



SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA
FEBRUARY 27, 2018
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
2:00 p.m.

Appointment:

- 2:00 p.m. - First Sergeant Edward Bradford, Jr. – 20 Year Service Award Recognition
- 2:05 p.m. - Dr. John Gaddis, Superintendent, Somerset County Public Schools
 - School Security Update
- * 2:20 p.m. - Mr. Gene Adkins Finance Director, Mr. Donald Ford Supervisor
 - Replacement Shed/Dog Control Office- Budget Overage
- * 2:30 p.m. - Mr. John Redden, Public Works and Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director
 - Emergency Services Roof Repairs

Correspondence:

Received

- Wicomico County Natural Resources Conservation Advisory Committee
 - Re: New Invasive Species Program for the Lower Shore of MD
- * Ms. Cindy Stone, MD DHCD re: Grant Agreement MD-18-HI-5 (Catholic Charities Rental Assistance)
- * Ms. Cindy Stone, MD DHCD re: Grant Agreement MD-18-HI-6 (Homeless Shelter Operating)
- Arthur L. Allen, Project Leader UMES re: LOS Appreciation/Grant Agreement
- * Somerset County Liquor Control Board re: Request for Legislation/Alcohol Beverage Article 29-310

Sent

- The Honorable Lawrence Hogan, Jr. re: Letter of Support/Natural Gas
- Maryland General Assembly re: Letter of Support/HB518 (Reform on Tap Act of 2018)
- The Honorable Kumar P. Barve re: Letter of Support HB433 (Change of County Audit Date)
- The Honorable Kumar P. Barve re: Letter of Support HB425 (Increase to Fire Company Appropriation)
- The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser re: Letter of Support HB329 (Economic Impact Scholarship)
- Mr. Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health re: Somerset County Health Officer Retirement
- Mr. James Tabor re: Waiver of Landfill Tipping Fees
- Mr. Leon J. Bivens, Jehovah's Witness Westover Congregation re: Waiver of Permit Fees
- Ms. Denise R. Jones re: Request to Rescind Property Purchase
- Mr. Julian Vismale re: Property Purchase Request

Discussion:

- * 1. Public Drainage Association Annual Meetings- Tax Levy 2018-2019
- * 2. Administrative Leave/Election Judges
- * 3. Adult Guardianship Review Board Vacancy (2)
- * 4. Agricultural Reconciliation Board Vacancy (1)
- * 5. LOS request from Judge Dan Powell/Recovery Court
- * 6. Letter of Appreciation/Not My Child Initiative

3:00 p.m. - Closed Session- Mr. Ralph Taylor, Ms. Erica Yeager, Mr. Bob Sadzinski PPRP, Mr. Kirk Simpkins

Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle 3-305 (b) (1) 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 (b)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

- * Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2018

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 Craig N. Mathies, Sr., and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

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.

Closed Session Summary Report February 27, 2018

On February 27, 2018, at 3:12 p.m. until 4:55 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to enter into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle 3-305 (b)(1) 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 (b)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Present for the Closed Session Meeting were President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Rex Simpkins and Commissioner Craig Mathies Sr. Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, Mr. Bob Sadzinski, Mr. Gary Pusey, Ms. Kristen Tremblay and Attorney Kirk Simpkins. Topics discussed were: (1) potential litigation (2) legal consultation (3) request for temporary employee. Actions taken during closed session: (1) none.

Meeting minutes were presented for 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 as presented from February 6, 2018 and the Special Session and Closed Session meeting minutes from February 13, 2018.

Mr. Taylor asked First Sergeant Edward Bradford, Jr., to come forward to receive recognition for his twenty years of service. Joining Mr. Bradford was Sheriff Ronnie Howard. Mr. Bradford was congratulated on reaching this significant milestone, and the Board expressed their appreciation for his years of service.

