

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY MAY 31, 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 Mathies, Sr., and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor, Finance Director Gene Adkins 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 Fisher, it carried 5-0 to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2016 Commissioner, Closed Session and Public Hearing meetings as presented.

Mr. Taylor began by thanking Mr. Adkins, his staff and the Board for their many long hours of work on this year's budget.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, presented the final County Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 for adoption. Mr. Adkins began with a brief review of the budget process including the public hearing that was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. He noted that they met 9 times during the deliberation process, and following the public hearing, he received one public comment. He also advised that the American Red Cross submitted a request for Community Promotion funding in the amount of \$2,500.00. Mr. Adkins reported that the Board approved \$2,000.00; matching last year's amount. Additionally, there were grants that were updated, some salary adjustments/corrections, and the County Roads budget was revised slightly.

Mr. Adkins concluded by reviewing the total budgeted amounts for the County Commissioners and County Roads Board as follows:

\$37,184,474.00	County Commissioners
\$ 2,607,351.53	County Roads Board

At this time, the following motions were made to adopt the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget and set the official tax levy for the new fiscal year:

On a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 that it be adopted and resolved, that for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017, the property tax rate be

\$1.00 per \$100.00 of the full assessed value of real property and \$2.50 per \$100.00 of full assessed value of personal and public utility property in Somerset County, except such property as may, by provision of the laws, be exempt from this rate.

On a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 that it be adopted and resolved that for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017, the property tax rate of \$.28 per \$100.00 of the full assessed value of public utility property; and, \$.112 per \$100.00 of the full assessed value of all other real property in Somerset County, excepting such property as may, by provisions of the laws, be exempt from this rate, be levied and imposed for the State of Maryland.

On a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 that it be adopted and resolved that for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017, the local income tax rate for residents of the County be at the rate of 3.15% of Maryland's taxable income for Tax Year 2017.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 that it be adopted and resolved for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017, that a service charge of 0.68% be applied to the second installment amount of semiannual tax payments.

On a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 that it be adopted and resolved that the proposed Levy, reflecting total revenues in the amount of \$37,184,474.00 and total appropriations in the amount of \$37,184,474.00, be adopted as the Official Levy of Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

On a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0, that it be adopted and resolved that the proposed Somerset County Roads Budget, reflecting total revenues in the amount of \$2,607,351.53 and total appropriations in the amount of \$2,607,351.53 be adopted for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Mr. Adkins then requested the Commissioner's signature on the cover pages for the adoption of the FY17 Budget.

Ms. Kolby Noble was asked to come forward to receive a Proclamation in recognition of receiving 2016 Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Noble is a 4th and 5th grade math and science teacher for Deal Island Elementary School. Ms. Noble was then congratulated for her accomplishments.

Mr. Gary Pusey was now before the Board to request the approval for the following:

- Resolution # 1107 to adopt the Smith Island Vision Plan as an amendment to the County Comprehensive Plan.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve Resolution # 1107 as presented.

Mr. Pusey then presented the following documents for the Boards consideration.

- Resolution # 1105 to support the submittal of an application requesting Community Development Block Grant funding for a Housing Rehabilitation Program in Somerset County, Maryland.
- The President's signature on the Statement of Assurances and Certifications regarding the CDBG program

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to approve for signature the documents presented by Mr. Pusey.

In closing, Mr. Pusey requested the Boards approval for the adoption of the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, Somerset County, Maryland. He explained that the three year plan will be expiring, and has no relevance to the other items previously presented today.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to authorize the adoption of the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, expiring on May 17, 2019 as presented.

Mr. Taylor presented correspondence and discussion items at this time.

A pauper burial request was received from the family of Alphonso M. Cottman, who died without any life insurance or other assets for his burial.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to authorize a \$250.00 payment to Anthony Ward Funeral Home, assist with the burial costs for Mr. Cottman as requested.

Mr. Taylor presented a Clearinghouse Review request with regard to the Smith Island Wastewater Facilities Upgrade (MD20160513-0380). The project entails the planning, design and construction of a new Biological and Enhanced Nutrient Removal wastewater treatment plant on Smith Island. Mr. Taylor recommended a C-5 (It is consistent with our plans, programs and objectives) designation for this project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher to designate a C-5 response to the Clearinghouse Review Project as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board of correspondence received from Ms. Cindy Stone, DHCD that directed the release of funds regarding the Head Start Hurricane Sandy Disaster Recovery project.

