

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
SPECIAL SESSION
TUESDAY DECEMBER 8, 2015

At 3:24 p.m., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County opened in Special Session on a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher. The motion carried unanimously.

Present for the meeting were Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Rex Simpkins and Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor, Administrative Aide Lory E. Ebron and Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance Mr. Charles Cavanaugh were also present.

Mr. Cavanaugh presented the Agricultural Scrap Tire Drop-Off Event 2016 Intergovernmental Agreement for the President's signature. He explained that the event is sponsored by the Maryland Environmental Service and the Farm Bureau and would be required to be held from January-March 2016, at the county's discretion. He explained that this was an agricultural program being offered to Farm Bureau members only, whereby the county offers the drop off service, pay's upfront, and is then reimbursed for expenses. The county will not profit from providing this service for agricultural tires only. Mr. Cavanaugh stated he would like to offer the program the week of January 25-30, 2016, so that funding is secured. It was also noted that scrap tire events in the past have always been very successful. He explained how he planned to operate the program, advising that in utilizing inmates, there should be no overtime expense incurred by the county. He then requested the Boards approval to authorize the President's signature.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher authorizing the President's signature on the agreement as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cavanaugh left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Pusey and Ms. Laird, Department of Technical and Community Services, were now present.

Mr. Taylor explained that Mr. Pusey was present to discuss the Rhodes Point Shoreline Stabilization Project, which would be a separate project to be conducted along with the Army

Corps of Engineers Navigational Project. There were concerns with the Army Corps Navigational Project about spending the funding before the Hurricane Sandy deadline date, due to the Corps being unable to confirm that funding would be available for the project. As a result, the Shoreline Stabilization project is being pursued in case the Corps project does not occur.

Mr. Pusey explained that during a September 30, 2015 meeting on Smith Island attended by County and State representatives, the residents discussed the shoreline stabilization project recently completed by US Fish and Wildlife at the Martin National Wildlife Refuge about one mile north of Rhodes Point. The residents were supportive of a similar project being done at Rhodes Point, as the project will stabilize the shoreline within a short period of time (within one year). Contact was made with the designer of the project (Coastline Design, PC), who expressed an interest to work with Somerset County on a similar project at Rhodes Point. Due to uncertainties about funding for the Army Corps Project, thought was given to abandon the Corps project and divert all funding to the shoreline stabilization project. However, an email received last week from Mr. Tony Clark, Army Corps of Engineers, gave a more promising outlook for the navigational project. A revised proposal from the Army Corps would scale back the size of the jetties and would reduce the cost to the County from \$4.747 million to \$1.63 million. Mr. Pusey explained this would allow about \$3.1 million to be used for the additional shoreline stabilization project. If the Corps funding does not come through, then the entire \$4.747 million could be diverted to the shoreline stabilization project.

Mr. Pusey then presented his request for the Board's approval to have the navigational project remain with the Corps, but change the amount from \$4.747 million to \$1.63 million, and add the shoreline stabilization project in the amount of \$3.117 million to the project request. He noted that should something happen to the Corps funding, the entire \$4.747 million could be transferred to the shoreline stabilization project.

Commissioner Simpkins left the meeting for a short period of time and returned.

Mr. Pusey distributed pictures, provided by the consultant, which shows the shoreline erosion over the years. It was explained that the consultant is advising that the county work with the Corps if possible. Mr. Taylor noted that it would be attractive to keep both the Corps and consultant as it offers the most protection. In proceeding with both, should for some reason

Corps funding not be available, the consultant would proceed and utilize the Corps funding to support an increased scope of work.

Commissioner Fisher made a motion to proceed with both the Army Corps of Engineers, and enter into an agreement with Coastline Design PC as presented, whereby the navigational project would remain with the Corps, in the amount of \$1.63 million, adding the shoreline stabilization project in the amount of \$3.117 million to the project request. Commissioner Mathies seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Lastly, Mr. Taylor presented a request received from Mr. Edward Dize who is attempting to obtain an electrical permit for a dock on Smith Island, owned by his wife and her son Kimberley Evans. He wishes the electrical installation to repair the dock, which is in disrepair. It was found that the dock is located on county property, and therefore the county must approve the electrical permit as property owner. Mr. Taylor requested the Boards approval to sign the electrical permit as requested by Mr. Dize that will allow him to proceed with the installation of electric to the dock.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to approve Mr. Taylor's signature the electrical permit as requested by Mr. Dize.

With no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Secretary

Approved by:



Randy Laine
Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County