



AGENDA
January 10, 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. Mark Konapelsky, Ms. Dee Savarese/Request for Sealed Bids
- 1012 West Main Street
 - 27020 Old State Road
- 2:10 p.m. - Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director
- Tax Assessment Report
 - FY16 Audit
 - Fund Balance Reallocation

Correspondence:

Received

- Maryland State Board of Education re: 2016 Master Plan Annual Updates
- * Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee, Inc. re: Request for Funding
 - * Robert W. Murphey re: Purchase of Tax Sale Certificate
- Maryland Department of Transportation re: Airport Grant Funding

Sent

The Honorable Charles Otto and The Honorable James N. Mathias re: Proposed Legislation
Mr. Eddie Johnson re: Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board Re-appointment
Mr. Bob Fitzgerald re: Planning Commission Re-appointment
Mr. David Horseman re: Seafood Reconciliation Board Re-appointment
Ms. Sue Heath re: Seafood Reconciliation Board Re-appointment
Mr. Tony Stockus re: Somerset County Sanitary Commission Appointment
Dr. John Gaddis re: Grant Deadline

Discussion:

- * 1. Pauper Burial Request – Benjamin Holbrook
- * 2. Captain Galley's Bids Received
- * 3. Tourism Board Appointments (2) (County 1/City 1)
- * 4. Planning & Zoning Commission Appointment (1)

3:00 p.m. - Closed Session – Ralph D. Taylor, Kirk Simpkins, Robin Cockey, Sanitary District
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; and Section 10-508 (a) (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

- * Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY JANUARY 10, 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 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 Fisher, it carried 5-0 to approve the Commissioner and Closed Session meeting minutes from December 27, 2016 as presented.

At this time, Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Mark Konapelsky and Ms. Dee Savarese, Department of Technical and Community Services to come forward to accept sealed bids with regard to two Hurricane Sandy Projects.

President Laird proceeded to open the sealed bids received as follows:

Replacement flooring at the Custom House, 1012 West Main Street, Crisfield, MD 21817

<u>Bidder:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>	<u>Bid Bond</u>
Ken Build	\$48,590.00	N/A
Diamond Contractors	\$84,655.00	N/A
Coastal Construction	\$73,980.00	N/A

It was Mr. Konapelsky's recommendation to award the bid to the low bidder, Ken Build in the amount of \$48,590.00.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to award the bid for replacement flooring at 1012 West Main Street, Crisfield, Maryland to Ken Build in the amount of \$48, 590.00.

Replacement housing located at 27020 Old State Road, Crisfield, Maryland 21817

<u>Bidder:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>	<u>Bid Bond</u>
RAD Construction	\$134,650.00	Y
Ken Build	\$136,000.00	Y
Farina Construction	\$151,750.00	Y

Following the opening of the bids, Mr. Konapelsky requested the opportunity to review the bids, and provide his recommendation at a later date. Mr. Konapelsky and Ms. Savarese left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor called Mr. Gene Adkins forward to report the information he received during the recent Revenues Estimator Meeting held in Annapolis last Friday; as well as the Fiscal Year 2016 Audit and Fund Balance reallocation.

Mr. Adkins began, by first advising that the Fiscal Year 2016 Audits have been timely completed and mailed out. The Board was also advised that Mr. Herb Geary, TGM Group, LLC, will be attending the January 24, 2017 meeting to formally review the FY16 audit; however Mr. Adkins offered to provide a preliminary report. He began by noting that revenue was greater than expenditures by \$1,068,000, and that the County was to the good with regard to the budget by \$2.48 million. Mr. Adkins explained the reasons for the positive results as follows:

- Property tax revenue came in at \$680,000, higher than anticipated. Mr. Adkins noted that this revenue includes a project billed for 3 years in the amount of \$450,000, which created the majority of the difference.
- Local income tax revenue came in at \$940,000, better than projected.
- Borrowings were higher than average, and reflects as income.
- Actual Expenditures were below what were budgeted by several departments, including the Detention Center and Maintenance Department.

Mr. Adkins next reviewed Fund Balance information at June 30, 2016. Referencing the excess revenue information just provided, he advised that generally excess revenue is applied toward fund balances. Mr. Adkins suggested that the excess revenue be applied toward projects, such as the JM Tawes project, rather than have the revenue go towards an undesignated category. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the matter will be addressed during the upcoming FY17 budget deliberations.

Mr. Adkins also reviewed the information he received regarding recent residential and commercial property tax assessments. Somerset County reflected a 6.4% decrease, which is actually better than the Department of Maryland Assessment and Taxation office predicted last year. Mr. Adkins also reviewed the negative trend the county has been experiencing in the past, however he noted the negative trend is improving, and it is hopeful that the trend becomes positive next fiscal year.

Mr. Adkins also requested the Board's guidance for instructions to Department Heads with regard to their budget submission for this upcoming session. It was the consensus of the Board to direct Mr. Adkins to request that Department Heads maintain their budget allowances consistent to last year.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items at this time.

The Maryland State Department of Education has provided a copy of the 2016 Master Plan Annual Updates and the alignment of local school system budgets with master plan priorities for review. The complete plan is available for viewing if requested.

A letter was received from Reverend Huber, Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee (SCLTRC), Inc., which explained that due to an administrative error by MEMA, FEMA is threatening to de-obligate approximately \$1 million of funding that was intended for elevation of 8 homes within the grant. SCLTRC has appealed this action, and in the meantime has used considerable resources from Lutheran Disaster Response to “bridge” salary support for Ms. Kim Hopkins, Elevation Mitigation Project Manager. Reverend Huber has requested the Boards consideration to allow an appropriation to assist with Ms. Hopkins salary support so that they can continue to work on the current grant.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to approve an appropriation to SCLTRC in the amount of \$8,000, to be paid in two monthly installments (for January and February 2017) as presented.

A request was received from Mr. Robert W. Murphey to purchase the county’s tax sale certificate regarding account 01-004484 (30494 Broad Street). Taxes and attorney fees total \$22,055.63. Mr. Taylor also advised that the property is in the process of foreclosure, and following the signing of the order, a value can be assigned, and the property could also be sold.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to accept Mr. Murphey’s offer to purchase the certificate/foreclosure regarding account 01-004484 in the amount of \$22,055.63. Commissioner Mathies abstained; therefore the motion carried 4-0-1.

A letter was received from Secretary Rahn, Maryland Department of Transportation, advising of the department’s assistance through the Statewide Aviation Grant program. It was noted that the total cost of the project, to assist with environmental mitigation relating to the obstruction removal program, is \$183,732.00 with the State paying up to \$9,186.00 of that amount. Mr. Taylor noted the city/county pay 2.5% respectively.

A copy of the letter sent to Delegate Charles Otto and Senator James Mathias requesting their assistance in sponsoring legislation to increase the annual salary for the Somerset County State’s

Attorney from \$98,000 to \$113,066 was reviewed. It was noted that if passed, the salary adjustment would take effect at the beginning of the next term of office (December 18, 2018).

The Board was advised of the letter sent to Dr. Gaddis, Somerset County School District, cautioning of the grant deadline requirements with regard to the Head Start Design/Construction at Crisfield High School.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board of a pauper burial request for Benjamin Holbrook, who died suddenly, and had no insurance. The request was received from his sister, Ms. Ruth Ballard.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve a \$250.00 appropriation to assist with Mr. Holbrook's burial.

Next, Mr. Taylor presented for discussion, the bid received from DnD Sales, Inc., during the December 27, 2016 meeting for the purchase of the former Captains Galley Restaurant. Mr. Taylor advised the Board that Attorney Simpkins had mailed a letter to the bidder, advising that the county expects the 10% deposit before Tuesday, January 10, 2017. The 10% deposit has not been received as of today's meeting; therefore Mr. Taylor made the recommendation to reject the bid as submitted.

Commissioner Fisher made a motion to not accept the bid as presented from DnD Sales, Inc., for the purchase of the former Captains Galley Restaurant. Commissioner Boston seconded the motion. At this time, Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez entered the meeting and advised that a representative from DnD Sales, Inc., was in the front office, with a check to submit for the 10% deposit regarding the purchase of the Captains Galley Restaurant. Ms. Lopez then gave the check to Mr. Taylor, in the amount of \$4,510.50. As the 10% deposit was now received, Commissioner Fisher withdrew his motion.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Mathies, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher to accept the bid received from DnD Sales, Inc., in the amount of \$45,105.00 for the purchase of the Captain's Galley Restaurant. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Taylor presented the City of Crisfield's nomination for their appointment to the Somerset County Tourism Commission, Mr. Thomas Schisler. If appointed, Mr. Schisler will fill the remaining term of a previous member, expiring January 13, 2018.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to appoint Mr. Thomas Schisler to the Somerset County Tourism Commission.

Commissioner Craig Mathies made a motion to appoint Mr. Kirkwood Cottman to serve as the county's appointment to the Somerset County Tourism Commission, filling the remaining term of a previous member expiring December 30, 2017. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

With no further business, the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, at 2:42 p.m. 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 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; and Section 10-508 (a) (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 to adjourn the Open and Closed Session Meetings at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide



Approved by:
Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County