Next, Dr. John Gaddis, SCPS Superintendent and Chairman Warner Sumpter, Board of Education came forward to provide a school security update in light of the recent tragic event occurring in Florida. Dr. Gaddis discussed safety and increased security at our schools. He advised that the State has been helpful, noting he was not asking for any additional funding assistance at this time. Parents have called expressing their ideas and he noted that a number social media situations have occurred, and been addressed accordingly. He told the Board that a student walkout has been planned for March 20 and April 20th. However he advised that they are working with the students to plan something organized that will be held indoors. He also discussed how “robo-calling” is being utilized to notify parents immediately of any threat level. President Laird complimented the Opioid Forum that was held at Crisfield High School. Chairman Sumpter then explained how they are working to expand to have the information available in other areas, citing billboards as one example. Dr. Gaddis and Chairman Sumpter were thanked for all they are doing to protect our students and teachers; and for attending the meeting today to provide the information.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, along with Ms. Cindy Pruitt and Mr. Paul Harrison, Dog Control were now present to discuss the purchase of a shed for the Dog Control Office. Mr. Adkins explained that during last year’s budget deliberation, the request made to purchase the shed was approved. Three quotes were received at that time, and it was noted that the low bid was received from Backyard Escapes in Pocomoke for \$4,500, however it was realized afterward that the garage door was not included in the bid. Some time passed, and the vendor Backyard Escapes, after receiving verbal approval to proceed, went forward with building the shed with the garage door, at a cost of \$5,900.00; higher than the original bids received. This cost also is higher than what was budgeted. The Board discussed the matter as to how it should be handled, and it was decided to seek legal counsel before a decision is rendered.

Mr. John Redden, Public Works, Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Maintenance and Solid Waste and Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services Director were now before the Board to discuss the needed roof repairs to the Emergency Services Department. Noting that they had come before the Board at a previous meeting, the decision rendered at that time was to seek bid

proposals for the needed roof repairs. However, there are more leaks than additionally thought, and with the amount of rain we have been receiving, there is great concern that critical damage could occur to the equipment in the department if repairs are not made sooner. A quote has been received from Peninsula Roofing to make the needed repairs in the amount of \$47,500 and Mr. Redden explained that due to concerns of water damaging the equipment in the Emergency Center, time is of the essence, and he requested approval to move forward with repairs. The timeline to have the work proceed versus placing the project out for bid was discussed as well as the current condition of the roof. It was recommended that the backup center be used if needed.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, due to the urgency of the matter, it carried 5-0 to approve moving forward with the needed roof repairs as provided by Peninsula Roofing in the amount of \$47,500.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A letter was received from Wicomico County Natural Resources Conservation Advisory Committee as a follow up to the information provided during a previous meeting regarding the New Invasive Species Program for the Lower Shore of Maryland.

Two Grant Agreements were received regarding approved CDBG funding, in the amount of \$130,000 for Catholic Charities Rental Assistance (MD-18-HI-5) and \$150,000 for the Homeless Shelter Operating (MD-18-HI-6). A request was presented for the President's signature on the grant agreements as presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, President Laird was authorized to sign the grant agreement for Catholic Charities Rental Assistance (MD-18-HI-5) in the amount of \$130,000. The motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston, President Laird was authorized to sign the grant agreement for the Homeless Shelter Operating (MD-18-HI-6) in the amount of \$150,000. The motion carried 5-0.

A letter was received from the Somerset County Liquor Control Board to request legislation to increase the reserve fund and the distribution amount for each dispensary. Our legislators have advised that it may be too late to be able to get the request in for this year; and it may be more prudent to pre-file early next year. A letter of support will be needed as well. Mr. Hogg has advised that this legislation is not critical to be submitted this year. It was therefore the consensus of the Board to advise the Somerset County Liquor Control Board to present the request next year.

Mr. Taylor reviewed the letter sent to Governor Hogan in support of the efforts of bringing Natural Gas to Somerset County. It was noted that a meeting is being held with our local delegation in Annapolis tomorrow. Commissioner Vice President Fisher plans on attending the meeting.

