



AGENDA
November 28, 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. - Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS Director, Ms. Liz Zucker
 - FY18 Rural Legacy/Easement Purchase
 - Resolution for Water and Sewer Plan Amendment – Smith Island Upgrades
 - Lien Release Request- Voyd Wallace/23805 Earl Webster Road
 - Seafood Reconciliation Board Re-Appointment
- * 2:20 p.m. - Mr. Chris Woodward, IT Director
 - Phone System Proposal

Correspondence:

Received

- * Mr. Ashish J. Solanki, MDOT/MAA re: Grant Agreement MAA-GR-18-011
- Ms. Cindy Stone, DHCD re: Release of Funds Grant MD-14-DR-Phase/Broadband Extension
- Ms. Cindy Stone, DHCD re: Release of Funds Grant MD-15-DRI, Phase 5
- Mr. Chris Comer, Comcast re: Price Changes, International Channel Package Launch
- * Mr. Ed Goyda, Somerset County Library re: Board of Trustees Vacancy Appointment
- Crisfield Chamber of Commerce re: Crisfield Visitor Center

Sent

Mr. Robert A. Gorrell, Executive Director Public Schools re: Somerset County FY19 Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Judd Vickers, DNR Eastern Regional Administrator re: Land Acquisition/Maryland Forest Service

Mr. Jeremy Mason re: Planning Commission Appointment

Mr. Kevin Laird re: Property Purchase Request

Mr. William Gene Swift re: Property Purchase Request

Mr. Gary Brown, Mr. Tyrane Lane re: Property Purchase Request

Mr. Wesley Townsend, Ms. Michelle Townsend re: Property Purchase Request

Discussion:

- * 1. Surplus Property Sale
- * 2. Proclamation Approval

2:45 p.m. - Closed Session- Mr. Ralph Taylor, Charles Cavanaugh, Erica Yeager, Ronnie Howard
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) (13) to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

- * Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28, 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, Commissioner Rex Simpkins and Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr.

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 28, 2017

On November 28, 2017, at 2:37 p.m. until 3:22 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 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)(13) comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

Present for the Closed Session Meeting were President Randy Laird, Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Rex Simpkins and Commissioner Craig Mathies Sr. Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance Charles Cavanaugh, HR Director Erica Yeager, and Sheriff Ronnie Howard.

Topics discussed were: retirement notification, department hiring, request for additional job position and state land acquisition. Actions taken during closed session: 1) Hiring for Maintenance Department (Motor Equipment Operator-Landfill) 2) Approval for additional position/Sheriff's Department

Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 4-0-1 to approve the Commissioner and Closed Session meeting minutes from November 14, 2017; with Commissioner Mathies abstaining. The motion carried 5-0 to approve the Work Session meeting minutes from November 21, 2017 as presented.

Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, Ms. Liz Zucker, The Nature Conservancy and Ms. Kate Patton, Lower Shore Land Trust to come forward to present the FY18 Grant Agreement for the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area (DCRLA).

Mr. Pusey explained that the DCRLA was established in 2008 and covers almost 24,000 acres in Somerset and Worcester counties. Upon establishment, Somerset and Worcester County agreed to partner with the Nature Conservancy and the Lower Shore Land Trust in order to pursue funding sources for easement purchases.

Ms. Zucker continued, explaining that for FY18, \$1,560,000 in State grant funds has been approved to purchase easements. Somerset County has settled eleven properties totaling 1,413 acres, and Worcester County five properties totaling 1,511. She explained that each year, the two counties alternate, therefore, this year's easements will be purchased in Worcester County.

She then requested the Boards approval for President Laird's signature on the Rural Legacy Grant Agreement/Co-Sponsorship: Land Trust and Local Government as presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, President Laird was authorized to sign the FY18 Rural Legacy Grant Agreement. The motion carried 5-0. Ms. Zucker and Ms. Patton left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Pusey remained present, and requested the Boards approval for a resolution to amend the county's adopted Water and Sewer Plan to incorporate upgrades to the Smith Island Sewerage System. The application was presented and approved by the board in March 2017.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve Resolution # 1127 to amend the county's adopted Water and Sewer Plan to incorporate upgrades to the Smith Island Sewerage System.

Next, Mr. Pusey presented a lien release request for Voyd E. Wallace of 23805 Earl Webster Road, Deal Island, MD. He explained that in 2012, the county used \$4,510 to do work

on the referenced property. The five year lien period expired on November 2, 2017, and therefore can be released. He then requested the president's signature on the release as presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to authorize President Laird to sign the lien release for Mr. Wallace as presented.

Lastly, Mr. Pusey presented a re-appointment request for the Seafood Reconciliation Board. He explained that Mr. Richard Evanusa's term will be expiring on December 8, 2017, and he has indicated that he would like to continue serving on the board. If approved, Mr. Evanusa's term will expire on December 8, 2021.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to re-appoint Mr. Richard Evanusa to the Seafood Reconciliation Board. Mr. Pusey left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Chris Woodward, IT Director and Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, came forward to present a phone system proposal for consideration. Mr. Taylor first explained that in 2016, we became aware of an antiquated and dying phone system and \$125,000 was appropriated within the FY 17-18 budget for a phone system. Mr. Woodward solicited request for proposals (RFP) and also placed the RFP on EMarylandmarketplace. Presentations were given for departmental personnel by two of the three vendors, and input was received from staff.

Mr. Woodward explained that upon receiving the demonstrations it was the overall preference to go with a company named Vertical, which came in middle priced of the three vendors at \$140,325. Noting that the proposal came in \$15,000 over budget, it was explained that the cost savings the county will incur by going to this system is anticipated to be approximately \$6,000 per month, a \$224,885.16 approximate savings over a 36 month time frame. It was noted however, that not all departments will be converted, and some offices will need or have requested to continue to have a Verizon landline.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Mathies, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve the budgeted overage request in the amount of \$15,000, and move forward with obtaining the Vertical phone system for county offices as presented.

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

The Maryland Department of Transportation/Maryland Aviation Administration has provided a proposed grant agreement (MAA-GR-18-011) with regard to the easement acquisition phase at the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport. The total cost of the project is \$226,877, with the state paying five (5) percent or up to \$11,344 in assistance.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 to authorize President Laird to sign the grant agreement as presented.

A request was received from Library Director Ed Goyda to appoint Father Robert Laws to serve as a member of the Somerset County Library Board of Trustees. Father Laws will replace Mr. George Milbert, who recently passed away.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, Father Robert Laws was appointed to serve on the Somerset County Library Board of Trustees as requested. The motion carried 5-0.

Next, Mr. Taylor presented 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. Both offers presented today were properties recently listed on the county website, of which no offers had been received.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve the sale of .5 acres, Sybil Road, Upper Hill (Map 0039, Grid 0009, Parcel 0158) to Mr. Philip Myers for \$622.50 plus closing costs.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Mathies, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to approve the sale of 2 acres, R Maddox Road (Map 0039, Grid 0012, Parcel 0436) to Mr. Julian Vismale for \$150.00 plus closing costs.

A proclamation was presented for approval to recognize the Crisfield High School (CHS) girl's field hockey team for their outstanding 2017 season.

Upon a motion made Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, the Proclamation in recognition of the CHS Girls Field Hockey Team was approved. The motion carried 5-0.

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 Mathies, it carried 5-0 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)(13) comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

At 3:22 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