

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

At 2:00 p.m., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County met in regular session with Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Rex Simpkins, and Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr.

Also in attendance were County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez.

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

Upon a motion made by Vice President Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 4-1 to approve the Minutes from the Open and Closed Sessions held January 26, 2016 (Commissioner Boston abstained). The Minutes from the Work Session, Special Session, and Closed Session held February 2, 2016 were approved unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Taylor invited Mr. Herb Geary and Mr. William "Rusty" Tressler to come forward, along with Mr. Gene Adkins and Ms. Sharon Muir, to review the audit for the Fiscal Year 2015. Mr. Geary began by reporting that Somerset County, once again, received an Unmodified Opinion (the highest level of assurance that an independent audit firm can provide) and presented the following information:

- The County and its component units have approximately \$157M in assets and approximately \$96M of revenues.
- The County ended 2015 with a General Fund Balance of \$11.2M; and total governmental fund balance of \$13.3M.
- Total debt obligation is \$21.6M; and total debt to total fund balance ratio is 1.68 to 1.

- Results of operations of the General Fund for FY 2015 – overall \$1.7M decrease in General Fund Balance; although expectations were that the County would have a \$3.7M decrease.
- Actual revenues totaled \$34.2M and were over budget by \$1.7M.
- Actual General Fund expenditures totaled \$36M.
- Results of operations of the Roads Boards for FY 2015 – overall decrease in fund balance of \$170K
- GASB #68 Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – the County, Board of Education, and Sanitary District implemented the new standard – the County’s liability is \$6M as of FY 2015

Mr. Geary concluded his presentation by expressing his appreciation to the County’s financial staff for their cooperation. Mr. Geary, Mr. Tressler, Mr. Adkins, and Ms. Muir exited the meeting at this time.

With the meeting slightly ahead of schedule, Mr. Taylor asked the board’s permission to present Received Correspondences. Mr. Taylor began by reviewing a letter from the Maryland Department of Commerce in regards to the 2016 Private Activity Bonds Initial Allocation of the Maryland State Ceiling. Mr. Taylor informed the board that he spoke with Mr. Daniel Thompson, Executive Director of Somerset County Economic Development Center, and learned that the county has never participated in this.

Next, Mr. Taylor reviewed a letter for the State Clearing House Review Process, stating that for this project the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is seeking federal funding (Clean Vessel Act funding, or CVA) to install operate, and maintain more than 350 existing pump stations the empty waste from boats. Mr. Taylor explained that the county does benefit from this as it currently has pump out stations in Webster’s Cove, Deal Island, Wenona, and Champ. He recommended to code this C5 as it is consistent with our plans, programs, and objectives.

Upon Mr. Taylor's recommendation to code the CVA project C5, a motion was made by Vice President Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston. The motion carried unanimously.

Moving on to Sent Correspondences, Mr. Taylor reviewed a letter sent to Mr. Rick Pollitt regarding the Crisfield Airport W41 and the Turf Runway. This letter served the purpose of notifying the city how important it was that the county receive an answer on their decision about the turf runway. Mr. Taylor advised the board that it is anticipated the city of Crisfield will discuss this matter at their next scheduled meeting.

Next, Mr. Taylor addressed a letter that went to Ms. Drenda Hall notifying her of her appointment on the Somerset County Tourism Commission with her term will expiring December 30, 2017.

After concluding with correspondences, Mr. Taylor then moved to Discussion Items and asked for the board's authorization for President Laird to sign the Child Support Enforcement Administration (CSEA) grant in the amount of \$146,970.00 with the county's cost of \$89,232.00

Vice President Fisher motioned for the authorization of President Laird's signature on the CSEA grant; Commissioner Boston seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

At this time, Discussion Items were paused and Ms. Yvette Cross was called to come before the board to be appointed as Director of Emergency Service Management for Somerset County, and be sworn in by the Clerk of the Court. Mr. Taylor began by reading a letter from the Governor's office congratulating Ms. Cross on her new position. Mr. Taylor noted this is a historic day for Somerset County as Ms. Cross is the first African American appointed Department Head for Somerset County. Following this, Ms. Cross left the meeting and Mr. Taylor resumed with Discussion Items.

Mr. Taylor asked the board for approval of the subrecipient agreement with Catholic Charities-Seton Center for the Emergency Solutions Grant(ESG) in the amount of \$116,654; reminding the board that the county approves this every year.

Commissioner Boston motioned for approval of the subrecipient agreement mentioned above, and with a second from Vice President Fisher the motion carried unanimously.

Following that, Mr. Taylor presented the board with a letter of support request from Friends of Teackle Mansion in regards to the \$100K grant they are applying for with the Maryland Heritage Area's authority. Commissioner Simpkins motioned for the approval, and Vice President Fisher seconded, but questioned as to whether this grant would conflict with the grant for Somerset County's 350th Celebration. After some discussion, Vice President Fisher withdrew his second, therefor the motioned died. At the request of the board, more information regarding this topic will be researched and addressed at the next meeting.

A request for a letter of support from the Maryland Rural Development Corporation referencing the grant application for HB1 TechHire Partnerships was presented to the board. This grant will serve out-of-secondary youth and young adult ages 17-29 with barriers to training and employment, while addressing the education and training skills necessary to build a more cost-effective, timely, agile, and market responsive training pipeline for in-demand and/or high growth occupations and industries; which is designed to increase the skills of existing workers in lower skilled jobs to move into more high-skilled positions requiring technology-related skills.

Vice President Fisher motioned for approval of the support letter from the Maryland Rural Development Corporation with a second from Commissioner Boston. The motioned carried unanimously.

Commissioner Simpkins left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor then addressed the vacancy on the Social Services board and asked if the board had made a decision on who to nominate for the position. Commissioner Mathies nominated Mr. Kirkwood H. Cottman, whom accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Mathies made a motion appoint Mr. Kirkwood Cottman to the Social Services Board and was seconded by Vice President Fisher, with the motion carrying unanimously.

Next, Mr. Taylor addressed the vacancy on the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance Board; however, with no nominees it was decided that the item will be brought up again at the next meeting.

A request from Mr. Gary Pusey was presented to the board, asking that Mr. Andrew Baines be reappointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Vice President Fisher motioned to reappoint Mr. Baines; Commissioner Boston seconded this motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor then informed the board that Mr. David Marque does not wish to be reappointed. As Mr. Marque serves as an alternate, the board will need to find an alternate to replace him. This item is being held for the next meeting.

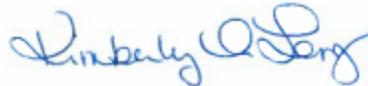
With no further discussion, on a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Vice President Fisher, the meeting entered into Closed Session at 2:40 p.m.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Kimberly Lopez
Executive Secretary