A request was received for the execution of a Certificate of Satisfaction regarding a housing rehabilitation mortgage for Bernice Daugherty, Crisfield, Maryland. Mr. Pusey has advised that the mortgage may be released, as 5 years has passed and the grant is not required to be re-paid.

Therefore, a motion was made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to authorize the President to sign the Certificate of Satisfaction mortgage release as presented for Bernice Daugherty. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Taylor advised that Mr. John R. Somers, for health reasons, has submitted his resignation as Chief Judge of the Orphan's Court, effective July 1, 2016.

A request was received from Ms. Marsha E. Beckett for a proclamation recognizing the Somerset Junior Senior High School 50th Class reunion, being held on June 11, 2016.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to approve Ms. Beckett's request for a proclamation as requested. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Simpkins made a motion for a proclamation recognizing Mr. John R. Somers for his many years of service to Somerset County. Commissioner Mathies seconded the motion which carried 5-0.

President Laird advised that the Crisfield Visitor Center has officially opened, and is scheduled to be open 7 days a week.

Commissioner Boston reminded the Board of the grand opening for the Crisfield Library scheduled for this Saturday.

At 2:27 p.m., a short recess was taken.

The meeting resumed at 2:34 p.m.

First, Mr. Taylor requested the Boards approval for his signature regarding the LMB Grant Agreement. He reminded the Board that a phone poll was taken due to the urgency of the deadline requirement, and a quorum was obtained at that time.

On a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston, Mr. Taylor's signature on the LMB Grant Agreement was approved as presented. Commissioner Mathies abstained; therefore the motion carried 4-0-1.

Now present before the Board were Local Management Board (LMB) members Ms. Karen Brimer, Ms. Claudia Nelson and Ms. Sheila Warner. Also present were Health Officer Mr. Craig Stofko and Ms. Rota Knott, Somerset County Health Department. Ms. Brimer first thanked the Board for the day off in observance of Memorial Day holiday, and she also personally thanked those Commissioners who served in our military for their service to our country. Ms. Brimer provided a summary of events that have lead up to the purpose of today's meeting, which is to receive the

Boards approval to restructure the LMB and designate the Somerset County Health Department as the Local Management Board.

Mr. Stofko continued, explaining the primary advantage that will be gained by approving the restructuring will be the availability of support office staff for Ms. Knott, which due to funding cutbacks, have been eliminated. He explained that due to the many responsibilities involved with operating the LMB, Ms. Knott has not been able to utilize her grant writing skills, and the restructuring will allow the director to target resources to develop and implement programs in needed areas. He added this is a much more cost effective way to work, and the Health Department has the ability to absorb some of the costs. It was also noted that the LMB will continue to serve under the direction of the LMB Board of Directors. In closing, Mr. Stofko noted that in discussions he has had with Worcester County, they found the changeover of their LMB to be a challenge, but in the end, a good move.

Commissioner Boston questioned if the location of the LMB office will change. Mr. Stofko answered that the location will remain the same, however the office is in need of remodeling via grant funding avenues he would pursue. President Laird expressed concern regarding funding for It Takes A Village and the Garland Hayward Center via the LMB. Ms. Knott explained that both non-profits were already excluded from this year's funding due to changes in the funding structure, and what is no longer allowed. Mr. Stofko added that both non-profits have been encouraged to seek their own grant funding through other available sources.

Commissioner Mathies expressed his concerns regarding the direction that the funding structure is taking; leaning away from programs that are geared to the younger children. He feels programs should direct children when they are young that help mentor and inspire our children when young.

In closing, Mr. Stofko advised that Ms. Knott would continue to serve as LMB Director, falling under the Health Department as its employee. It was also noted that the current LMB Board members would also remain the same.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to approve Resolution # 1108 designating the Somerset County Health Department, as public agency and instrumentality of the County as the Local Management Board. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Commissioner Mathies abstaining.

Lastly, Mr. Taylor presented Resolution # 1106, approving the amendments to the following sections of the Somerset County Employees Handbook of Governing Rules & Regulations; III, IV, V, VI, VII and XI.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Mathies, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1106 as presented.

With no further business, the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, at 3:03 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; 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 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Administrative Aide

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County