



**AGENDA**  
**November 15, 2016**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY**  
**COMMISSIONERS**  
**FOR SOMERSET COUNTY**

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**Correspondence**

**Received**

- \* Mr. Mark A. Thomas, Somerset County Library re: Library Board Appointment
- \* Somers Cove Marina re: Commission Appointment Request
- Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce re: Crisfield Visitor Center
- Mr. Gregory I. Slater, MD State Highway Administration re: Hiker/Biker Trail
- Solar Energy (SVN Land Group, Timmons, EDC)

**Sent**

The Honorable Lawrence Hogan, Jr. re: Meeting Request  
Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of MD re: Nominations

**Appointments:**

- \* 2:00 p.m. - Bid Opening- Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS/ Whittington School Demolition
- \* 2:05 p.m. - Dr. John Gaddis, Ms. Daniele Haley/Somerset County Public Schools
  - FY18 Capital Improvement Plan
  - JM Tawes Technical & Career Center-Schematic Design

**Discussion:**

1. Hurricane Sandy Disaster Funding-Update on Infrastructure Projects/Gary Pusey
- \* 2. MOU- Trail Mix Project
- \* 3. Request for Additional Funding- Rec/Parks Vehicle

**2:45 p.m. - Closed Session – Ralph D. Taylor, Kirk Simpkins**

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 Section 10-508 (a) (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and Section 10-508 (a) (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

- \* Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2016

At 2:00 p.m., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County opened in Regular Session. Present for the meeting were Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston and Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr. was absent from today's meeting.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Aide Lory E. Ebron were also present.

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

Meeting minutes were presented for the Boards approval. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to approve the following meeting minutes:

- Special Session held October 11, 2016
- Closed Session held October 11, 2016
- Work Session held October 25, 2016
- Special Session held October 25, 2016
- Closed Session held October 25, 2016
- Commissioner Meeting held November 1, 2016
- Closed Session held November 1, 2016

Mr. Gary Pusey and Ms. Donna Laird, Department of Technical and Community Services were now before the Board to accept sealed bids received regarding the Whittington School Demolition.

President Laird proceeded to open the sealed bids received as follows:

<b><u>Bidder:</u></b>	<b><u>Amount:</u></b>	<b><u>Bond:</u></b>
Barco Enterprises, Inc.	\$339,510.00	Y
Beauchamp Construction	\$423,700.00	Y
Miller Malone LLC	\$397,000.00	Y
Progress Environmental, LLC	\$334,000.00	Y
Bozman Land Service, Inc.	\$245,000.00	Y
Reynolds Excavating, Inc.	\$147,000.00	Y
Reese Transportation	\$219,500.00	Y

Mr. Pusey accepted the bids received to review, advising that he has a meeting scheduled for this Thursday with the consultant to discuss the Hazard Waste Material portion of the project, which is a crucial part of the proposal. He advised the board that he would return in two weeks with a recommendation. Mr. Pusey and Ms. Laird left the meeting at this time.

Dr. John Gaddis and Ms. Daniele Haley of Somerset County Public Schools, were before the Board to present the Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Improvement Plan as well as the JM Tawes Technical & Career Center Schematic Design. Dr. Gaddis began by expressing his appreciation to the board for their

support of the JM Tawes project. He also advised that the new superintendent, Dr. Karen B. Salmon, visited recently, and understands the importance of the Tawes project to the county.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out of the meeting at this time.

Ms. Haley continued, providing the board with a copy of the Somerset County Board of Education Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2018, as well as a copy of the Educational Facilities Master Plan for FY2017.

Commissioner Simpkins returned to the meeting as this time.

Ms. Haley explained that there is only one request for local funding included in the Improvement Plan for next year, that being for the JM Tawes project, in the amount of \$7,383,000.00. Ms. Haley provided the board with a summary of the project, which included projected student enrollment figures and the programs that are going to be offered. Also provided was a PowerPoint presentation which offered more specific information such as the project timeline, funding availability including adjustments that have been made to proposed costs, enrollment figures, site and floor plans for the project as well as exterior drawings of the proposed school. Commissioner Simpkins questioned if there was going to be a need to increase the funding request for the project due to the changes that have been made regarding proposed costs. Ms. Haley stated that there are adjustments being made and there would not be an increase to local share funding being requested. She then requested the Board's approval for the President's signature on the letter prepared for the board's consideration expressing support of the FY18 Capital Improvement Plan as presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to accept the Somerset County Board of Education Capital Improvement Plan for FY18 as well as authorize the President's signature on the letter of support as presented.

A brief update was provided to the Board regarding the Head Start project, including a time line showing a completion date in time for the start of the 2017 school year.

Next, Dr. Gaddis next advised the Board of proposed increases for funding allocated to Somerset County if the formula used to fund schools (Adequacy Funding Proposal) is revised. He explained that if changed, the formula will place a higher emphasis on real estate and poverty levels within the counties. It would be anticipated that this new formula if used, could provide a 48% (\$12,330,958.00) increase in funding for Somerset County. The revision to the formula will require legislative support, and Dr. Gaddis advised the Board that he would be working towards gaining the support needed, which

would bring this much needed funding to our county. Dr. Gaddis and Ms. Haley left the meeting at this time. Commissioner Fisher also left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items with the Board.

A letter was received from Mr. Mark Thomas, Interim Library Director, advising that Mr. John Samus has completed his second full term on the Board of Trustees, and therefore must step down. Interviews were conducted, and it was the recommendation of the Library Board of Trustees to appoint Ms. Marilyn J. Cottman to fill the vacancy.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 3-0 to appoint Ms. Cottman to the Somerset County Library Board of Trustees as recommended.

A request was received from Thomas G. Schisler, Somers Cove Marina, advising that Mr. Keith Ward's second full term expires on December 31, 2016, and a new appointment will need to be made. Recommendations were provided, however it was the consensus of the Board to postpone the appointment until there was a full board present.

A letter from Mr. Gregory Slater, State Highway Administration, was received, advising that the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program application in the amount of \$4,400,000.00 to construct the 13 mile Hiker/Biker Trail was received and would be supported next fiscal year by the TA Executive Committee. Mr. Taylor noted that this is very positive news for the project.

Letters recently received in support of Solar Energy were provided to the Board for informational purposes. Included was a letter from Mr. Danny Thompson, EDC, which provided a statistical breakdown, provided by the sub-contractors, of the projected benefits that the county could receive should a proposed renewable energy solar project come to Somerset County.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board of an ECI Inmate Labor request received from Asbury United Methodist Church in Crisfield. The church has requested use of the inmates to remove a downed pine tree in the graveyard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to approve the inmate request from Asbury United Methodist Church as presented. The motion carried 3-0.

Regarding correspondence sent, Mr. Taylor advised the Board that he has received a call from Secretary Moyer, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), in response to our letter sent to Governor Hogan's office regarding issues expressed during the recent ECI Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. The Board was in consensus to arrange a meeting next Tuesday with Secretary Moyer so that the concerns can be addressed in more detail.

Commissioner Fisher returned to the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Somerset County Health Department and Somerset County Recreation and Parks regarding the Trail Mix Project. The agreement, in the amount of \$14,000.00 coordinates services to educate Somerset County residents on the availability and health benefits of utilizing established walking, biking and water routes throughout the county. The funding is reimbursed to the county by the Somerset County Health Department.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 4-0 to authorize Mr. Taylor to sign the MOU as presented.

Next, Mr. Taylor advised the Board that he has received a request for the Boards approval from Mr. Sterling, Department of Recreation and Parks, to exceed his current budget (by \$2,595.00) for the purchase a 2016 Ford F-350 truck for his department. Upon researching for a vehicle, it was found that current pricing exceeds what had been budgeted for the year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher to approve the purchase of the 2016 Ford F-350 for \$24,595.00 by the Recreation and Parks Department as requested. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Gary Pusey and Ms. Donna Laird were once again before the Board to present an update regarding the Hurricane Sandy Infrastructure Projects. A discussion was held and updated information provided with regard to the Rhodes Point Jetty USACE Project, the Tidal Dyke Project, the Janes Island Breakwater Project and the Fairmount Water Treatment Plant Decommissioning Project.

Following the discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that a meeting be scheduled with all involved parties including Mr. Hardaway of Coastline Design, the City of Crisfield and Mr. Tony Stockus, Sanitary District, so that the projects can be discussed in greater detail.

With no further business, the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, at 3:11 p.m. upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 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 Section 10-508 (a) (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and Section 10-508 (a) (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Session Meetings at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Lory E. Ebron  
Executive Aide



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Approved by:  
Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County