taylor noting that perhaps the requirement should have been based on homes that are on municipal water systems. Mr. Sanderson admitted that Fire Companies won the battle in Annapolis on this initiative, under the argument of safety.

Commissioner Mathies discussed the recent flood plan changes recently implemented on Somerset County, and the concerns expressed regarding property values and the affordability of flood insurance. It was noted that Somerset County, until Hurricane Sandy, had not experienced too many flooding events. Commissioner Boston expressed his concerns on the cost to appeal the decision regarding the new flood map delineations imposed. Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Leggett and Ms. Mansfield were thanked for attending today's meeting, and excused from the meeting at this time.

Mr. Scott Tawes, Mr. Ken Ballard, Mr. Andrew Haynie and Ashley Stern (of PKS & Company, P.A.), were asked to come forward to present the Somerset County Liquor Control Board's audit results for the year ended April 30, 2015. Mr. Haynie reported the following sales and net profit figures for this past year:

<u>Sales</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Crisfield	\$ 477,374	\$ 480,956
Princess Anne	765,373	749,339
Hi-Way	458,289	465,572
	<u>\$1,701,036</u>	<u>\$1,695,867</u>
 <u>Net Profit</u>		
Crisfield	\$ 41,244	\$ 36,198
Princess Anne	75,010	63,687
Hi-Way	25,753	28,147
	<u>\$ 142,007</u>	<u>\$ 128,032</u>

Mr. Haynie explained the overall results, noting that Princess Anne location showed the best sales results, compared to last year; however the Crisfield location showed the most

increased profit. In totality, the total dispensary store profit for FY15 was \$142,007. Of that amount, \$112,943 will go to Somerset County, with \$14,532 being distributed to both the Town of Princess Anne and the City of Crisfield. In closing, it was noted that the Hi Way Dispensary should have better results once the bridge construction is completed, allowing the roadway to be more accessible.

Ms. Sharon Muir was now before the Board to present the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) Sponsorship letters for the Somerset County Sanitary District and the Somerset County Library System. Ms. Muir explained that both entities are component units under the County (a charter member of LGIT). The sponsorship letter will allow both entities to receive insurance coverage through LGIT. Ms. Muir then requested approval for the President's signature on the letters presented.

A motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Fisher it carried unanimously to authorize the President's signature on the LGIT Sponsorship letters as presented for the Somerset County Sanitary District and the Somerset County Library System.

Mr. Clint Sterling, Recreation and Parks Director, was now present to make his bid award recommendation regarding the construction of a restroom facility adjacent to the gymnasium at the Somerset County Behavioral Health Building in Westover. Mr. Sterling reported that after review of both bids received during the June 16, 2015 meeting, it was his recommendation to award the bid to McIntyre & Parks Custom Builders, Inc., the low bidder, in the amount of \$28,640.00.

Therefore, a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston carried unanimously to award the bid received from McIntyre & Parks Custom Builders, Inc., in the amount of \$28,640.00 for the construction of a restroom facility at the Behavioral Health Building in Westover.

Mr. Taylor proceeded with correspondence received at this time.

The U.S. Department of Transportation/FAA Office has sent notification that Somerset County and the City of Crisfield as owners of the Somerset-Crisfield Airport have \$150,000 in non-primary entitlement funds unobligated, that will expire on September 30, 2015. The option is available to have the funds transferred to another airport in Maryland.

After discussion, on a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher; it carried unanimously to authorize the President's signature to transfer the funds to the Easton Airport. It was noted that the form will be sent to the City of Crisfield for their signature as well.

Correspondence was received from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) requesting the county's authorization to transfer its 2015 housing allocation to DHCD in the amount of \$926,937. It was noted that this request is presented every year, and used to fund housing programs or issue mortgage credit certificates. Mr. Taylor then requested the Boards approval authorizing the President's signature on the documents.

A motion made by Commissioner Simpkins seconded by Commissioner Fisher, carried unanimously authorizing the President's signature on the 2015 DHCD bond allocation request as presented.

A request was received from the Department of Technical and Community Services to release a grant mortgage for Mr. and Mrs. William Kennedy of 8870 Crisfield Highway, Westover, MD. The release can be permitted as it has been over five years.

A motion made by Commissioner Mathies and seconded by Commissioner Fisher carried unanimously to authorize the President's signature on the release as requested.

A request was received from the Somerset County Sheriff's Office to waive the permit fee in the amount of \$400 to install a replacement sign at the office location.

On a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it was approved to waive the permit fee regarding the replacement sign at the Sherriff's Office. Commissioner Fisher abstained; therefore the motion carried 4-0-1.

Ms. Gail Sheldon, Somerset County Library Director, has advised that Ms. Deborah Parker has submitted her resignation from the Library Board, as she will be moving out of the county. The Library Board has conducted interviews, and would like to submit Ms. Ann Redfield Smith for the Boards consideration to fill Ms. Parker's vacancy on the Library Board. It was noted that Mr. John D. Samus has been elected to serve out Ms. Parker's term as President of the Board.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to appoint Ms. Ann Redfield Smith to fill the position vacated by Ms. Parker upon her retirement. Ms. Smith's term will begin July 7, 2015 and expire in October 2017.

Mr. Taylor presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Somerset County Health Department and Somerset County Recreation and Parks regarding Phase II of the Trail Mix project presented on June 18, 2015. The MOU, in the amount of \$27,000, would be for the design, production and installation of 200 walking and biking signs along designated routes. Mr. Taylor requested the Boards approval of his signature on the form.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried unanimously to approve Mr. Taylor's signature on the MOU for the Trail Mix project as presented.

A Proclamation request was received from the Somerset County Library Director for Ms. Deborah Parker, who has submitted her resignation from the Library Board after six and one half years of service.

A motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried unanimously to approve the Proclamation request for Ms. Parker in recognition of her retirement.

A discussion was held with regard to the various board vacancies currently open (Somerset County Homeless Board, Workforce Investment Board, Social Services Board, Adult Guardianship Review Board and the nominees regarding the Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board). The Board will continue its efforts to fill the vacant positions.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services was now present before the Board to request the Boards approval in adopting Building Code Ordinance, #1094. The public hearing for the proposed ordinance was held on June 16, 2015. During the public hearing there were no comments presented. Additionally, no comments were received during the 10 day comment period. It was noted that this amendment to the building code is mandatory, and applies to the requirement of the installation of sprinkler systems on new home construction.

The passage of this required building code amendment was delayed as long as possible, and unfortunately, the time has arrived in that we must pass the ordinance.

Reluctantly, Commissioner Fisher made the motion to accept Building Code Ordinance #1094 as presented. Commissioner Boston seconded the motion. Commissioner Mathies abstained. Commissioner Simpkins opposed the motion. Therefore, the motion carried 3-1-1.

With no further business, at 3:08 p.m. on a motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, 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 motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Administrative Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County