

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
SPECIAL SESSION
TUESDAY DECEMBER 6, 2016

At 2:34 p.m., the Somerset County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session with Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Craig Mathies, Sr., and Commissioner Jerry S. Boston. Commissioner Rex Simpkins was not present for the start of the meeting.

Also in attendance were County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez.

The meeting began with Mr. Taylor inviting Mr. Scott Hardaway, Mr. Glen Glass, Ms. Cindy Stone, Mr. Gary Pusey, and Ms. Donna Laird to come forward for their presentation on the Southeast Crisfield Tidal Dike and the Janes Island Breakwater project. Mayor Kim Lawson, City Manager Rick Pollitt, and Councilman Mark Konapelsky were also in attendance in the audience.

At this time, Commissioner Simpkins entered the Board room.

Mr. Hardaway began by presenting a PowerPoint on his research for the Southeast Crisfield Tidal Dike. The following information was shared in that presentation:

- ❖ Construction costs by Corps (2014) includes dike construction and new tide gates but does not include mitigation or pumping capabilities.
- ❖ Corps 2016 projects costs include tidal dikes and pump stations for dike height of 4, 5, 6 and 8 feet for old and new dike alignments.
- ❖ For 10% design (4ft) minimum of 8 acres of wetland impact at 2:1 – 16 acres.
- ❖ Permitting requires mitigation plan including site selection, permanent easements and design.
- ❖ Restricted time frame for permits then construction.

Following this, President Laird expressed his disappointment that this project could not be completed but understood since there is not enough funding or time to complete the project.

Next Mr. Hardaway provided an update on the Rhodes Point Living Shoreline project:

- ❖ Base bid: Structures 2-10 are complete
- ❖ Add Alternate 1: Structures 11, 12 and 13 are complete
- ❖ Corps Jetty project is 95% per Project Manager Tony Clark, however no permit has been submitted to date.
- ❖ If Corps does not commit then Alternate 2 will be enacted (includes structures 15-19)

Mr. Hardaway then presented multiple options for the Crisfield/Janes Island BWs and Living shorelines. The following options are intended to reduce impact due to storm wave action and less flooding.

- ❖ Option 1: Structures are located to minimize SAV impacts.
- ❖ Option 2: Location of structures is considered less effective but cheaper than Option 1.
- ❖ Option 3: Offers additional protection with the Cedar Is groin/spur.
- ❖ Option 4: A hybrid of Option 1 and 2 and makes the most sense to pursue as per Corp recommendation.

The Board then discussed Mr. Hardaway's presentation. With no further questions from Board and members of the audience, the Board thanked Mr. Hardaway and Mr. Glass for the information provided. Mr. Hardaway and Mr. Glass then took their seats back in the audience.

At this time, President Laird requested it be recorded that Councilman Paul Emily was seated in the audience.

Mr. Tony Stockus and Ms. Starr Mister were now before the Board to discuss the Fairmount WWTP Decommissioning project. Mr. Stockus explained that the Fairmount WWTP has reached the end of its useful life and no longer provides the specified treatment required by the State of Maryland. Furthermore, the plant is subject to infiltration of large amounts of water during storm periods, as noted with Hurricane Sandy and other high water events, and as a consequence is unable to handle the surge. Therefore, Mr. Stockus has prepared two options which are as follows:

- ❖ Option 1: Fairmount Replacement ENR Plant
 - New Plant at Fairmount = \$6,000,000.00
 - Annual cost per household – No decommission assistance = \$700.00
- ❖ Option 2: Fairmount Decommissioning Project
 - Total Project Cost = \$2,838,240.00
 - Fairmount's Cost:
 - Est. cost per EDU w/o County Assistance = \$550.00 per household
 - Est. cost per EDU w/ County Assistance = \$220.00 per household
 - Westover's Cost:
 - Total Westover Sewer Line Shared Cost *Existing Loan = \$1,040,926.00
 - Proposed Westover Cost 2017-Residential = \$832.95 per household
 - Est. Cost per EDU w/ County Assistance = \$760.00
- ❖ Estimated O&M Savings per Year = \$46,000.00

Following Mr. Stockus' presentation, a discussion was held in regards to cost sharing between the residents of Fairmount, Westover, and Princess Anne. President Laird questioned if Mr. Stockus had been able to find any moneys to put toward this potential project, as was requested of him at the October 11, 2016 meeting. Mr. Stockus advised that he has attempted to but without filing a full application for financial assistance he was unable to obtain anything (including an estimate or interest rate). Mr. Taylor then inquired about grant funding from MDE in the amount of \$600K-\$700K, to which Mr. Stockus confirmed was correct, however was not a guarantee. The Board continued to discuss this as well as the rates for residents of Manokin should this project move forward and how this new line would affect them. The topic then

briefly moved back to the rates for Westover and the hearing that will occur next week for these proposed new rates (due to the outstanding debt owed). The Commissioners expressed their concern for these proposed rates and the effect it would have on the residents of Westover. At this time, President Laird requested the meeting return to the topic of Sandy funding. The Board returned to the discussion of the Fairmount WWTP and was advised by Ms. Cindy Stone that the deadline to obligate these funds would be no later than June 1, 2017.

The Board then thanked Mr. Stockus and Ms. Mister for their presentation. Mr. Stockus and Ms. Mister left the Board room at this time.

Crisfield Mayor Kim Lawson and City Manager Rick Pollitt were now invited to come before the Board. After Mayor Lawson's introduction, he addressed the Board concerning the Crisfield Tidal Dike and Breakwater projects before reading a letter stating Crisfield's needs for Sandy funding aloud, which he asked be recorded into the minutes (see attachment). Mayor Lawson expressed his concerns regarding flooding and proper drainage for the city of Crisfield and specifically addresses Project Three in his letter (which noted a preliminary engineering report submitted by Davis, Bowen & Friedel indicating this very issue). He continued by advising the Board that he has avoided a potentially high dollar fine (for now) with the MDE for the current state of Crisfield's sewer system, but was informed that repairs must be completed to the system to avoid future fines. Mayor Lawson further addressed Crisfield's needs for the remainder of Sandy funds available by advising the Board of paving needed to public streets (Project Two).

President Laird stated he agreed with the Mayor and felt that since the two original Crisfield projects (the Tidal Dike and Breakwater) could not be completed due to time restraints and insufficient funds, that those funds set aside for those projects should now be used to address some of these issues.

Commissioner Simpkins reminded President Laird of the original list of projects the Board had agreed upon and stated that they aren't trying to take funding away from Crisfield but since the Tidal Dike and Breakwater projects cannot be completed that they should continue to work down their original list.

The Board engaged in a brief discussion regarding these matters.

Councilman Konapelsky addressed the Board, advising that even receiving some of these funds would help alleviate the problems with the old pump stations but also alleviate the pressure of possibly being fined by MDE.

Councilman Emily then addressed the Board and spoke of the severity of the sewer system. He further stated that without support he feels that the City of Crisfield with have no other choice than to raise taxes to help resolve this concerning issue.

Next Mr. Pollitt addressed the Board, wishing to advise them that Crisfield and Pocomoke were awarded a block grant to hire a shared Circuit Writer who will be almost totally devoted to looking for funding sources during her twenty hour work week in Crisfield. Mr. Pollitt advised the Board that they realize they have to do their part and identify as many funding sources as possible and not just rely on saved money from other projects.

After closing remarks from Mayor Lawson, he concluded his presentation and the Board thanked him and Mr. Pollitt for attending the meeting today. Mayor Lawson and Mr. Pollitt left the Board room at this time.

President Laird briefly stepped out of the Board room.

Commissioner Simpkins left the meeting.

Mr. Taylor addressed a request that was presented in last week's meeting regarding the waiver of tipping fees for the structure fire that occurred on Johnson Creek Rd. Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, the motion carried 4-0 to approve the waiver of tipping fees for the structure fire that occurred on Johnson Creek Rd.

Next, Mr. Taylor presented the Tourist Area and Corridor Signing Program, stating it has been found legally sufficient, and requested the Board's authorization for their signatures on the documents. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, the Board approved this authorization and the motion carried 4-0.

With no further business to discuss, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, the Board adjourned Special Session at 4:47 p.m. This motion carried 4-0.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Laine". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kimberly Lopez
Executive Secretary