

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY MAY 17, 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 Jerry S. Boston and Commissioner Craig Mathies, Sr. Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher and Commissioner Rex Simpkins were not present at this time.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor, DTCS Director Gary Pusey 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.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 3-0 to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2016 Commissioner and Closed Session meetings as presented.

President Laird welcomed all those in attendance at the meeting today, noting that many of which are his own constituents. He then called the public hearing to order at 1:00 p.m. to consider public input on the Draft Smith Island Vision Plan (Vision Plan). Mr. Taylor then proceeded to read the following notice for the hearing into the record as follows:

“In accordance with the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Somerset County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing to consider public input on the Draft Smith Island Vision Plan. If approved, the Vision Plan would be incorporated as an amendment to the County's Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission has forwarded a favorable recommendation for adoption to the County Commissioners.

Fair Summary

The proposed Vision Plan was developed over a nine month period with extensive public input from residents and property owners of Smith Island, individuals with an interest in Smith Island, and local, state and federal officials, with guidance from a consulting firm. The purpose of the Plan is to identify a future vision for the Island and to propose strategies to achieve that vision. Preserving the Island's distinctive history and culture while ensuring the Island's viability is an important theme of the Plan.

For further information please contact the Somerset County Department of Technical and Community Services at 410-651-1424. Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County, Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator”.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services was now before the Board. Mr. Pusey explained that beginning in the fall of 2014, and continuing until the summer of 2015, the “Visioning Process” was conducted by residents of Smith Island, State, Federal and local representatives

and others to develop a plan for the future of Smith Island. Mr. Pusey then presented a PowerPoint presentation which provided the following:

- A historical snapshot of Smith Island.
- Identified those who served on the 12 member Steering Committee.
- A timeline of the visioning process.
- The Vision Plan themes, goals and strategies.
- The next steps to the process, if approved, being the implementation of the Plan.

Commissioner Fisher and Commissioner Simpkins arrived to the meeting during Mr. Pusey's PowerPoint presentation.

At the conclusion of Mr. Pusey's presentation, President Laird asked if there were any proponents present wishing to speak.

Mr. Eddie Somers, Crisfield Maryland/Smith Island United/Rhodes Point homeowner stepped forward. Mr. Somers thanked the Board for supporting the process, and also expressed his gratitude to Mr. Taylor, Mr. Pusey, the Planning and Zoning Department, Tracey Gordy, Cindy Stone, Chris Cortana, CBI, and 70 year old watermen who at the end of the process realized the importance of what was being done.

Mr. Phil Riggin, Crisfield Maryland, was now before the Board. Mr. Riggin stated his support of the intergrowth of the Smith Island Vision Plan into the County's Comprehensive Plan, noting it is the right thing to do for not only Smith Island, but the county. He discussed the quality of the document, and the vibrant conversations he has had with Mr. Somers and Smith Island United. As a member of the Tourism Commission, Mr. Riggin also noted the Commission's endorsement of the Vision Plan, and he closed in saying that he is looking forward to an affirmative vote to adopt the Vision Plan into the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Tracey Gordy, Regional Director, Maryland Department of Planning came forward. She stated for informational purposes, that by adding this addendum to the Comprehensive Plan, and setting goals for Smith Island, it gives an added "oomph" for additional grants for various projects. She also noted it will be viewed favorably by other state agencies to have the Vision Plan added to the Comprehensive Plan. She closed in saying that the Vision Plan is a road map to the future of Smith Island, and is also a feature for other funding sources to make the visions and strategies come to fruition.

Pastor Rick Edmund, Smith Island, came forward. He stated he is here as an interested citizen, and advised that he had 70 sheets filled out with names of people who were not able to attend in support

of the Vision Plan. He noted new activity on the island, referencing the recent article in the National Geographic magazine, and other recent writings about the island. He also referenced a recent segment on the television, and documentaries that have been written. He closed in saying that Smith Island is getting a lot of attention lately, and requested the Board approve the Vision Plan today to continue the communities and the churches.

Mr. Wayne Knell, Marion Station came forward. Mr. Knell stated he has been in Somerset County for over 40 years and his only complaint is being seventy seven years old every nickel is being bled from him, and he questioned why discounts are not being given to seniors over 65 for transfer station stickers. He feels the fee is exuberant, and is a hardship especially for seniors who are on social security, and he requested the county reduce the fee. He added the county can control it by requiring proof of registration and age. President Laird thanked Mr. Knell's for his comments; however the purpose of the public hearing is to hear testimony regarding the Smith Island Vision Plan.

Mr. Dwight Marshall Sr., was now before the Board. Mr. Marshall stated he has been a resident of Smith Island all his life. He recalled a teacher on the island once saying "there will always be a Smith Island". He stated the importance of grant funding to save Smith Island. He discussed the environmental reasons to save the island, noting the impact of shoreline erosion and the loss of marshes that are being washed away, which are so very important to the health of the environment. He stated that Smith Island is a great recreational place that offers kayaking, canoeing and fishing. He also mentioned the historical significance of John Smith establishing the island, and how the islands dialect has been studied, and the good family up-bringing the island provides, proudly noting that 2 children from the island have graduated from the Naval Academy. He closed in noting that watermen from Smith Island started the creation of the Maryland Watermen's Association and "all in all, they are worth saving".

President Laird asked if there were any opponents present wishing to speak. There were none. Therefore, at 1:33 p.m., the Public Hearing was declared closed. Public comment will be taken for 10 days, until May 27, 2016. It is anticipated that action will be taken on May 31, 2016, the next scheduled Commissioners meeting.

At 1:38 p.m., President Laird called the Public Hearing to order with regard to the Community Development Block Grant Project. Mr. Taylor proceeded to read the notice of public hearing into record as follows:

“The Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County will conduct a Public Hearing to obtain the views of citizens on community, economic development and housing needs to be considered for submission of an application to the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The hearing will be held at 1:15 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room (Room 111), 11916 Somerset Avenue in Princess Anne, on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

In addition, a summary of the FY 2015 CDBG project that funded housing rehabilitation in the County will also be provided.

Citizens will be furnished with information including but not limited to:

- The amount of CDBG funds available for State Fiscal Year 2017;
- The range of activities that may be undertaken with CDBG funds; and
- A proposed project for housing rehabilitation under consideration by Somerset County.

The Maryland CDBG Program is a federally sponsored program designed to assist local governments with activities directed toward neighborhood and housing revitalization, economic development and improved community facilities and services. It is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), in close cooperation with the Department of Commerce.

The Maryland CDBG Program reflects the State’s economic and community development priorities and provides public funds for activities which meet one of the following national objectives, in accordance with the Housing Community Development Act of 1974, as amended:

1. Benefit low and moderate income persons and households;
2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight;
3. Meet other community development needs of an urgent nature, or that are an immediate threat to community health and welfare.

Efforts will be made to accommodate the disabled and non-English speaking residents with five days advance notice to Gary Pusey at 410-651-1424.

For further information, please contact the Department of Technical & Community Services at 410-651-1424. Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator.”

Mr. Pusey remained before the Board. He discussed the success of the Housing Rehabilitation Grant, through the Community Development Block Program, in the amount of \$200,000, that has helped about 30 eligible households. He complimented Ms. Annette Cottman, who has done an outstanding job in her position handling this grant. The program has been administered by the county for more than 20 years, with the current grant expiring on July 31, 2016. Mr. Pusey advised the Board that he would be requesting to increase the grant to \$335,000 (with \$35,000 of the additional funding request to cover staff time). With the increased funding, he anticipates assisting at least 40 households with much needed repairs. He then closed his comments in asking the Board for their support of the submission of the application to the Department of Housing and Community Development and opened the discussion to answer any questions or comments. Commissioner Mathies asked for clarification, confirming the amount of additional funding being requested and the number of households that are anticipated to be

eligible for assistance. After the explanation, Commissioner Mathies thanked Mr. Pusey and Ms. Cottman for their service to this very needed program.

President Laird asked if there were any proponents present to speak. There were none.

President Laird asked if there were any opponents present to speak. There were none.

President Laird then declared the public hearing closed at 1:47 p.m. Public comment will be taken for 10 days, with action anticipated to be taken at the next scheduled Commissioner meeting.

Ms. Donna Laird now joined Mr. Pusey to present the bid award recommendation regarding the Disaster Recovery Generator Project. The bid opening was held during the May 10, 2016 for three generator projects; the County Office Building, the Washington High School Pump Station and the Maryland Avenue Well.

Mr. Pusey advised that the review committee for the County Office Building project consisted of Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Mr. Johnny Dize, Ms. Donna Laird and himself. Both contractors (Carter's Electrical Service, \$173,500.00, and Drewer Electric, Inc., \$232,000) were found to be well-qualified. The committee made the recommendation after review, to award the project to the low bidder, Carter's Electrical Service in the amount of \$173,500.

