



**AGENDA**  
**July 25, 2017**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**FOR SOMERSET COUNTY**  
**11916 Somerset Avenue**  
**Room 111/Meeting Room**  
**Princess Anne, MD 21853**  
**2:00 p.m.**

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**Appointments:**

- 2:00 p.m. - Public Hearing- CDBG Housing Rehabilitation and Disaster Recovery/  
Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS
- \* 2:20 p.m. - FY18 Rental Allowance Program-Grant Agreement/Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS
- \* 2:25 p.m. - Community Rating System/Ms. Mary Phillips, DTCS
- \* 2:35 p.m. - Dr. John Gaddis and Ms. Linda R. Johnson, Board of Education  
- FY17 Inter-category Budget Transfers and Budget Amendment  
- Fee Waiver Request- JM Tawes Project

**Correspondence:**

**Received**

- Maryland Department of the Environment re: Request for Contact Information
- Charter Communications re: Upcoming Changes
- \* Skipjack Museum & Heritage Center re: Fee Waiver Request
- \* Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Clearinghouse Review – Green Hill Fire Tower  
(Westover Fire Tower)

**Sent**

Ms. Joanna Emely, Somerset County Election Director re: Use of Vacant Office Space  
Mr. and Mrs. Donaway re: Property Purchase  
John Wesley Community Association, Ms. Chanelle White re: Letter of Support  
Ms. Marcia Miller, MD Historical Trust re: Letter of Support/Threatened Sites Survey

**Discussion:**

- \* 1. Ihsan Farms, LLC – Request for Tax Exemption
- \* 2. Mr. Sidney A. Hankerson, UMES re: Letter of Support
- \* 3. Lower Somerset Ambulance Squad Funding

**3:00 p.m. - Closed Session- Mr. Ralph Taylor**

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  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
TUESDAY JULY 25, 2017

At 2:00 p.m. the Board of Somerset County Commissioners met in Regular Session with Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, and Commissioner Craig Mathies, Sr. Commissioner Rex Simpkins was not present at this time.

Also in attendance were County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez.

Minutes from the Regular Session and Closed Session held July 11, 2017 were approved upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher. This motion carried 4-0.

The meeting opened with a Public Hearing with regard to the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation and Disaster Recovery. Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, and Ms. Donna Laird came forward. Mr. Taylor proceeded to read into record the following notice of the Public Hearing:

**“NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY CDBG HOUSING  
REHABILITATION AND DISASTER RECOVERY**

Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at 2 P.M.  
County Commissioners’ Meeting Room, Room 111, 11916 Somerset Avenue  
Princess Anne, Maryland

Somerset County will conduct a Public Hearing to provide citizens with a status report of activities undertaken by the County through its implementation of a Housing Rehabilitation Grant and for four Hurricane Sandy Disaster Recovery Grants at the above-referenced time and location.

The County Commissioners entered into a grant agreement with the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) to use Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for a Housing Rehabilitation Program in July 2016, and for Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts (1) in November 2015 for Housing and Economic Recovery; (2) in February 2016 for the relocation of Head Start to Crisfield High School; (3) in April 2016 for additional funding for Infrastructure projects at Rhodes Point; and (4) in March 2017 for funding for additional infrastructure projects, including engineering for the Fairmount Wastewater Treatment Plant Decommissioning.

A summary of funding allocated and spent on each of these grants will be provided at the Public Hearing.

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. Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County, Randy Laird, President.”

Mr. Pusey advised the Board that all five of the projects are on schedule, and that all of the funds will be used in accordance with the requirements for each grant before their end dates.

Mr. Pusey next summarized the funding usage to date as follows:

1. FY17 Housing Rehabilitation - \$335,000 (MD-17-CD-23) awarded in July 2016. This is a two year grant and to date \$267,000 has been spent, committed, or identified for funding, leaving \$68,000. Mr. Pusey anticipates no issues with spending the remaining funds available before the grant expires in July 2018.
2. Housing and Economic Recovery - \$2.94 Million (MD-14-DR Phase 3) is a continuation of the first Disaster Grant the County received and to date has used \$1.7 Million, leaving \$1.2 Million to be spent by the November 2018 end date. Approximately \$800,000 is remaining to be spent on replacement homes with leftover funds able for job training activity and broadband and economic analysis. Although no funds have been spent yet on broadband and economic analysis, \$400,000 has been budgeted for these projects.
3. Infrastructure - \$2.35 Million (MD-15-DR-1 Phase 2) covers the costs associated with the construction of the Head Start addition/renovation at Crisfield High School, and the demolition of Whittington School. The end date for this grant is August 2017 and per the Board of Education and their Project Manager (Whiting-Tuner) all construction will be completed by this date.
4. Infrastructure - \$4.872 Million (MD-15-DR-1 Phase 3) covers additional funding for the Homeless Shelter near Princess Anne (\$150,000), funding to be provided to the Army Corp of Engineers for the Rhodes Point Jetty (\$1,630,000), and funding for the Rhodes Pt. Shoreline Stabilization project (\$3,092,000). This phase began on April 14, 2016 and is scheduled to end on Jan. 31, 2018.
5. Infrastructure - \$545,000 (MD-15-DR-1 Phase 4) covers additional funding for the Homeless Shelter (\$120,000), funding for the Fairmount Wastewater Plant (WWTP) Decommission Engineering Study (\$225,000), and funding for Project Administration (\$200,000). This grant started on Mar. 31, 2017 and has an end date of Mar. 31, 2019.

With Mr. Pusey's presentation complete, President Laird called the Public Hearing to a close at 2:11 p.m.

Next, Mr. Pusey presented the Grant Agreement for the Rental Allowance Program. This agreement, in the amount of \$40,000.00, will go toward assisting those citizens of the County who need help paying their rent.

On a motion made by Commissioner Mathies, seconded by Commissioner Boston, the Board voted 4-0 to authorize President Laird's signature on the contract for the Rental Allowance Program Grant Agreement.

Mr. Clint Sterling, Director of Recreation and Parks, and Mr. Gene Adkins, Director of Finance, then came before the Board to discuss the new Golf Cart Lease for Great Hope Golf Course.

Commissioner Simpkins entered the board room at this time.

Mr. Sterling advised the Board that the current lease for the fleet of golf carts is nearing its end. He then presented the Board with a new proposed lease agreement that would eliminate the last seven months of our current lease with the new lease payment of \$3,392.70 per month

beginning in May 2018. This new lease would also guarantee the delivery of fifty new 2018 Yamaha Drive2-DC Electric Gold Cars on October 1, 2017.

The Board discussed this proposed lease agreement in length with Mr. Sterling as well as the optional service agreement and other details regarding maintenance, manufacturer warranties, and bidding process. Discussion continued with Mr. Taylor and Mr. Adkins advising the Board that the current lease, when it was approved, had a similar deal as to the one being proposed today (with the Board approving the lease without the bidding process, to which Commissioner Fisher questioned the legality).

Commissioner Fisher then made a motion to approve the lease for the fifty carts, dependent on the legality of the contract, with no service agreement.

The discussion continued with the limited warranty and optional service agreement for the golf carts. At this time, the Board requested Mr. Sterling gather more information for them to make a decision regarding the new lease agreement (as well as seek legal advice as to whether this lease agreement would need to be put out to bid or if the Board can approve without).

Commissioner Fisher then withdrew his motion, and Mr. Sterling and Mr. Adkins left the meeting.

Next, Dr. John Gaddis, Superintendent of Somerset County Schools, and Ms. Linda Johnson, Chief Financial Officer for Somerset County Schools, came before the Board to present another Inter-category Budgetary Transfer and Budget Amendment for FY17 request, within the approved FY17 Operating Budget as shown below:

<u>Category:</u>	<u>Amount of Transfer:</u>
Administration	\$10,000
Mid-Level Administration	\$40,000
Other Instructional Costs	\$11,000
Special Education	\$25,000
Health Services	\$6,000
Student Transportation	\$15,000
Maintenance of Plant	\$50,000
Fixed Charges	(\$157,000)
<u>Operating Budget</u>	<u>\$0</u>

On a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, the Board voted to approve the Inter-category Budgetary Transfer and Budget Amendment for FY17 request, within the approved FY17 Operating Budget as presented. This motion carried 4-0-1 with Commissioner Fisher abstaining from the vote.

Next, Dr. Gaddis provided an update on the JM Tawes Project and presented a request to waive the Forest Conversation Fee of \$250.00 and Stormwater Management Fee of \$800.00, totaling \$1050.00.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the request to waive the fees totaling \$1050.00 for the JM Tawes project.

Dr. Gaddis and Ms. Johnson left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

Contact information was provided per a request from the Maryland Department of the Environment as they are converting from the U.S. Postal Service mailing of enclosed public notices to an electronic format to improve efficiencies and customer service.

Charter Communications advised of price adjustments, including: Broadcast TV Surcharge increasing from \$6.05 to \$7.50, and Spectrum Receivers from \$4.99 to \$5.99 per receiver. The FamilyNet channel has been rebranded as TheCowboyChannel.

A fee waiver request in the amount of \$150.00 for the lot reconfiguration permit for the Skipjack Museum was presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the request to waive the \$150 in fees for the Skipjack Museum's lot reconfiguration permits.

A State Clearinghouse Review project was received for comment, which was submitted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The project is for the demolition and site cleanup of Church Creek, Green Hill, and Powellville Fire Towers (located in Dorchester, Somerset, and Wicomico Counties). A C-5 designation was recommended for this project.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to submit a C-5 designation for the project as recommended.

A memorandum was received from Ms. Erica Ruiz, Director of Human Resources, in regards to the Integra Contracts (Planned Supervision and Administrative Services) for regular employees and a separate contract for retirees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston to authorize President Laird's signature on the contracts. This motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor then presented a letter of support request from Mr. Sidney Hankerson, Grant Coordinator for UMES, for Awareness and Best Marketing Practice Training for Socially Disadvantaged Groups on the Lower Eastern Shore of Delmarva.

On a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, the Board voted 5-0 to approve this letter of support regarding Awareness and Best Marketing Practice Training for Socially Disadvantaged Groups on the Lower Eastern Shore of Delmarva.

Next, Mr. Taylor presented a request for Tax Exemption from Ishan Farms, LLC.

Mr. Gene Adkins returned to the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor provided the information requested at the previous meeting held with representatives from Ishan Farms, LLC, stating that out of 32 employees, 19 live within the Princess Anne zip code. It was also noted that the cost of equipment and machinery is \$1,196,825.00, which Mr. Adkins advised the estimate for abatement would be roughly \$30,000.00.

The Board entered into a discussion pertaining to the request and questioned if the company has filed with the State for their personal property. Mr. Adkins advised that they had not. The discussion continued with the Board giving a consensus to revisit this request after Ishan Farms, LLC has filed for their personal property tax with the State.

The Board was advised for the need of a Closed Session, therefore, on a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Boston, the Regular Session meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m., and the Board entered 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, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The motion carried 5-0.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Kimberly Lopez  
Executive Secretary