



AGENDA
June 27, 2017
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
1:00 p.m.

- * 1:00 p.m. - Regular Session/Board of County Commissioners

Appointments:

- * **1:05 p.m. - Closed Session- Mr. Kirk Simpkins, Liquor Control Board**
Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle 3-305 (b) (7) Consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Regular Session:

- * 2:00 p.m. - Proclamation recognizing Mr. James W. Ward, Jr.
- * 2:10 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, Department of Technical and Community Services
 - Plan Approvals/Federal Grant Funding
- * 2:20 p.m. - Ms. Angela Assadi and Mr. Hajir, Princess Anne LLC
 - Request for Tax Exemption
- * 2:30 p.m. - Ms. Rota Knott, Ms. Karen Brimer, Ms. Sheila Warner /Local Management Board
 - Repeal/Amend LMB Resolutions/Bylaws

Correspondence:

Received

- * Maryland Department of the Environment re: FY 18 Capital Budget Grant/Loan Funding Approval
- * Somerset County Department of Social Services re: Board Reappointment Request
- * Maryland Department of Transportation re: County Transportation Revenue Bonds

Sent

Mr. James Ward, Department of Assessments and Taxation re: Official Levy FY18
Mr. Willis Dryden, Somerset County Tax Collection re: Official Levy FY18
Mt. Zion Historical Society re: Letter of Support Request/Mt. Zion Church

Discussion:

1. FAA Grant Application FY17
2. Approval of Proclamation/Mr. Ward

3:00 p.m. - Work Session- Crisfield and Princess Anne Ambulance Squad Funding

- * Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY JUNE 27, 2017

At 1:00 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 not in attendance at this time.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory E. Ebron and County Attorney Mr. Kirk Simpkins 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.

The Board was advised of the need of a Closed Session. Therefore, at 1:01 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, 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) (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

At 2:00 p.m., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County reconvened in Regular Session. Present for the meeting were Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr., and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Aide Lory E. Ebron were also present.

Meeting minutes from the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on June 13, 2017 were presented for the Boards approval. A needed correction to the closed minutes were noted; therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, the Commissioner meeting minutes were approved as presented, and the Closed Session minutes as corrected, were also approved. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Taylor read into record, a proclamation presented to Mr. James W. Ward Jr., in recognition for his retirement from the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Office following 39 years of service. Mr. Ward came forward to accept the proclamation, and the Board thanked him for his many years of dedicated service to Somerset County.

Next, Mr. Gary Pusey was asked to come forward to present a request for the Board's approval regarding two plans which are a requirement for federal grant eligibility. He explained that in order to be eligible to receive federal grant funds such as Community Development Block Grants, certain plans must be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. He noted that the two plans being presented today, were previously adopted, but were only valid for three years, and have therefore expired. The two plans presented for approval today were as follows:

Citizen Participation Plan

This plan requires that public hearings be held prior to the County making application to the State for particular projects so that public input can be obtained on the proposed project, or to advise, in a public hearing format, new projects that should be considered by the county. The Plan further states that the County will provide technical assistance to any group wishing to make an application for federal grant funding, if at all possible, or refer applicants to State agencies who are able to help.

Residential Anti-Displacement Plan

This plan states that the County will make every effort to minimize the involuntary displacement of persons and businesses when using federal grant funds for projects. If homes are demolished, then the County will replace the housing within three years. Mr. Pusey noted that this has not been an issue in Somerset County as all of our home demolitions have been voluntary.

Mr. Pusey closed his comments by advising that if approved, these plans will be valid for a three-year period. He then requested the Board's approval for the President's signature on the plans as submitted.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 to authorize President Laird to sign the Citizen Participation Plan and the Residential Anti-Displacement Plan as presented.

Ms. Angie Assadi and Mr. Hajir, Princess Anne Enterprises, LLC were now before the Board to present their request to apply for a tax exemption as a manufacturer in Somerset County. Mr. Hajir explained he has been in the private poultry industry for 28 years; and with Perdue prior to that. He has been in the United States for 42 years, coming here with the thoughts of developing his own business, which has developed into the small processing plant at the Industrial Park in Princess Anne. He

explained the processes of his business in the manufacturing of this “Kosher Chicken” product, and the success he has had with this business; noting that his business created over 50 jobs in four years, and he hopes to create more. He has also applied for state tax exemptions as well, noting that these tax exemptions will help his business remain in the county.

Ms. Assadi then stated that they are here to request the tax exemption based on the fact that Mr. Hajir’s chicken production, in her opinion, qualifies as a manufacturing product based on the use of labor and machinery. She also stated they would be qualified to apply in that more than 10 jobs have been created.

President Laird advised that the request for exemption, if approved, would be for one tax year, and asked if Mr. Hajir was aware that he would be required to reapply each year. It was also noted that the exemption is limited to five years, and is not guaranteed to be approved. Ms. Assadi and Mr. Hajir stated they are aware.

A brief discussion was held with regard to the amount of Personal Property Tax assessed on the company’s machinery expense (approximately \$1.2 million, with about \$10,000 not exempt). Ms. Assadi also made the request, that if approved, the tax exemption be effective as of 12/15/16, (for personal exemptions filed as of January 1) and also be issued to ‘Ihsan Farms’ (the operating entity for ‘Princess Anne Enterprises, LLC’).

Commissioner Boston questioned the number of employees that are employed living in the county. Ms. Assadi answered that she would estimate approximately 50% based on the processing of payroll, and the addresses of the employees.

The discussion closed with additional information being requested prior to a decision being made. The Board requested that a formal letter be provided, requesting the exemption be provided to include the following information requested:

- Information of addresses for employed residents of Somerset County
- The request to have the exemption issued Ihsan Farms, the operating entity for Princess Anne Enterprises, LLC
- The total equipment expense for the business

Ms. Assadi asked what the time frame would be for a decision to be made. She was advised that if the information requested is provided, a decision could be made at the next scheduled Commissioner meeting (July 11, 2017). Ms. Assadi and Mr. Hajir left the meeting at this time.

Next, Ms. Rota Knott, Ms. Kelly Hawkins and Ms. Karen Brimer came forward with regard to the repeal of prior LMB related resolutions, as well as the request to amend the Bylaws approved on January 17, 2017.

Ms. Brimer explained that as previously discussed during the June 13, 2017 Commissioner meeting, it has been found that Resolution 1108, as presented by the Local Management Board (LMB), appointing the Somerset County Local Addictions Authority as a unit of the Somerset County Health Department, to serve as the instrumentality of Somerset County Government did not work. She stated it was during the last LMB meeting held on June 7, 2017, they voted unanimously to request the Somerset County Commissioners repeal Resolution 1108, and the associated Bylaws, and request a new resolution be adopted re-designating the Somerset County Local Management Board, a non-profit entity, as an instrumentality of local government, fulfilling all functions of the Somerset County Local Management Board. A drafted resolution, with revisions to the Bylaws as previously approved, were distributed for consideration.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, Resolutions 1108, 1091 and 902 will be repealed, and Resolution 1123 will be adopted, designating the non-profit Somerset County Local Management Board, Inc., to serve as a instrumentality of Somerset County Government, responsible for all functions of the Local Management Board pursuant to Title 8 of the Human Services Article. Additionally, the Somerset County Local Management Bylaws as adopted on January 17, 2017 will be amended to designate the non-profit Somerset County Local Management Board, Inc., to serve as a instrumentality of Somerset County Government, responsible for all functions of the Local Management Board pursuant to Title 8 of the Human Services Article. Commissioner Mathies abstained; therefore the motion carried 4-0-1.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A letter was presented that was received from the Maryland Department of the Environment which advised the Somerset County Sanitary District that the FY18 Capital Budget to provide grant and loan funding up to \$4,462,500 for the Deal Island Road Water Main Loop (approximately \$3 million) project and the Smith Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal Upgrade project

(approximately \$10 million). Mr. Taylor noted that the grant funds are not sufficient to fund both projects totally; however it is a start in obtaining funding, of which the Sanitary District is working to achieve for the Smith Island project.

A letter was received from Ms. Claudia Nelson, requesting that Ms. Jackie Wheatley be reappointed to serve a second term as a member of the Somerset County Department of Social Services Advisory Board.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, Ms. Jackie Wheatley was reappointment to serve a second three year term as requested. Commissioner Mathies abstained; therefore the motion carried 4-0-1.

Mr. Taylor next presented for the Boards approval the grant application for Land Acquisition Services for the Obstruction Removal Program for Runway 14-32 to Ms. Mindy Lee, FAA and Mr. Ashish Solanki, MAA. The grant application, in the amount of \$226,877.11 is for the reimbursement of AECOM billings No. 1 through 7, as well as the four easement letters of intent which have been received. Mr. Taylor also advised that the grant amount may increase if the fifth letter of intent is received as expected. Mr. Taylor then requested the Board authorize his signature on the documents and letters presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to authorize Mr. Taylor to sign the grant application and cover letter relating to the FAA/MAA Grant Application for the Land Acquisition Services for the Obstruction Removal Program for Runway 14-32.

Lastly, the proclamation for Mr. James Ward was presented for formal approval.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to approve the proclamation for Mr. Ward as presented.

With no further business, at 2:34 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston, the meeting was adjourned, and a short recess was taken.

At 4:07 p.m. the Open, Closed Session and Work Session Meetings were adjourned.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Secretary