

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY MAY 3, 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, Commissioner Rex Simpkins and Commissioner Craig Mathies, Sr. Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher was 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.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins the minutes from the April 19, 2016 Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were approved as presented. Commissioner Mathies abstained; therefore the motion carried 3-0-1. The minutes presented for the Closed and Special Session meetings held on Tuesday April 26, 2016 were approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Melissa Moore, Department of Social Services (DSS) was asked to come forward to accept the Proclamation acknowledging May 2016 as Foster Care Month. Joining Ms. Moore were Ms. Priscilla Redding, Foster Parent and Ms. Valerie Lewis, Out of Home Supervisory, DSS. Mr. Taylor then read the proclamation into the record.

Commissioner Fisher arrived into the meeting at this time.

Ms. Moore, Ms. Redding and Ms. Lewis, were then thanked for attending today's meeting, and were excused at this time.

Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services Director was now before the Board to present the drafted version of the Debris Management Plan for FY16. Ms. Cross explained that the plan has just recently been updated, and is consistent with what has been presented in the past. She also advised that MEMA has already approved the plan, noting it is consistent with their recommendations. Advising that the next step in the process is to receive board approval, Ms. Cross requested the Boards consideration to approve the Somerset County Debris Management Plan for FY16 as presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 to approve the Somerset County Debris Management Plan for FY16.

Next, Ms. Cross advised the Board that Mr. John Somers Jr., for personal reasons, stepped down as Public Information Officer (PIO) in 2007. She explained that following Hurricane Sandy, it was imperative that a replacement be found, and many people she asked declined. Ultimately, Mr. Brant Wilson has agreed to serve. Ms. Cross noted that Mr. Wilson is a former county employee, who had worked in the Sheriff's Office, and left employment in good standing. Ms. Cross also stated that Mr. Wilson is very much a "people" person, who speaks well, and is very familiar with news releases. Ms. Cross closed in stating it was her recommendation to appoint Mr. Brant Wilson as PIO. The Board concurred with Ms. Cross' recommendation, with President Laird abstaining as he is related to Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A Clearinghouse Review project (MD20160413-0255) for the proposed installation of a 68.2 Kw Solar Electric System mounted on the ground at 6402 George Riggin Road in Westover was presented. Mr. Taylor advised that Mr. Pusey has reviewed the project, and recommended a C5 (It is consistent with our plans, programs and objectives) designation for this project.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Boston it was approved to designate a C5 recommendation for the proposed installation of a 68.2 Kw Solar Electric System mounted on the ground at 6402 George Riggin Road in Westover project (MD20160413-0255) as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

A Clearinghouse Review Project (MD20160419-0282) regarding the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program was reviewed. Mr. Taylor advised that there are five areas noted to be treated in Somerset County. A C5 designation was recommended.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to authorize a C5 designation for Clearinghouse Review Project MD2016-419-0282 regarding the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program.

For informational purposes Mr. Taylor advised the Board of the Notice of Applications Received for State Permits relating to the county's application to construct 19 segmented breakwaters along 4,460 feet of eroding shoreline to stabilize the shoreline west of Rhodes Point on Smith Island on the Chesapeake Bay. He noted that this is the county's portion of the erosion project.

Mr. Taylor next presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board of Commissioners for Somerset County and the Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber). The agreement has been reviewed with the City regarding the use of the Visitor's Center in Crisfield and

includes an appropriation that will be paid to the Chamber for providing visitor services. Mr. Taylor also stated that Attorney Simpkins has reviewed the MOU, and found it to be acceptable. Additionally it was noted that the MOU will remain in effect for a three year term.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to authorize the President's signature on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Commissioners for Somerset County and the Crisfield Area Chamber of Commerce as presented.

The Board of Commissioners was advised of the need to enter into Roads Board session. Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to enter into Roads Board at 1:13 p.m.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Session Meetings at 1:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Administrative Aide

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County