

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY JANUARY 12, 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 Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner, Craig N. Mathies Sr., and Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher was absent from today's meeting.

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

Meeting minutes were approved later in the meeting.

A proclamation was presented to Ms. Kara Neel, Lower Eastern Shore Program Specialist with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake to recognize January 2016 as National Mentoring Month. Mr. Taylor asked Ms. Neel to come forward to accept the proclamation, after which he read the proclamation into the record.

Ms. Yvette Cross was asked to come forward. Ms. Cross presented the Mutual Aid Agreement with Wicomico County for the Board's consideration. She explained that this new agreement includes law enforcement and/or public works; noting that the previous agreement only pertained to Fire and EMS. She advised that Attorney Simpkins has reviewed the document, stating that as long as Somerset County is a part of the Maryland Emergency Management Assistance Compact, he found the agreement acceptable. Ms. Cross confirmed that as of September 2013, ALL Maryland counties were ratified as being a part of the compact. She then requested the Boards approval to enter into the agreement as presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to approve the President's signature on the Maryland Emergency Management Assistance Compact as presented.

Mr. Clint Sterling, Director of Recreation and Parks, was now present before the Board to present his recommendations, and seek the Boards approval for Program Open Space (POS) funded projects for FY2016. He noted the following proposed projects:

- The old Washington High School Gymnasium Rehab Project which would involve the resurfacing of the existing floor with a padded artificial turf to meet the needs of the departments expanding soccer and field hockey programs.
- The Mount Vernon Recreation Area Project to create a Balance, Flexibility, Core, Aerobic and Muscle Fitness Station.

- The Long Centralized Athletic Complex Project to create a Balance, Flexibility, Core, Aerobic and Muscle Fitness Station.
- Raccoon Point Park Project to establish a playground system, grade the parking area and an additional grill and fire ring.

A discussion was held with regard to the resurfacing of the old WHS Gym with artificial turf, as it was questioned where basketball will be offered to the residents in Princess Anne. First it was noted that the artificial turf will be placed on top of the existing floor, and can be removed if it's decided to reinstate the basketball program. Mr. Sterling also advised that a drop off basketball program will be offered at the Westover gym. He noted that Westover is more centrally located within the county, and currently other basketball programs are being offered at Greenwood Elementary in Princess Anne, as well as in Crisfield. Commissioner Boston noted that there are no programs offered in the Dublin area for his district, requesting future consideration be given to this area as well. Mr. Sterling advised that the total estimated cost for the projects would be \$100,000/State, \$10,000/County; which has been budgeted. He then requested the Boards permission to submit the POS request to the State for their approval.

Following the discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to authorize Mr. Sterling to submit the POS request as presented. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Sterling left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Woody Barnes, Roads Director, was present to make his follow up recommendation regarding the Rhodes Point County Dock Bid, which was presented for the Boards approval during last week's Roads Board meeting. As requested by the Board last week, Mr. Barnes contacted the state CDBG representatives to question if the bid could be awarded to the local contractor, versus the lowest bidder being there was a variance between the bids of less than 5%. After speaking with State Representatives, Mr. Barnes made the recommendation to award the bid to Murtech, Inc., the low bidder, in the amount of \$558,417.00.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to award the bid to Murtech, Inc., for the amount of \$558,417.00. Mr. Barnes left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor reviewed the letter sent to Safe for Somerset, in response to their concerns regarding the setbacks and decommissioning requirements as they relate to solar energy projects.

Mr. Taylor continued the meeting with discussion items at this time.

A request was received from Mr. Jack Mills requesting the Boards approval to allow the Humane Society to relocate their 10 x 16 shed from the Puffinburger property on Route 413 to the Dog Control office. Mr. Taylor advised that he has spoken with Mr. Donald Ford, Supervisor of the Dog Control office, who has agreed to the request, although it was noted that space is somewhat limited, and caution will need to be used so that damage to the property is not incurred.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 4-0 to approve the relocation of the Humane Society Shed to the Dog Control office as requested.

Lastly, Mr. Taylor presented the Board with a letter of support request relating to House Bill 19, being presented by Delegates Adams, Otto, Ghrist, Arentz and Buckel. After advising that Worcester County already supports the bill, Mr. Taylor explained the bill proposes making amendments to the Fire Sprinkler Systems Provisions. Commissioner Simpkins stated the importance of testifying before the Committee on this bill, noting the impact it has had on the counties ability to grow. Following their discussion, the Board was in consensus to have a letter of support drafted.

Meeting minutes for the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on December 15, 2015 were unanimously approved upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies.

Minutes from the Work Session meeting held on December 22, 2015 were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies. Commissioner Simpkins abstained; therefore the motion carried 4-0-1.

The Board was advised of the need of a Closed Session. Therefore, at 2:22 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.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Session Meetings at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Administrative Aide

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County