



AGENDA
October 31, 2017
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
2:00 p.m.

Appointments:

20 Year Service Award Presentation- Mr. Thomas Lawton/Senior County Planner

2:00 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, Director, Department of Technical and Community Services

- Public Hearing CDBG Funding/Homeless Initiative
- * - Approval of MOU between DNR and Somerset County for Grant Funding to update the Zoning Code

Correspondence:

Received

- * Michael Sanderson, Executive Director, MACo re: 2018 Legislative Committee Nominations

Sent

Somerset County Sanitary District re: Debt Service Collection Analysis
City of Crisfield re: Donation of Properties
Mr. Ed Goyda, Library Director re: Library Board Reappointment

Discussion:

- * 1. Surplus Property Sale

2:30 p.m. - Closed Session- Mr. Ralph Taylor, Kirk Simpkins, Charles Cavanaugh, Erica Yeager
Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle 3-305 (b) (1)(i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; and (b)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

- * Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY OCTOBER 31, 2017

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, and Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr. Commissioner Rex Simpkins was absent from the regular session meeting.

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 approved later in the meeting.

Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Thomas Lawton, Senior County Planner, to come forward to accept the 20-Year Service Award Recognition. Mr. Taylor proceeded to read the Certificate of Appreciation into the record. The Board thanked Mr. Lawton for his years of service to the county, and congratulated him for reaching this milestone.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services was now before the Board.

At 2:03 p.m., President Laird called the Public Hearing open to receive public input with regard to the FY2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application/Homeless Initiative. Mr. Taylor proceeded to read the public hearing notice into record as follows:

“The Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County will conduct a Public Hearing to obtain the views of citizens on community, economic development and housing needs to be considered for submission of an application to the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). Citizens will have the opportunity to discuss proposed projects and to provide input on other needs to be considered. The hearing will be held at 2 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room (Room 111), 11916 Somerset Avenue in Princess Anne, on Tuesday, October 31, 2017.

Citizens will be furnished with information including but not limited to:

- The amount of CDBG funds available for State Fiscal Year 2018;
- The range of activities that may be undertaken with CDBG funds; and
- The proposed projects under consideration by Somerset County.

The Maryland CDBG Program is a federally funded program designed to assist local governments with activities directed toward neighborhood and housing revitalization, economic development and improved community facilities and services. It is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

The Maryland CDBG Program reflects the State's economic and community development priorities and provides public funds for activities which meet one of the following national objectives, in accordance with the Housing Community Development Act of 1974, as amended:

1. Benefit to low and moderate income persons and households;
2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight;
3. Meet other community development needs of an urgent nature, or that are an immediate threat to community health and welfare.

Efforts will be made to accommodate the disabled and non-English speaking residents with five days advance notice to Gary Pusey at 410-651-1424.

For further information, please contact the Department of Technical & Community Services at 410-651-1424. Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County, Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator.”

Mr. Pusey explained that the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development is accepting CDBG applications through Friday November 17, 2017 for their “Homeless Initiative”. This funding program is intended to provide funding for projects to benefit homeless persons by reducing the numbers of homeless households with the state. A total of \$2 million has been allocated for this round of funding. Explaining that funding can only be applied for by a local government agency, Mr. Pusey advised that before the county, on behalf of an eligible sub-recipient, submits an application, a public hearing must be held to obtain citizen input on projects under consideration, or allow citizens to propose projects they think the county should pursue. Two organizations have expressed an interest in applying; Catholic Charities/Seton Center in the amount of \$130,000 and the Somerset Committee for the Homeless, Inc./Somerset County Homeless Shelter for \$75,000 in both cases to cover their individual operating expenses. Mr. Pusey added that both organizations are very well qualified with what they provide, and his department would work with both organizations to complete the applications, which have already been started. He also noted that should the Board approve the funding for Homeless Initiative programs, the Board would need to pass separate resolutions, which his department would also provide, to move forward at the November 14, 2017 meeting. He noted that the timeline would be sufficient to meet the November 17, 2017 deadline date.

President Laird asked Ms. Tyantha G. Randall, Program Manager, Catholic Charities, Seton Center to come forward.

Ms. Randall explained that Seton Center is requesting \$130,000. This funding will allow them to provide more services for low to moderate income individuals in the community such as tenant based rental assistance, housing counseling, case management support as well as information relating to additional external and internal services for assistance stabilization, offered through Seton Center. Ms. Randall closed her comments by advising that in 2016, the Seton Center saw 3,676

individuals for housing counseling; 52% of those individuals achieved their self-determined financial goals. She also stated that with approval of this grant will allow the Seton Center to serve an additional 125 people in households within the Princess Anne, Crisfield and Somerset community areas.

