

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

AUGUST 4, 2015

SPECIAL SESSION

At 2:00 P.M., the Board of Commissioners for Somerset County met in Special Session with Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice-President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr., Commissioner Jerry S. Boston and Commissioner Rex Simpkins in attendance. County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Secretary Shannon L. Evans were also present.

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

Ms. Vicky Lloyd, Emergency Planner, was now before the Board to present the Emergency Management Performance Grant for President Laird's signature. Ms. Lloyd explained that this is a yearly disbursement from the State covering Emergency Management expenses in Somerset County such as salaries, personnel, cell phones, etc. It was noted that this is a matching grant in the amount of \$70,012 with the match found in the budget. A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, and carried unanimously to authorize President Laird to sign the Emergency Management Performance Grant.

Mr. Danny Thompson, Director of EDC, was asked to approach the Board. Mr. Thompson presented the RBDG Broadband Grant to the Board for President Laird's signature. This is the third and final phase of this grant to extend Broadband service to Westover and Crisfield. A motion was made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, and carried unanimously to authorize President Laird to sign the RBDG Broadband Grant.

Next, Mr. Taylor invited Ms. Lauren Harris and Mr. Allen Gorsuch of Solar City to come forward to present their customized proposal for Somerset County to the Board. Ms. Harris proposed a plan installing solar panels on the county owned property located at 30426 Sam Barnes Road. This will provide the county with a fixed PPA rate of .049 for electric over the next 20 years providing an estimated \$114,000 in savings in the first year and an estimated \$3 million in savings over 20 years. Ms. Harris explained that Solar City will take full responsibility for repairs and maintaining the property carrying full insurance for the entire 20 years of the contract after which the Board may choose one of these options:

1. Buy the system at fair market value
2. Renew the contract for up to two 5 year terms
3. Have the system removed at no cost to the County

It was also noted that the glare of the system at its maximum glare would be equivalent to a pond or lake based off of FAA studies, therefore will not be a hindrance to motor vehicles.

Mr. Taylor questioned if the PPA rate presented of .049 is negotiable. Ms. Harris advised that this rate is a very low rate and not negotiable at this time. Ms. Harris noted that the County can piggyback off of Wicomico County's PPA contract to avoid further time for negotiations. Mr. Taylor asked Ms. Harris to provide him with a copy of Wicomico County's PPA Contract for review. Mr. Gorsuch also indicated that Solar City will handle the entire project from beginning to end. President Laird advised that the Board would review the Contract and be in contact with Solar City on how they wish to proceed.

Mr. Woody Barnes, Roads Director, was now present to discuss the bid package and lease for the county owned oyster buying stations. Mr. Barnes presented the Board with a draft of the bid package for their review along with a copy of the proposed lease agreement. It was noted that Deal Island should only have one station due to a lack of space at the dock. Mr. Barnes stated that he would make that change in the bid package. After a brief discussion regarding how to proceed with the bidding process, President Laird invited the members of the audience interested in this topic to come forward for comment.

Mr. Adam Dannenfelser of 27338 Fairmount Rd., Westover, MD was now before the Board to discuss the oyster buying stations in the County. Mr. Dannenfelser explained that he has put in time and effort to make the Mt. Vernon station a viable place to buy oysters as well as one of the Rumbley Stations. He stated that he felt it is unfair to bid those stations out and it would be devastating to his business if he lost them to a higher bidder.

Mr. Steve Holt of Harbor House Seafood was now before the Board in regards to the oyster buying stations in the County. Mr. Holt asked that the Deal Island station be combined in one bid. Mr. Holt also requested consideration be given to those already using the station in the case that we received more than one high bidder on a station.

Mr. Taylor noted that Mr. Barnes should verify that the Waterway Improvement Program will allow the County to charge for the oyster buying stations while using State Aid money for improvements. Mr. Barnes advised that he has been in contact with the Waterway Improvement Program but he will verify this again.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, and carried 4-0-1 with Commissioner Simpkins abstaining, to proceed with the Bid process for the oyster buying stations with the caveat that the Waterway Improvement Program approves and subleasing would not be allowed.

Mr. Taylor was now before the Board to discuss the Airport Capital Improvement Program regarding the Tree Obstruction Removal Program. Mr. Taylor presented the Board with 4 options as follows:

1. Alternative 1 – Avigation easements on 27 parcels and removal of obstructions which currently penetrate or are within 10 feet of penetrating the 14 CFR Part 77 surfaces for both RW 14-32 and RW 6-24 on-Airport and off-Airport
2. Alternative 2 – Avigation easements on 19 parcels and removal of obstructions which currently penetrate the 14 CFR Part 77 surfaces for both RW 14-32 and RW 6-24 on-Airport and off-Airport
3. Alternative 3 – Avigation easements on 17 parcels and removal of obstructions which currently penetrate or are within 10 feet of penetrating the 14 CFR Part 77 surfaces for only RW 14-32 on-Airport and off-Airport (close the turf runway)
4. Alternative 4 – Avigation easements on 13 parcels and removal of obstructions which currently penetrate the 14 CFR Part 77 surfaces for only RW 14-32 on-Airport and off-Airport (close the turf runway)

It was noted that the Tree Obstruction Removal Program is needed to be compliant with Part 77 of FAA regulations. Mr. Taylor advised that the published length of the turf runway is 1,060 feet due to a home built previously shortening the runway for safety reasons.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, and carried 4-0, to proceed with Option 4 with concurrence from the City of Crisfield.

President Laird asked Mr. Terry Pehan if he would like to address the Board regarding the Tree Obstruction Removal Program. Mr. Pehan noted that he supported the Board's decision and believes this action will get some movement from the City of Crisfield on this project.

At 3:00 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, and carried unanimously, to go into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 10-508 (a)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal services.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shannon L. Evans
Executive Secretary

Approved By:

Board of Commissioners
For Somerset County