A letter of support was sent to the Members of the Maryland General Assembly expressing support of HB518 (Reform on Tap Act).

A letter of support was submitted to the Honorable Kumar P. Barve with regard to our proposed legislation regarding the Change to County Audit End Date (HB433) and the Increase to Fire Company Appropriation (HB425).

A letter of support was also provided to the Honorable Anne R. Kaiser in support of HB329, the Economic Impact Scholarship Program.

Next, Mr. Taylor presented Tax Year 2018-2019 Tax Levy Rates for the Public Drainage Associations as follows:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it was carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Upper Manokin Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2018-2019 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Upper Manokin PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to re-nominate Mr. Buddy Powell to serve as Manager for another three-year term, with Mr. Jerry Bozman and Mr. Tom Pinto continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it was carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Dividing Creek Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2018-2019 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Barkley's Branch PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$7.00 per acre
Woodland	\$3.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$30.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to re-nominate Mr. Tommy Johnson to a three-year term as Manager; with Mr. Jimmy Johnson, Mr. Roger Richardson and Mr. Eric Culver continuing on from a previous term.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it was carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Handy Church Public Watershed Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2018-2019 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Handy Church PWA as follows:

Cropland	\$0.00 acre
Woodland	\$0.00 acre
Minimum Billing	\$50.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Boston, it was carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Thomas Watkins to serve a

three-year term as Manager, with Mr. Larry Van Story and Mr. Bernard Johnson continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it was carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Passerdyke Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2018-2019 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Tony's Branch PDA as follows:

Cropland	\$4.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$20.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it was carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Gene Donalds for a three-year term as Manager, with Mr. Bob Gannon and Mr. Charles Fleming III continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Barkley's Branch Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2018-2019 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Barkley's Branch PDA to **increase the Cropland and Woodland rates by \$.50** cents as follows:

Cropland	\$4.00 per acre
Woodland	\$2.00 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$20.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it was carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to re-nominate Ms. Ingrid Balea for a three-year term as Manager, with Ms. Maureen Houlihan and Mr. John Bromley continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Tony's Branch Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2018-2019 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Tony's Branch PDA **to increase the Cropland and Woodland rates by \$.50** cents as follows:

Cropland	\$4.00 per acre
Woodland	\$2.00 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to concur with their recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Gary Rathcamp for another three-year term as Manager, with Mr. Lee West and Mr. Tommy Smith III continuing on from a previous appointment.

Next, the Board revisited the request made by Ms. Joanna Emely, Board of Elections to offer administrative leave to county employees serving as Election Judges. It was noted that as requested, Ms. Emely advertised the need for Election Judges, and received four responses. However she stated she still requires 10 back up judges; and reiterated her request to offer administrative leave to county employees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher to allow county employees to receive administrative leave pay when serving as an Election Judge. Commissioner Mathies seconded the motion. Commissioner's Simpkins and Boston opposed, and President Laird voted in favor; therefore the motion carried 3-2.

A letter of support request was received from Judge Daniel Powell regarding his request for grant funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts to initiate a Somerset County Recovery Court.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston to approve the letter of support as requested by Judge Powell. The motion carried 5-0.

A letter of appreciation was presented for the Boards approval addressed to Ms. Karen Brimer, Somerset County Local Management Board on behalf of the efforts made regarding the Not My Child Initiative.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to approve the letter of appreciation as presented.

President Laird requested a letter be drafted to be sent to the local papers expressing the Boards appreciation of the Not My Child Initiative efforts. The Board was in consensus to have a letter drafted and sent to the local papers to express their gratitude.

With no further business, at 3:12 p.m., the Board was advised of the need of a Closed Session. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to enter into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland Section Subtitle 3-305 (b) (1) 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 (b)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

At 4:55 p.m. the Open and Closed Session meetings were adjourned.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide