

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
MAY 16, 2017

At 7:00 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the County Commissioners Office, Commissioner President Randy Laird declared a Public Hearing open regarding Somerset County's Budget for Fiscal Year 2018. Also in attendance: Commissioner Vice-President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr., Commissioner Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, County Administrator-Clerk, Ralph D. Taylor; Finance Director, Gene Adkins; Executive Aide, Lory E. Ebron; and Internal Auditor, Sharon Muir.

Mr. Taylor began by stating that the Constant Yield advertisement, to announce our hearing, had been published in the May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 publication of the The County Times; and in The Somerset Herald on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The ad was also published in The Daily Times on May 10, 2017. The purpose of tonight's hearing is two-fold:

1. To receive public comment on the proposed budget; and
2. Pursuant to the provision of Section 6-308 of the Property Tax Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, to present the Constant Yield Rate for FY 2018 as \$1.0146 and; the tax rate for FY 2018 as \$1.00 per \$100 of full-value assessment, which is the same for the second consecutive year in a row (FY16 and FY17).

The Budget being discussed tonight is the estimated income and planned expenditures for FY 2018 as discussed by the Board through today, May 16, 2017. Final deliberation on the Budget will continue until Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., at which time the tax rate for FY 2018 will be set. The procedure for the hearing was explained. Anyone wishing to make comments will be asked to come forward, state their name and address, and present their testimony. Written comments on the proposed budget will be accepted for 10 days, until Tuesday June 6, 2017.

Next Mr. Adkins first reported that the Somerset County Board of Education budgeted appropriation included in this budget for FY 2018 will be \$9,741,620 to be paid from the County's General Fund. This compares to \$9,560,044 for FY 2017. He noted that the increase, in the amount of \$181,576, was due to increased projected student enrollment.

At this time, Mr. Adkins presented the budget highlights on PowerPoint as currently drafted. Handouts were provided which included the complete budget detail. The presentation reviewed the decrease of the counties real property assessable tax base of \$8 million, decreasing property tax revenue by \$152,107.00. Mr. Adkins also advised that \$4.06 million in capital projects were approved, including

\$408,000.00 for Waterways, \$1,955,343 for school construction, and \$456,720 for airport projects. A special appropriation was approved for the County Roads Department in the amount of \$1.66 million, which was as a result of continued Maryland Highway User Revenue cuts. It was stated that \$2,561,953 of fund balance will be used to balance the budget, with estimated revenues (totaling \$37,974,978.00) and planned expenditures (totaling \$37,974,978.00) for Fiscal Year 2018. Significant revenues and expenditures were also reviewed. At the conclusion of the budget review, Commissioner President Laird called upon those individuals attending the Public Hearing, asking if they would like to present testimony on the proposed budget.

Mr. Richard Crumbacker, County Times Reporter came forward. Mr. Crumbacker questioned the increase in salaries (as provided under the significant expenditure review), and asked how it will be disbursed.

President Laird stated that questions will be answered in writing. Mr. Taylor noted he would provide the information to Mr. Crumbacker tomorrow.

Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Adkins, Ms. Muir and the Board for all of their hard work noted over these past 6-8 weeks to bring the budget into the presentation provided today. The Board also expressed their thanks to staff as well.

With no further testimony, President Laird declared the public hearing closed at 7:18 p.m.

Written comments will be taken for 10 days.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Lory E. Ebron  
Administrative Aide

Approved By:



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Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County