Ms. Rota Knott, member of the Somerset County Committee for the Homeless and the Somerset County Board on Homelessness, and Executive Director Local Management Board came forward. She stated that the Somerset Committee for the Homeless is looking for funding to cover operational costs. Noting that there is currently no operational shelter in the county, Ms. Knott stated that when fully operational, the shelter will serve 100 low to moderate men, women and children; individuals with no shelter, or means to support themselves. She explained that \$50,000 of the \$75,000 grant request will be for personnel expenses (a full time house manager, full time case manager and a part time house manager). Ms. Knott explained the shelter will be open 24/7, and described the duties and coverage for each position. Noting there has been a 50% increase in homeless individuals, she advised that residents will not be required to leave the shelter during the day due to its distance from the town and the safety concerns in allowing residents to walk. Commissioner Boston suggested contacting Shore Transit to see if transportation could be provided, at possibly no cost. Ms. Knott noted that they have been in touch with Shore Transit, and another option under consideration is the purchase of a van via USDA funding. Commissioner Fisher questioned the length of stay allowance. Ms. Knott stated 180 days or less. Noting that currently one room is available, she advised that initially they will begin with male residents. As the number of residents increase, additional staffing will need to be considered. Ms. Knott was questioned about both organizations offering the same type of counseling services. Ms. Knott replied that she is hopeful that the similar programs to what Seton Center provides that will be offered, can be networked, and their resources combined to limit the expenses to run the shelter. Ms. Knott noted that the Seton Center has a representative serving on the Somerset Committee for the Homeless, Inc., and has been involved with the shelters proposed plans. President Laird questioned the number presented for staffing and if it will be sufficient. Ms. Knott explained how the coverage will be handled using 4 staffed employees, and also noted that there will also be volunteers used.

Next, Mr. Taylor read into record a written statement from Mr. Mark Simmons, who because of work responsibilities was unable to attend today's hearing. Mr. Simmons suggested in his letter that CDBG funds be used to clean up abandoned and blighted properties such as 30089 Revells Neck Road, 29319 Revells Neck Road and 8840 Fontaine. He stated he would like to see CDBG funds

used to clean up properties as the ones mentioned to “aid in the prevention and elimination of blight”, as stated under the CDBG objectives.

With no other opponents or proponents present wishing to speak, President Laird closed the public hearing at 2:27 p.m. Written comments will be taken until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2017.

With Mr. Pusey remaining present, he requested to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) received between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the County Commissioners relating to grant funding already approved to update the Zoning Code. The county attorney has reviewed the document and found it legally sufficient; however, Attorney Simpkins did note that it appears that the MOU will strictly limit growth in Crisfield or areas in the county that border tidal waters. Mr. Pusey stated that this MOU will not make any commitments that the county has to follow. DNR was advised that the county will consider putting in certain wording as suggested into our zoning code, but it was made clear to DNR that the Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners have the final call. Mr. Pusey then requested the Boards approval for the President’s signature on the document as presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was approved to authorize President Laird to sign the MOU as presented so that the project can proceed. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Pusey left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor continued the meeting with correspondence and discussion items.

Correspondence was received form Mr. Michael Sanderson, Executive Director, MACo, requesting the submission of Somerset County’s committee member and alternate for the FY18 Legislative Session.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, to appoint Commissioner Fisher as the FY18 Legislative Committee Member for Somerset County. Commission Fisher abstained; therefore the motion carried 3-0-1.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, Commissioner Boston was appointed as Alternate. Commissioner Boston abstained; therefore the motion carried 3-0-1.

Mr. Taylor presented for the Boards consideration and approval, the offers received since the last meeting to purchase county owned properties obtained through tax sale foreclosure,

which advised of the opportunity to purchase the properties for 50% of the recorded deed value plus closing costs.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to approve the sale of 3239 Lawsonia Road (12-000235) to Mr. Wesley Townsend in the amount of \$1,959.00 plus closing costs.

Meeting minutes were presented for the Boards approval. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to approve the Commissioner and Closed Session meeting minutes from October 17, 2017 and the Special and Closed Session meeting minutes from October 24, 2017 as presented.

With no further business, at 2:37 p.m., the Board was advised of the need of a Closed Session. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to enter into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland Section §3-305 (b)(1)(i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; and (b)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

At 4:04 p.m. the Open and Closed Session meetings were adjourned.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide