

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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 and Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Commissioner Craig Mathies, Sr. was absent from today's meeting.

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

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, to accept the minutes as written from the Open and Closed Session Meetings held Tuesday, August 25, 2015. Commissioner Simpkins abstained; therefore the motion carried 3-0-1.

Ms. Sherree Marshall, Director of Commission on Aging, appeared before the Board to present the following two documents for approval and signature:

1. Maryland Department of Transportation-SSTAP Operating Grant Agreement for FY16, which provides \$117,447 in state funding.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to authorize President Laird to sign the SSTAP Operating Grant Agreement as presented.

2. Maryland Department of Aging- Senior Care System Annual Plan for FY16, which provides \$100,000 in program funding.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried unanimously to authorize the County Administrator's signature on the Senior Care System Annual Plan as presented.

Mr. Taylor proceeded with correspondence and discussion items at this time.

The State of Maryland Public Service Commission notified Somerset County in the matter of the application of OneEnergy Ibis Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct a 6.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility within the county. Mr. Taylor noted this is a smaller project similar to the process that Great Bay Solar project experienced. It was Mr. Taylor's recommendation to request the county attorney (Mr. Kirk

Simpkins) attend the pre-hearing conference on behalf of Somerset County. The Board agreed with Mr. Taylor's recommendation.

A request was presented to the Board from the Crisfield Heritage Foundation, Inc., that a tax exemption be granted for the following county taxes due:

07 125259	J. Millard Tawes Library	\$2,340.00
12 10230	J. Millard Tawes Library	\$ 67.00
12 9100	Ida Ward Linton House	\$ 100.00
12 5741	Calvary Road Property	\$ 108.00
12-124708	1012 W Main Street	\$3,336.00

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to grant an exemption from county taxes for the properties owned by the Crisfield Heritage Foundation as requested.

The Maryland Department of Transportation sent correspondence advising of the Annual Capital Program Tour (CTP) meeting for FY2016-2021. It was noted that Somerset County is scheduled for Tuesday November 10, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board that Maryland Department of Natural Resources has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday November 2, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in Annapolis to discuss the dredge material placement (DMP) site for the continued dredging of the Pocomoke River channel. Mr. Taylor advised that he and Mr. Barnes, Roads Director will attend the meeting.

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) provided an update regarding the effort to execute a Trail Use Agreement to permit development of the bike trail. It was stated in their letter that the Maryland Transit Authority must complete a title search to the entire rail corridor in order to determine the quality of title to the property. Therefore until completion of the title search is completed, there is no guarantee that the former railroad right of way may be made available for the trail project.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has advised that the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport has been approved. Mr. Taylor presented the drawing, and explained that the ALP contains updated data with regard to the obstruction removal process. He then requested the Boards approval to authorize the President's signature on the ALP as presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to authorize the President's signature on the ALP as approved by the FAA.

Mr. Taylor presented correspondence from the Department of Legislative Services advising that the Highway User Revenue Report has new reporting requirements. Guidelines for the submission of reports was also included with their letter.

A news release was presented from Delmarva Power regarding their 2015 Coastal Cleanup project. The power company is looking for volunteers to clean up 71 locations, including Janes Island State Park, on Saturday September 19, 2015.

A letter of support request, received from Wellness Farms for their interest to locate a Medical Marijuana Facility in Somerset County, was presented to the Board for their consideration and approval. Mr. Taylor noted that 15 licenses will be granted in Maryland. Various agencies such as McCready Hospital, the County Health Department, Community and Technical Services, local law enforcement and UMES have been contacted. Mr. Taylor closed in saying that the 15 sites will be awarded the first of next year.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to approve the President's signature on the letter of support as requested by Wellness Farms.

Mr. Taylor reviewed the remaining outstanding vacancies with regard to various boards and committees.

It was noted that Commissioner Mathies had advised the office that Reverend Bagley has offered to serve on the Citizen Review Board.

Therefore, a motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston to appoint Reverend Charles Bagley to serve on the Citizen Review Board. The motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Fisher advised that Ms. Kathleen Crossan has also agreed to serve on the Citizen Review Board, fulfilling the remaining vacancy on that Board.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to appoint Ms. Kathleen Crossan to the Citizens Review Board.

Mr. Taylor presented the need for the Board to appoint three members to the Housing Authority Relocation Planning-Steering Committee. It was requested that three members of the nine member board be selected by the County Commissioners, one of which is directly involved with housing. Mr. Freddie Mitchell, of Shore Up! has recommended Ms. Jean Pittman, of Crisfield, Maryland as the Shore Up! representative. Mr. Taylor then made the recommendation to appoint Ms. Annette Cottman and Mr. Tom Lawton as the county representatives.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to appoint Ms. Cottman, Mr. Lawton and Ms. Pittman to the Housing Authority Relocation Planning-Steering Committee.

With no further business, Mr. Taylor advised the Board of the need to enter into closed session. Therefore, at 2:27 p.m. on a motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, 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 Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Sessions at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron  
Administrative Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County