



AGENDA
November 14, 2017
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
2:00 p.m.

Appointments:

- * 2:00 p.m. - Dr. John Gaddis, Ms. Daniele Haley, Somerset County Public Schools
 - Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Improvement Plan
- * 2:15 p.m. - Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services Director
 - Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Resolution Approval
- * 2:25 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS Director
 - Resolutions approving CDBG Funding

Correspondence:

Received

Dept. of Public Safety and Correctional Services re: Final Audit Report and Compliance Plan-Detention Center

Sent

Mrs. Carol Samus re: Resignation as Member of the Somerset County Planning Commission

Discussion:

- * 1. Surplus Property Sale
- * 2. ECI Inmate MOU
- * 3. Pauper Burial Request for James E. Cottman
- * 4. Planning Commission Vacancy (1)

2:40 p.m. - Closed Session- Mr. Ralph Taylor, Charles Cavanaugh, John Redden, 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.

* Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 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, Sr. Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Commissioner Craig N. Mathies was absent from today's 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 Fisher to lead those attending the meeting in repeating the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session Summary Report November 14, 2017

On November 14, 2017, at 2:42 p.m. until 3:28 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, 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 §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 §3-305 (b)(12) conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct; (b)(13) comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter; and (b)(8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

Present for the Closed Session Meeting were President Randy Laird, Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, and Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Commissioner Craig Mathies Sr. was absent from today's meeting.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Finance Director Gene Adkins, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, Public Works Director John Redden, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance Charles Cavanaugh, and HR Director Erica Yeager. Topics discussed were: hiring for various departments, employee termination, discuss investigative proceeding, and state land acquisition, pending litigation. Actions taken during closed session: 1) Employee termination 2) Hiring's for Maintenance Department (Motor Equipment Operator, Maintenance Worker I).

Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 4-0 to approve the Commissioner and Closed Session meeting minutes from October 31, 2017, as presented.

Mr. Taylor then asked for the Boards approval to amend the minutes from the October 17, 2017 meeting to include the following paragraph which had been inadvertently omitted regarding the sale of property:

“Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it was approved to sell a .25 Acre lot, 26758 Walter Jones Road (12-007175) to Natalie and Steven Brown in the amount of \$488.50 plus closing costs. The motion carried 5-0”.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to amend the meeting minutes from the October 17, 2017 to include the omitted motion to approve the Brown property sale.

Mr. Taylor asked Dr. John Gaddis, Ms. Daniele Haley and Mr. Tom Davis, Somerset County Public Schools, to come forward and present the Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Improvement Plan. Dr. Gaddis also noted that a copy of the Annual Master Plan, as well as the Annual Report was also provided.

Dr. Gaddis began by thanking the Board for their support, and discussing the success of the groundbreaking ceremony held for the J.M. Tawes School. After noting that we are currently in a time of great change in public school construction, it was noted that he mentions this as the Capital Improvement Plan includes items in forecast of these possible changes.

Ms. Daniele Haley continued, explaining that \$17.5 million is being requested for FY19 will be the second request for fiscal year funding regarding the J.M. Tawes project. Referring to the draw schedule provided, she noted that not all of the FY18 appropriation, in the amount of \$14.7 million was used, and will be carried over into the next year. It is anticipated that \$3 million will be requested for FY20, to meet the \$20 million needed for the project. Ms. Haley also noted that the project is locked in for 100% funding, and she expressed her appreciation to the county for their support and contributions to the project.

Dr. Gaddis then referred the Board to the Facilities Master Plan, and explained the discussion held with Executive Director Gorrell to have the state build the schools, with local entities responsible for maintenance; this suggestion being based on the age of Somerset County buildings and Director Gorrell’s past experiences. Dr. Gaddis noted that this change in direction regarding school buildings needs to be evaluated to see what is best monetarily for the county.

Commissioner Boston questioned if the bids received for the next phase of the Tawes project was within budget. Ms. Haley stated bids were below budget, and a recommendation was going to be made regarding the bid award at their meeting scheduled for next Tuesday. Also discussed were plans for future projects which included the matter of over capacity at Somerset Intermediate, and Princess Anne Elementary, with both schools getting additions, as well as consideration for repairs at Ewell Elementary. The Board was then asked for their approval to authorize President Laird to sign the letter presented,

which certifies the Board received and reviewed the FY 2019 Capital Improvement Plan and are in support of the project request within the plan.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to authorize President Laird to sign the certification letter as presented.

Before leaving the meeting, Dr. Gaddis invited the Board to Crisfield High School on Thursday for a grand re-opening of the new facility.

Ms. Yvette Cross, Director of Emergency Services was asked to come forward present the Hazard Mitigation Plan (plan) and the adjoining resolution. Ms. Cross explained that working with the Hazard Mitigation Committee over several meetings the last six months, very good mitigation strategies were identified. She noted that the state is pleased with the plan, and FEMA has adopted the plan pending the county resolution. The plan is a requirement to be eligible for federal funding in the event of a federal disaster, and is updated every five years.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, Resolution # 1124 for the Somerset County Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

Before leaving the meeting, President Laird advised that the Chief's Association has requested that a representative from Emergency Services attend their meetings. He noted a letter will be forthcoming. Additionally, a discussion was held regarding alarm testing at the back up facility, and issues that existed which have been resolved. Ms. Cross was asked to send a letter to the Chiefs Association to explain the updates that corrected the issue.

