



AGENDA
November 1, 2016
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

Correspondence

Received

- * Maryland Aviation Administration re: MAA Grant Agreement (MAA-GR-17-011)
Ms. Cindy Stone, DHCD re: Release of Funds Grant No. : MD-17-CD-23 Housing Rehabilitation
Mr. Donnie Drewer, State Highway Administration re: Somerset County Visitor/Tourist Center
Ms. Mindy Lee, Federal Aviation Administration re: Concurrence with Professional Services
President Juliette B Bell, Ph.D., UMES re: 350th Anniversary/Partnership

Sent

Ms. Mindy Lee, Federal Aviation Administration re: Independent Fee Estimate/Professional Services
Mr. Robert Murphey re: Bid Award/30513 Prince William Street
Mr. Finith E. Jernigan, Design Atlantic re: 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Rec 5 Year Plan

Appointments:

- 2:00 p.m. - Dr. John Gaddis, Ms. Karen Karten, Ms. Tracie Bartemy
Somerset Early Learning Advisory Council (SELAC) Update
- * 2:15 p.m. - Mr. Tony Stockus, Somerset County Sanitary District/Loan Guarantee
- * - Mr. Gene Adkins-Resolution/Somerset County Sanitary District Loan Guarantee

Discussion:

- * 1. ECI-Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
- * 2. Grant Approval-Ferry Transit Development Plan
- * 3. Tourism Commission Vacancy (1)

2:40 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 1, 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, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr., and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

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 Mathies 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. Commissioner Boston advised the Board of a correction needed to the minutes as presented with regard to the motions made for the requests to sublease county boat slips. The correct motion count should have been reported as 4-1-0 for both boat slip sublease requests presented.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to approve the Commissioner meeting minutes from October 18, 2016 as corrected.

Dr. John Gaddis, Ms. Karen Karten of Somerset County Public Schools, and Mr. Dan Kuebler, Board of Education, were before the Board to present their update with regard to the Somerset Early Learning Advisory Council (SELAC). Following introductions, Dr. Gaddis explained that they were providing the annual update for programs that provide services for children aged birth to five. The all-day pre-kindergarten services were explained, as well as the importance of getting students off to a great start early. He complimented Mr. Kuebler, thanking the Board for his appointment, noting that Mr. Kuebler has not missed a single meeting. Dr. Gaddis stated the importance of funding for the Pre-K program; with currently 180+ students enrolled, qualifying it as a full time equivalent in the State Planning formula. He closed his comments by explaining that the Pre-K program is 95% locally funded, and any help he could get would be appreciated, requesting the Board to encourage our local legislators to fund Pre-K as they fund other programs if possible. He then asked Mr. Kuebler to say a few words.

Mr. Kuebler discussed his appointment by the Board four years ago, the need and importance of the Pre-K program, and the accomplishments that have been made over the last four years to make this

early learning program a massive organization with massive efforts. He then turned to Ms. Karten to provide the details about the program.

Mr. Tom Davis, Somerset County Public Schools, arrived to the meeting at this time.

Ms. Karten continued, providing the Board with a handout that detailed the various aspects of the program, whose number one priority initially was to obtain a Judy Center and provide universal Pre-K education for all families. The importance of school readiness, and the positive impacts that the program has already shown was discussed. Ms. Karten proudly reported that Somerset County Public Schools scored third in the State for school readiness. She also recognized that Somerset County was the first public Pre-K in the state to enroll in Maryland in Maryland EXCELS, with Greenwood and Woodson Elementary Schools published at level 5. Princess Anne Elementary is expected to complete the process this year. The Board was thanked for their funding support for the program. The discussion continued regarding the providers in the program, specifically with how they are involved and contacted. President Laird thanked those present today for everything they have accomplished and expressed his appreciation for all of their hard work.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, and Mr. Tony Stockus, Somerset County Sanitary District were now before the Board to present a request for a loan guarantee for the Sanitary District. Mr. Adkins explained that the ten-year promissory note will be used for cost overruns associated with the Princess Anne Subdistrict Expansion (PASE). The amount of the loan would be for a \$100,000.00 at an interest rate of 3.50%, with principle and interest payments in the amount of \$988.88 due monthly for 119 months. The final payment due would be for the remaining balance left on the note, due November 1, 2026. He then presented for the Boards consideration and signature, Resolution #1114 which endorses and guarantees the note as presented. The Board questioned the reason for cost overruns on the project. Mr. Stockus explained that the overruns involved engineer and consultant costs, and that the Sanitary District should be able to cover the costs. He closed in saying that he does not foresee any problems.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to approve Resolution #1114 as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

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

The proposed Maryland Aviation Administration Grant Agreement (MAA-GR-17-011) for the environmental mitigation phase of the Obstruction Removal Program for the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport (W41) project was presented for the Boards approval. Mr. Taylor explained that under the terms

of the agreement, the FAA covers 90%, with the state paying five (5%) percent, and the county and city covering the remaining 5% (2.5% each). The cost to the county is approximately \$4,600.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston to authorize the President's signature on Maryland Aviation Administration grant number MAA-GR-17-011 as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board that a letter was received from Mr. Donnie Drewer, State Highway Administration, stating SHA would not have an objection to the expansion to the State Rest Area, located in Princess Anne, to include a museum to showcase artifacts from the Burgess Americana Museum.

Next, at Commissioner Simpkins' request, the Board discussed the ECI Citizens Advisory Committee meeting that was held last Thursday. Concerns were expressed during the meeting that Commissioner Simpkins feels should be handled by a higher authority. It was suggested that Senator Mathias and Delegate Otto's offices be contacted, so that perhaps a meeting could be scheduled with Governor Hogan. The method and length of time taken for hiring's, as well as vacancies at the prison were also discussed.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 to draft a letter requesting a meeting with Governor Hogan, in order to present the concerns expressed by the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Mr. Taylor presented the Fiscal Year 2017 State of Maryland, Department of Transportation Operating Grant Agreement with regard to the Ferry Transit Development Plan for the Boards approval. Mr. Taylor explained that this \$40,000 grant will be used to fund a study regarding the Smith Island Passenger Ferry Feasibility Study, as requested in the Somerset County Priority Letter for Recommended Transportation Improvements dated April 26, 2016. It was noted that the local share cost for the grant is \$4,000.00; however Smith Island United has offered \$1,000 towards that cost, lowering the local cost share amount to \$3,000.00.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 to authorize President Laird to sign the agreement as presented.

The Somerset County Tourism Commission has advised that there are currently two vacancies; Mr. Marcelles Connors and Ms. Valerie Howard, who have resigned. Ms. Howard's position will be

filled by the city; however Mr. Connors term should be filled from a resident in District 1. As there were no recommendations at this time, the appointment will be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting.

With no further business, the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, at 2:47 p.m. upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 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 Mathies, it carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Session Meetings at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide



Approved by:
Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County