Next, the bid submitted for the Washington High School Pump Station was reviewed by a committee consisting of Mr. Tony Stockus, Mr. Earl Ludy, Mr. John Dize, Ms. Donna Laird and Mr. Gary Pusey. The single bid submitted by Carter's Electrical Service was found to be complete, and the contractor well-qualified. The review committee recommended the bid be awarded to Carter's Electrical Service in the amount of \$44,000.

Last, the bid submitted for the Maryland Avenue Well was reviewed by a committee consisting of Mr. Rick Pollitt, Mr. Dean Bozman, Mr. Johnny Dize, Ms. Donna Laird and Mr. Gary Pusey. The sole bidder was Carter's Electrical Service. The committee found the contractor well-qualified and the bid complete. Therefore they recommended the project be awarded to the sole bidder, Carter's Electrical Service in the amount of \$39,700.00.

Mr. Pusey closed in stating that Carter's Electrical Service has offered a 5% discount if they are the selected contractor for all three projects. As it was the recommendation of the committee's to award

the bids to Carter's Electrical Service, it was noted that the total cost for all three projects less the 5% discount is \$244,340, which is under budget by \$50,000.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to award the three bids for the Disaster Recovery Generator Projects as presented to Carter's Electrical Service in the amount of \$244,340.00. Mr. Pusey and Ms. Laird left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh was now present before the Board to accept the sealed bids received regarding removal of scrap metal from the county landfill. Mr. Cavanaugh stated he was very specific with the re-advertising of this bid in that the bids are to be submitted as a 2000 pound ton. President Laird proceeded to open and read aloud the following bids submitted:

| <u>Contractor:</u> | <u>Bid Amount:</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Fitzgerald Auto Salvage | \$105 per standard ton |
| Salisbury Scrap Metal | \$60 per net ton |

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to award the bid to Fitzgerald Auto Salvage for \$105 per standard ton.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture provided the Cooperative Agreement between the Maryland Department of Agriculture and Somerset County that provides for cooperation in the control and eradication of noxious and certain invasive weeds for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Mr. Taylor requested approval of the President's signature on the agreement as presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to authorize the President's signature on the Cooperative Agreement as presented.

Correspondence was received from the Maryland Department of the Environment advising that the FY17 Capital Budget provides up to \$1,694,288 for the Smith Island Wastewater Treatment Plant-Biological Nutrient Removal project.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has provided the prepared estimate of operating expenses for mosquito control in Somerset County for the 2016 season. They have requested the county sign the proposed budget as presented if acceptable. Mr. Taylor advised that he reviewed the proposed budget and found it to be the same as submitted last year.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to authorize the President's signature on the Budget Expense Estimate of operating expenses for the 2016 mosquito season as presented.

A letter was received from Dr. Kirkland Hall, Sr., thanking the Board for their letters of support regarding the encouragement of a change in policy relating to the termination of electricity for its customers, and support of HB 849/SB 183 that will require the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all rental properties by 2018.

A proclamation request was received from Ms. Bonnie Quade to recognize Ms. Barbara Sue Nelson as 85th President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, and her dedication and hard work in the Auxiliaries.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to approve the proclamation as requested.

A letter of support request was received from Ms. Latisha Savage, SHORE UP! INC., regarding Head Start/Early Head Start's request to extend their use of the facility in Westover due to construction delays of their new facility in Crisfield.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, the Letter of Request was approved as presented. The motion carried 4-0-1 as Commissioner Mathies abstained.

Mr. Taylor requested the Board's approval for his signature regarding the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS)/State Homeland Security Grant Program in the amount of \$5,341.16. These funds will be used to restock the Mass Casualty Trailer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins authorizing Mr. Taylor's signature on the MIEMSS State Homeland Security Grant Program as requested. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Taylor presented the LGIT Form Sponsorship Letters by Somerset County for the Somerset County Sanitary District, Inc., and the Somerset County Library System. He then requested approval for the President's signature on the forms as presented.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mathies, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to authorize President Laird to sign the LGIT Form Sponsorship Letters as presented.

Mr. Taylor presented a recommendation received from Mr. Rick Pollitt to appoint Ms. Valerie Howard to the Tourism Commission, filling the current vacancy left upon Ms. Kerry Palakanis' departure, expiring January 13, 2018. It was noted that the appointment of Ms. Howard completes full representation (districts, town and city) on this commission.

On a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to appoint Ms. Howard to the Tourism Commission as recommended.

Lastly, Mr. Taylor advised of the Train to Hire Seminar- Maryland-On-The-Job-Training Program, being held on Thursday May 26, 2016 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Crisfield American Legion Post #16.

With no further business, the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, at 2:04 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.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Session Meetings at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Administrative Aide

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County