Mr. Gary Pusey was now asked to come forward. Mr. Pusey noted the public hearing held during the previous commissioner meeting relating to the FY18 CDBG application/ Homeless Initiative. Applications must be completed by the county, and two entities have applied (Catholic Charities/Seton Center and Somerset Committee for the Homeless, Inc. for the Homeless Shelter). It was reported that no comments had been received since the hearing. The county will be the recipient with the two mentioned entities as the sub-recipient. Mr. Pusey did advise that during the public hearing, the Somerset Committee for the Homeless, Inc. did not realize the grant request was for two years; therefore their grant request was increased from \$75,000 to \$150,000. Mr. Pusey then requested the Boards approval for two resolutions being presented today to support the submittal of an application requesting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding on behalf of both entities previously mentioned.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to approve Resolutions #1125 and #1126 regarding the submittal of the application requesting CDBG funding on behalf of Catholic Charities/Seton Center (#1125) and Somerset Committee for the Homeless, Inc. for the Homeless Shelter (#1126). Mr. Pusey left the meeting at this time.

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

A letter was received from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services which provided the Final Report and Compliance Plan of the audit conducted at the Somerset County Detention Center. It was noted that the audit found a deficiency as staff training records for Emergency Security Plans Awareness and Disaster Plans Awareness were not available. Since the audit, the matter was re-examined, and the Detention Center is now considered to be in 100% compliance.

A letter was sent to Ms. Carol Samus thanking her for her years of service as a member of the Planning Commission.

Mr. Taylor discussed offers received and/or rescinded 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.

First, on October 17, 2017, Steve and Natalie Brown requested to purchase 26758 Walter Jones Road in the amount of \$488.50. On November 13, 2017, we received a request from the Browns to rescind the offer. On October 17, 2017, a request to purchase the same property was received from Wesley Townsend. Therefore, the Board was asked for their approval to offer the property to Mr. Townsend for the same price.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to approve the sale of 26758 Walter Jones Road (Map 0072, Grid 0011, Parcel 0191) to Mr. Wesley Townsend Jr., for \$488.50.

Next, the City of Crisfield was awarded the sale of 114 S 4th Street (Map 0102, Grid 0010, Parcel 0465) on October 17, 2017 for \$1,175.00. The City declined the purchase. The Board was asked for their approval to offer the property to the Crisfield Pride Lodge #194 for \$1,175.00.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0 to approve the sale of 114 S 4th Street (Map 0102, Grid 0010, Parcel 0465) for \$1,175.00 to the Crisfield Pride Lodge #194.

Mr. Taylor next advised the Board that the State of Maryland has expressed interest to acquire two properties adjacent to lands owned by the Department of Natural Resources; Account 03-043746 (Tulls Corner Road) and Account 08-141576 (Holland Crossing Road). Mr. Taylor advised that the state would have appraisals performed. The Board was in consensus to have Mr. Taylor draft a letter to the state advising their decision move forward with the potential sale of the noted properties.

Mr. Taylor presented a letter from William G. Swift expressing his interest to purchase two surplus properties located off Route 413 (03-044440 and 03-044432). Mr. Swift is not an adjoining property holder and has offered \$150.00 for 03-044440 (50% deed price of \$592.50) and \$250.00 for 03-

044432 (50% deed price of \$708.50). It was the consensus of the Board to wait 90 days, to allow adjoining property holders the opportunity to reply, after which Mr. Swift's offer will be reconsidered.

A request was received from Mr. Kevin Laird to purchase 10762 Oriole Back Road (Account 02-024497) in the amount of \$449.00 (50% deed value) plus closing costs. Mr. Taylor noted that the State was interested in this property as well, but requested the county demolish the home.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to approve the sale of 10762 Oriole Back Road (Account 02-024497) to Mr. Kevin Laird for \$449.00 plus closing costs.

Mr. Taylor next advised the Board that an email was received from Ms. Nickea S. Johnson, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in reference to starting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Somerset County regarding the use of ECI Inmate labor. A price sheet, included with the MOU was reviewed with the Board. The cost to use an ECI inmate under the MOU would average \$39.72 per hour. The Board noted that in the past, many nonprofit and church organizations would utilize the inmate labor, but many of them will not be able to afford the requested cost. Following the discussion, no action was taken.

A pauper burial request was received from the family of James E. Cottman who passed away on October 27, 2017 in Crisfield. Mr. Cottman had no life insurance or any other known financial resources. The family requested a donation to assist with cremation costs.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 to approve a \$250.00 pauper burial assistance payment to Anthony E. Ward Funeral Home for Mr. James E. Cottman.

Lastly, the Board discussed the Planning Commission vacancy resulting with the resignation of Ms. Carol Samus. Commissioner Boston advised that Mr. Jeremy Mason is interested in serving as a member on the commission.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 4-0 to approve Mr. Jeremy Mason to fill the remaining term of a previous member on the Planning Commission.

With no further business, at 2:42 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 §3-305 (b)(12) conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct; and (b)(13) comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter; and (b)(8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

At 3:28 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