



**AGENDA  
AUGUST 23, 2016  
BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY**

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**Correspondence**

**Received**

- Maryland Department of Transportation re: Capital Projects/Somerset County
- Maryland Department of Transportation re: Scoring of Projects
- Clean Chesapeake Coalition re: Invitation to Participate
- \* Pastor Terry Riggin/Evangelical Wesleyan Church re: Fee Waiver Request
- \* Asbury United Methodist Church-Request/Donation of Flagpole
- \* Mr. Gary Pusey/DTCS re: Rental Allowance Program/FY17 (Local Program Application Approval)

**Sent**

- Senator James Mathias Jr., and Delegate Charles Otto re: Proposed Legislation/Economic Impact Scholarship
- Bhaskaran Subramanian, Ph.D re: Deal Island Peninsula Project
- Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS re: Request for Fee Waiver/Dave Mason, Chesapeake Boats
- Maddy Ciulu/DHCD re: Transfer of Bond Allocation
- Ms. Claudia Nelson, Director Department of Social Services re: Advisory Board Appointment

**Appointments:**

- 2:00 p.m. - Public Hearing- JM Tawes Project/ Mr. Gene Adkins
- \* 2:15 p.m. - Child Enforcement Grant- Mr. Les Tyler
- \* 2:20 p.m. - Tourism Center Museum Site Plan - Ms. Julie Widdowson
- \* 2:30 p.m. - Great Hope Mower – Mr. Clint Sterling

**Discussion:**

- \* 1. Request for Proclamation-Constitution Week 2016
- \* 2. Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board Appointment (1)
- \* 3. Somerset County LMB Board Vacancy (2)

**2:45 p.m. - Closed Session – Ralph D. Taylor**

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.

- \* Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
TUESDAY AUGUST 23, 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, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr., and Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher was absent from today's meeting.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor, Finance Director Gene Adkins 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 Simpkins, it carried 4-0 to approve the following meeting minutes as presented:

- August 2, 2016 Work Session
- August 2, 2016 Special Session
- August 2, 2016 Closed Session
- August 9, 2016 Commissioner Meeting
- August 9, 2016 Closed Session

At 2:00 p.m. President Laird proceeded to open the Public Hearing to consider the passage of borrowing resolutions for interim financing relating to the replacement of the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. County Administrator Taylor read the notice of public hearing into record as follows:

“The Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County will hold a Public Hearing on: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at 2:00 P.M., Room 111, Somerset County Office Complex 11916 Somerset Avenue, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853, to consider passage of a borrowing resolutions pursuant to the authority of Chapter 445 of the Laws of Maryland 2004 and Section 19-205 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland:

1. A Resolution of the County Commissioners for Somerset County authorizing the issuance and sale, upon the full faith and credit of the County, of a general obligation installment note in the principal amount not exceeding \$4,000,000 to provide interim financing for Phase 1 of the replacement of the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center. Phase 2 of this project is expected to total \$3,400,000 and is anticipated to begin in 2018 or 2019.

The County will not issue debt greater than \$10,000,000 in any fiscal year. It is the intention of the Commissioners to replace these interim loans with permanent long-term financing when the projects are completed. Interested persons are invited to attend the Public Hearing and will have a reasonable opportunity to express their views both orally and in writing. Written comments submitted prior to the hearing and up to 10 days following the hearing, through September 2, 2016, should be mailed to the following address: Somerset County Commissioners, Somerset County Office Complex, 11916 Somerset Avenue, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853. Board of County Commissioners, Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator.”

Mr. Adkins reviewed the estimated interim financing amounts for the school construction project (totaling \$7.4 million) of \$4,000,000 for Phase I, and \$3,400,000 for Phase II (anticipated to begin in 2018/2019). He explained that if approved during the public hearing process, requests for proposals will be sent to banks for interim financing. He noted that permanent financing has previously been secured through the United States Department of Agriculture.

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

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

President Laird advised that public comment would be taken for ten days (until September 2, 2016). The public hearing was declared closed at 2:05 p.m. Mr. Adkins left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Les Tyler, from the Somerset County Sheriff's Office came forward to present the Child Support Enforcement Administration Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement for the Boards consideration and approval. He explained that the State has changed the process of the application from a one year period to a three year 'combined' grant (totaling approximately \$44,700). The grant is used to fund the serving of papers and warrants. He then requested the Boards approval for the President's signature on the Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement Application as presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to authorize the President's signature on the Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement Application. Mr. Tyler left the meeting at this time.

Next, Ms. Julie Widdowson, Tourism Director, came forward to present the potential site plan and location for a museum to be located at the Tourism Center. Mr. Taylor complimented the Tourism Commission for the outstanding job completed so far on the project. He explained that the site plan rendering (distributed to the Board as a handout) is the first step in this process to build the museum adjacent to the Tourism Office on Route 13, and is considered to be an ideal location. Noting the office is located on State Highway Administration (SHA) grounds; the proposed project will need to be presented to SHA for their consideration and approval. If approved by SHA, the next phase for the project will be to move forward with obtaining funding. Ms. Widdowson reviewed the rendering of the building presented, consisting of approximately 2000 square feet with the Board, and explained the plans for the building's contents, and ideas of showcasing the artifacts. She noted that they are very early into the planning stages for this project, and many of the details have not been determined as of

yet. Mr. Taylor then requested the Boards approval for President Laird's signature on the letter drafted to Mr. Donnie Drewer that presents the proposed project site for SHA consideration.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, the Board approved the President's signature on the letter drafted to Mr. Donnie Drewer, SHA, as presented. The motion carried 4-0. Ms. Widdowson left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Clint Sterling, Director, Recreation and Parks, was now before the Board. Mr. Sterling advised that recently, the 2001 Jacobsen LF 3400 grounds mower had a main frame housing failure. Explaining that this equipment is an essential machine for the maintenance of the course, he requested the Boards approval to purchase a used 2011 Jacobsen LF 3400 Fairway Mower for \$11,000 plus \$2,000 shipping fees. He noted the cost to repair the 2001 mower would be \$6,000-\$8,000. Mr. Sterling added that he feels the 2011 mower will last 5-6 years, and parts from the 2001 can be used on the 2011 mower if needed. Mr. Sterling was asked if the purchase had been budgeted. Mr. Sterling answered that it had not, however he feels he can pull funding from maintenance to cover the expense.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins approving the purchase of a 2011 Jacobson LF 3400 Fairway Mower as requested. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Sterling left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor reviewed correspondence and discussion items with the Board at this time.

Two letters were received from Mr. James F. Ports, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Operations, Maryland Department of Transportation. Mr. Taylor explained that the first letter dated August 9, 2016 informed the county that no capital projects qualified for funding for Somerset County in the FY2016-FY2021 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), and the new law involving the scoring system is addressed. The second letter dated August 16, 2016 discussed the Assistant Attorney General's interpretation of the new law; and that it has been decided that the new law requirement will be postponed until the next CTP draft for 2018-2023 is released, which is anticipated for September 1, 2017. Mr. Taylor stated he is hopeful that perhaps Somerset County may have a qualified project by that time, or that perhaps the General Assembly will decide to revise the new law as it currently exists.

An invitation has been received from Clean Chesapeake Coalition inviting Somerset County to join the Coalition. Mr. Taylor noted it has been 3-4 years since the Coalition was established to represent Maryland counties, and the Coalition is interested in arranging a meeting with the Board. Being there was not a full board in attendance, it was requested that the correspondence be placed on the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

A request for a waiver of landfill tipping fees was received from Pastor Terry Riggin, Evangelical Wesleyan Church. A house the church owns across the street is in need of repairs, and due to the lack of parking, the church is considering tearing the house down and making a lot for off street parking for the church. They have requested the Board waive any landfill tipping fees incurred should they move forward with the demolition.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston to approve the landfill tipping fees as requested by Pastor Riggin. The motion carried 4-0.

A request was received from Mr. Paul Emely, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Asbury United Methodist Church for the donation of the flagpole currently located at Whittington Primary. They would like to place the flagpole at the church cemetery in honor of the veterans buried there. The request was discussed, and it was the consensus of the Board to advise Mr. Emely that his request should go to the school board for their consideration. Mr. Taylor offered to contact Mr. Emely and advise him of the Board's recommendation.

Next, Mr. Taylor presented the Rental Allowance Program FY17 Application for the Boards approval. It was explained that this grant is used to provide low income families with rental assistance or have an emergency housing need. The county has been a recipient of this grant, in the amount of \$40,000 (less \$4,000 for administrative costs) for many years.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to authorize the President's signature on the FY17 Rental Allowance Program Grant Application.

Mr. Taylor presented a proclamation request from Ms. Ellen Dorsey, Nanticoke Chapter DAR Regent, whereby declaring the week of September 17-23, 2016 as Constitution Week 2016.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston to approve the proclamation honoring Constitution Week 2016 as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor asked if anyone on the Board had a recommendation regarding the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board appointment or the Somerset County Local Management Board vacancies. There were no recommendations made.

Mr. Phil Riggin, Crisfield Maryland requested to address the Board.

Mr. Riggin began by saying it was good seeing everyone today and he was glad to see the commissioners on the job and in good health. Speaking as a representative of the Tourism Commission, he expressed his and the Tourism Commission's support for the Burgess Americana Museum, and the

proposed location at the SHA property, to be adjoined to the Tourism Office in Princess Anne. He feels the museum will add a great deal to the visitor's center, noting it will be a simple way to get a real perspective of Somerset County. The Tourism Commission intends to take the Board and County Administrator's lead and do all they can to collect funding sources for the project. Secondly, Mr. Riggin referenced the article printed in the August 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the County Times regarding the Great Point breakwater and Tidal Dike projects that were proposed to be funded by Hurricane Sandy grant funding that are not getting done. He noted that he believes that \$4.5 million in funds were appropriated for these projects, and with the Corps deciding to not move forward, he stated that as a taxpayer in the county, he is concerned about the funding being left on the table. He requested that the Board speak to our political leadership and state legislators about the money being reprogrammed for other purposes; noting that outgoing Senator Mikulski and other senators would be less than happy that these funds are not being used. He closed in saying that if he is not correct, he apologizes; but he just asks that the Board consider his request as a citizen, and not allow these funds to go back into federal coffers.

With no further business, the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, at 2:38 p.m. upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 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 Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Session Meetings at 2:52 p.m.

Approved by:



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Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



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Lory E. Ebron  
Executive Aide



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