

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY MARCH 22, 2016

At 1:00 p.m., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County opened in Regular Session. Present for the meeting were Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr. and Commissioner Jerry S. Boston. Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher and Commissioner Rex Simpkins were not present at this time.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Administrative 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.

Commissioner Simpkins arrived to the meeting at this time.

Meeting minutes were approved later in the meeting.

Mr. Tom Lawton was now present regarding the request to rezone Map 15, Grid 23, Parcel 332 in the West Princess Anne Election District from Medium Density Residential (R-2) to General Commercial (C-2). Mr. Lawton read the findings of fact into the record; which are included as an attachment to the minutes.

Commissioner Fisher arrived to the meeting at this time.

Mr. Lawton stated that during the March 8, 2016 Public Hearing, testimony and documentary evidence was provided and no written comments were received during the 10 day period. Therefore, based upon the findings of fact, it was the recommendation of the Somerset County Planning and Zoning Commission to amend the zoning ordinance and rezone the property described above as presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to adopt Ordinance #1103 and approve the recommendation by the Somerset County Planning and Zoning Commission to rezone Map 15, Grid 23, Parcel 332 in the West Princess Anne Election District from Medium Density Residential (R-2) to General Commercial (C-2). Additionally, the President was authorized to sign the findings of fact as presented. Mr. Lawton was excused from the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor requested Dr. John Gaddis to come forward. Joining Dr. Gaddis were Ms. Daniele Haley, Ms. Linda R. Johnson and Mr. Tom Davis, from the Somerset County Public School system.

Dr. Gaddis began with the school systems breakdown of non-recurring cost being presented today in the amount of \$194,000 for FY17 as follows:

- New Technology upgrades for Somerset Intermediate, Princess Anne Elementary and Greenwood Elementary in the amount of \$24,000.
- Capital Items, other than land or buildings for hot water in Greenwood Elementary bathrooms in the amount of \$20,000 and a wireless tower at Deal Island Elementary for commercial broadband services in the amount of \$150,000.

Noting that the request for the wireless tower at Deal Island Elementary is the largest expense being requested, Dr. Gaddis explained the need for the tower, and that there are multiple options under consideration that may result in a lower cost or even higher cost. The urgency of approving the request was noted by Mr. Taylor as there is an approaching deadline date for submission to the state.

Upon a motion made by Commission Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve the Non-Recurring Costs for FY16 as presented.

Next, Dr. Gaddis presented the following transfer of funds among major categories from fixed charges for Fiscal Year 2016 for the Board’s consideration and approval:

AMOUNT	TO
\$100,000	Administration
\$52,000	Mid-Level Administration
\$50,000	Student Personnel Services
\$10,000	Health Services
<hr/> \$212,000	Total

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to authorize the transfer of funds among major categories for FY16 as presented.

Next, Ms. Haley requested the Board’s approval of Somerset County Board of Education’s recommendation of The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company as the selected Construction Manager at Risk firm to provide professional services for the Crisfield Academy & High School/Head Start Renovations and Additions project. Details of the request for proposals received, screening committee and the committee selection process were also reviewed and discussed.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company as the selected Construction Manager at Risk firm to provide professional services for the Crisfield Academy & High School/Head Start Renovations and Additions project as recommended.

Lastly, Dr. Gaddis expressed his appreciation to the Board for allowing them to take various building materials and items (ceiling tiles, bathroom partitions, hardware, tables and fire extinguishers) left in Whittington school prior to its demolition. He advised that the school system will be able to utilize the items which he valued to be approximately \$25,000. Dr. Gaddis and his staff present at the meeting today left at this time.

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

A letter was received from Ms. Jennifer Lutz regarding the locations available to view the Draft Environmental Assessment for Obstruction Removal and Avigation Easements at Crisfield-Somerset Airport. Written comment regarding the project must be received by April 15, 2016.

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland has provided the NAS PAX (Naval Air Station at Patuxent River) JLUS (Joint Land Use Study) study and has requested a meeting with the Somerset County Planning Commission/Department for the County's consideration for official adoption. It was also requested that consideration be given by the Board of Commissioners for a resolution stating the study's recommendations be incorporated into the Somerset County Comprehensive Plan. Following discussion, the Board was in consensus to review the request, and defer their decision until the next scheduled commissioner's meeting (April 5, 2016).

A request was received from Mr. Brant R. Wilson on behalf of the Crisfield Outdoor Expo event for use of inmate labor for set up on Friday April 29th and tear down on Monday May 2nd.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston to approve the use of inmate labor as requested for the Crisfield Outdoor Expo event as requested.

A copy of the support letters sent regarding the Income Tax Credit-New Dwellings-Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems (SB728/HB1143) were reviewed. Mr. Taylor advised that there was no updated information available as of earlier today regarding these bills on the legislative website.

The letter sent to Crisfield Mayor Kim Lawson, addressing the provisions requested relating to the endorsement of Alternative #4 was reviewed.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board of the results of the Annual Public Drainage Association (PDA) meetings, held January 16, 2016. The following action was taken by the Board authorizing the County's Tax Collection Office to levy the Drainage Tax Assessment for each PDA:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Upper Manokin Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2016 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Upper Manokin PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Tom Pinto to serve as Manager for another three-year term, with Mr. Robert Powell and Mr. Jerry Bozman continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Barkley's Branch Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2016 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Barkley's Branch PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$20.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to appoint Mr. John Bromley for a three-year term as Manager, with Ms. Ingrid Balea and Ms. Maureen Houlihan continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Dividing Creek Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2016 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Barkley's Branch PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$7.00 per acre
Woodland	\$3.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$30.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to appoint Mr. Donald Culver for a three-year term as Manager, with Mr. Stanley Brown and Mr. Jimmy Johnson continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Handy Church Public Watershed Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2016 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Handy Church PWA as follows:

Minimum Billing	\$50.00
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Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it was carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Bernard Johnson to serve a three-year term as Manager, with Mr. Thomas Wilkins Jr. and Mr. Larry Van Story continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Tony's Branch Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2016 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Tony's Branch PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Lee West for another three-year term as Manager, with Mr. Tommy Smith III and Mr. Gary Rathcamp continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Passerdyke Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Fiscal Year 2016 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Tony's Branch PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$4.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$20.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Charles Flemming III for another three-year term as Manager, with Mr. Bob Gannon continuing on from a previous appointment.

Meeting minutes for the Commissioner's Meeting and Closed Session Meeting held on March 8, 2016 were approved as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins. Commissioner Fisher abstained. Therefore the motion carried 4-0-1.

The Board was advised of the need of a Closed Session. Therefore, at 1:38 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously 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.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Session Meetings at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Administrative Aide

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County