

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY JULY 26, 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 Jerry S. Boston and Commissioner Craig Mathies, Sr.

Commissioner's Fisher and Simpkins were not in attendance at this time.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive 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.

Meeting minutes were presented for the Boards approval. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 3-0 to approve the Commissioner and Closed Session meeting minutes from July 12, 2016 as presented.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of the Department of Technical and Community Services and Mr. Tom Lawton, Senior Planner were now before the Board.

Mr. Pusey and Mr. Lawton advised the Board that there had been no public comment received regarding the public hearing held on July 12, 2016 which presented the proposed amendments to the 2008 Somerset County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan. On a side note, Mr. Lawton advised the Board that he did receive a call from the Maryland Department of the Environment asking about the status of the plan, as they are moving forward with the decommissioning of the Fairmount Plant.

Commissioner Vice President Fisher and Commissioner Simpkins arrived to the meeting at this time.

Following a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 to approve the amendment to the 2008 Somerset County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan as presented. Mr. Lawton left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Pusey remained present to request the Boards approval for another two year contract term agreement with Paul Associates as the CDBG grant consultant. He advised that there were no changes to the contract as previously presented and approved, which has expired. It was noted that Mr. Paul's services are used for specialized areas when needed.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve the two year contract agreement with Paul Associates as presented. Mr. Pusey left the meeting at this time.

Dr. John Gaddis and Ms. Linda Johnson, Somerset County Public Schools were now before the Board to present the Board of Education’s Inter-Category Budget Transfer and Budget Amendment requests for fiscal year 2016. Dr. Gaddis explained that higher costs and coverage for unexpected expenses that occurred throughout the year were the reasons for the transfer requests in the following categories and will tie up the FY16 budget for year-end:

<u>Category:</u>	<u>Amount of Transfer:</u>
Administration	\$41,000
Mid-Level Administration	106,000
Textbooks & Supplies	258,000
Health Services	20,000
Student Transportation	13,000
Maintenance of Plant	60,000
Fixed Charges	(498,000)

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to approve the FY16 transfers as requested.

Next, Dr. Gaddis presented for the Boards consideration, budgetary transfer requests to properly balance out categories within the approved FY17 Operating Budget. The FY17 transfers requested were as follows:

<u>Category:</u>	<u>Amount of Transfer:</u>
Administration	\$24,664
Mid-Level Administration	152,109
Instructional Salaries	- 259,285
Textbooks & Supplies	5,000
Special Education	21,392
Student Personnel	37,767
Health Services	4,185
Student Transportation	(11,601)
Operation of Plant	18,529
Maintenance of Plant	7,240

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher to approve the budgetary transfer requests for fiscal year 2017 as presented. The motion carried 5-0. Dr. Gaddis and Ms. Johnson left the meeting at this time.

Now present before the Board were Mr. Dan Powell and Ms. Julie Widdowson to update the Board regarding the county’s 350th Anniversary celebration. Unfortunately, the state grant submitted to fund the event has fallen through, and although it’s very disappointing, Mr. Powell explained that plans

for the event continue, although much reduced, so that it is as fiscally responsible as possible. The revised plan for the event have gates opening at 5 p.m., with the official ceremony now beginning at 6 pm. The ceremony will include state, federal, and local delegates, a presentation of the colors and national anthem, and historical overviews presented by the African American, Native American and Colonial representatives. Musical and theatrical demonstrations are planned, as well as an Exhibit Hall. A fireworks show sponsored by UMES will close the event. Donations towards the event are being obtained, and it is estimated that the revised total cost to hold the event to the county will be \$10,000, down from the original estimate of \$17,500, which has been budgeted. Mr. Clint Sterling, Director of Recreation and Parks, joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Powell then discussed various details regarding the event which included law enforcement assistance and food. Also, the use of the grounds at the county's Westover recreation facility were explained by Mr. Sterling. Plans to create the historical booklet, and the commemorative coin were also discussed. It was requested that the Board consider keeping both the booklet and coin as part of the event to be handed out to patrons attending. The cost of the coins were discussed, and the Board was in consensus to approve the purchase of 750 (plus an additional 75 coins) coins at a cost of \$2,925. It was felt that 825 coins should be enough to cover the event, and any leftover coins that are not used can be used in other ways and will not go to waste. Mr. Powell, Ms. Widdowson and Mr. Sterling left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Woody Barnes, Roads Director was now present before the Board to present the Fiscal Year 2018 Waterway Improvement Fund Grant Application Request for approval. Mr. Barnes distributed the letter received from Maryland Department of Natural Resources along with his letter addressed to the Regional Program Administrator Sandi Pepe (dated July 21, 2016) which requested Somerset County's priority FY18 grant application requests for the following projects; Webster Cove Bulkhead, and second, the Rumbly County Dock.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 to approve the FY18 Waterway Improvement Fund Grant Application Request Letter as presented.

Mr. Taylor continued the meeting with correspondence and discussion items at this time.

Correspondence was received from the Office of the Governor, designating Ms. Elizabeth M. Hall as Chief Judge and Ms. Kathleen L. Crossan as Judge of the Somerset County Orphans' Court.

A fee waiver request was received from the Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR). Grant funding has been approved to repair twelve properties on Smith Island and Crisfield that sustained damage during Hurricane Sandy. The permit fee expense if approved to be waived will be used to make actual repairs to these properties.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 to approve the fee waiver request for the DHR related projects as presented.

A letter was received from Mr. Charles T. Horner, Clerk of Court, which contained a copy of the July 2016 Term Grand Jury Inspection Report. The information provided was distributed to the Board, and it was noted that Maintenance Director Charles Cavanaugh was instructed to make all reasonable repairs as needed.

A letter of support request was approved for the Greater Crisfield Action Coalition, Inc.. They are applying for a grant in the amount of \$30,000 from the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund for Youth Engagement and Workforce Development/Economic Development. It was noted for the record that by a phone poll on July 14, 2016, a consensus was received (Commissioners Laird, Mathies and Simpkins) to write a letter of support as requested.

A letter of support request was also approved for the City of Crisfield. They are requesting support of the City's application for a Community Legacy grant to build one new home in Crisfield. This project fits with the mission of the program to strengthen communities through the encouragement of home ownership. It was noted for the record that by a phone poll on July 14, 2016, a consensus was received (Commissioners Laird, Mathies and Simpkins) to write a letter of support as requested.

Mr. Taylor discussed the Integra Retiree Contract Plan and Agreement, which is currently being reviewed by the County Attorney, and requested approval for the President's signature following legal review and recommended changes.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, the Board approved President Laird's signature on the Integra Retiree Contract Plan and Agreement as requested. The motion carried 5-0.

A pauper burial request was received from the family of Ms. Ethel Nelson, to assist with her burial costs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston to approve \$250.00 payable to Bradshaw and Sons Funeral Home to assist with Ms. Ethel Nelson's burial costs. The motion carried 5-0.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Somerset County and the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (the Authority) was presented for the Boards consideration. Mr. Taylor explained that the MOU allows the Authority to perform the Waste Sort Project at the County Landfill. He then requested the Boards approval for the President's signature on the document.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, President Laird was authorized to sign the MOU as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

Lastly, Mr. Taylor reviewed current board vacancies which need to be filled:

- Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board- 1 vacancy
- Somerset County Local Management Board- 2 vacancies
- Somerset County Social Services Board – 1 vacancy

With no further business, the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, at 3:02 p.m. upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, 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 Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried unanimously to adjourn the Open and Closed Session Meetings at 4:46 p.m.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide

