

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
**SPECIAL SESSION**  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2017

At 1:00 p.m. the Board of Somerset County Commissioners met in Special Session with Commissioner President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Rex Simpkins, and Commissioner Jerry S. Boston. Commissioner Craig Mathies, Sr. was not in attendance at this time.

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

President Laird asked that Commissioner Simpkins lead those in attendance in repeating the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Taylor began by inviting Judge Daniel Long to come forward for a proclamation presentation in honor of his retirement. Judge Long then took a moment to express his gratitude to the Board and to the individuals who assisted him throughout his career, stating that none of this would have been possible without them.

Next, Mr. Gary Pusey and Ms. Donna Laird came before the Board to discuss the Fairmount Decommissioning Project. Mr. Taylor began with an overview of the Fairmount Decommissioning Project, stating that in December of 2016 the Board redirected funds to said project. He continued by advising the Board that, per a conversation with Ms. Cindy Stone from DCHD, that the motion included Manokin. Mr. Taylor continue by explaining that with Manokin included, it may jeopardize the Federal Funds and that it has been strongly advised that Manokin be excluded from the project in order to complete it on time. Mr. Pusey then added that if Manokin were to stay included, the County would have to go through many hoops with the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Department of the Environment as it is not in a priority funding area, and the County would have to receive an exception for that (which is not easily obtained). The discussion continued about future hook-ups for Manokin with Mr. Pusey advising that access points will be installed for that purpose. At this time, the discussion was placed on hold and would continue upon Commissioner Mathies' arrival to the meeting.

Mr. Pusey and Ms. Laird left the meeting at this time

Next, Mr. Taylor advised the Board that Ms. Ann Smith's term as a member of the Somerset County Library System's Board of Trustees will expire this month, and that the Board of Trustees would like to reappoint Ms. Smith to serve another term.

On a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston, the Board voted 4-0 to reappoint Ms. Ann Smith to serve another term as Trustee of the Somerset County Library System.

Mr. Taylor then reviewed sent correspondence with the Board.

Moving on to discussion items, Mr. Taylor addressed the possible donation of two parcels of marsh land (Map 0101 Grid 0014 Parcel 0292 and Map 0101 Grid 0014 Parcel 0294) that the County currently owns to the City of Crisfield as they have expressed an interest since these parcels neighbor the Crisfield Library and City Park.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher to donate the two parcels of marsh land (Map 0101 Grid 0014 Parcel 0292 and Map 0101 Grid 0014 Parcel 0294) to the City of Crisfield. This motion carried 4-0.

The Board then entered into a discussion regarding the Debit Collection Analysis Report forwarded to them from the Sanitary District Commission. Mr. Boston inquired about the figures that were requested by the Board, to which Mr. Taylor advised that they were provided in a handout during the October 10, 2017 meeting. Discussion continued about the figures and Mr. Taylor recommended that the Board request Mr. Stockus and Ms. Mister, from the Sanitary District, be called to the meeting to provide these answers and any others that the Board may have.

Commissioner Mathies entered the meeting at this time.

The rate discussion continued (without Mr. Stockus and Ms. Mister) along with a comparison of the EDU method versus the Front Footage Method and if it would be possible to use both methods instead of one single method. The Board then addressed possibly holding a public hearing for the communities input with President Laird stating that his understanding of the decision process for this topic was that the Sanitary District Commission would hold a public hearing and then a public hearing held by the County Commissioners would follow. In response to President Laird's statement, Mr. Taylor read aloud for the Board 9-567 of the Annotated Code of Maryland Environment Article, Classification and Assessment of Property (C) *Basis of assessment*. — Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the sanitary commission shall assess

property: (1) On a front-foot basis; or (2) Under uniform rules and regulations adopted for the district and approved by the member counties. Mr. Taylor also advised that this same information was advised to him per the County's Attorney.

Upon the all of the information presented during present and past meetings, Commissioner Fisher made a motion that the County accept the Municipal & Financial Services Group's recommendation "that the District adopt a flat fee per EDU for the purposes of collecting revenue to cover its current and future debt service payments, and that the fee be assessed on a quarterly or monthly basis, rather than the current practice of assessing the fee on an annual basis." This motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpkins and carried 3-2 with President Laird and Commissioner Boston in opposition with the motion.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out of the Board room.

Next, Mr. Taylor advised the Board of the need for a formal approval for the proclamation presented to Judge Long.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, to approve the proclamation for Judge Long. This motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor then advised the Board for the need of a Closed Session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, and carried 4-0. However, after the motion was made Mr. Taylor advised the Board that the Fairmount Decommissioning Project discussion needed to be addressed now that Commissioner Mathies was present. Therefore, Commissioner Boston rescinded his motion, and Commissioner Fisher rescinded his second.

During this, President Laird had stepped out of the Board room but shortly returned, along with Commissioner Simpkins.

Mr. Taylor provided a brief update on the Fairmount Decommissioning Project discussion for Commissioner Mathies.

Following this, Commissioner Simpkins rescinded his motion to redirect \$3.8 Million in Hurricane Sandy Funds to the Fairmount/Manokin Decommissioning Project. Commissioner Mathies then rescinded his seconded.

A new motion was then made to redirect \$3.8 Million in Hurricane Sandy Funds to the Fairmount Decommissioning Project. This motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins and

seconded by Commissioner Mathies. It carried 3-2 with President Laird and Commissioner Boston in opposition of the vote.

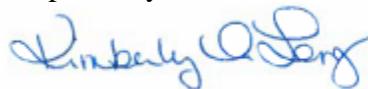
With no further open business to discuss, the Board, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, entered into Closed Session at 1:57 p.m. by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, §3-305 (b)(1)(i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; and (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. This motion carried 5-0.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Kimberly Lopez  
Executive Secretary