



**AGENDA**  
**October 2, 2018**  
**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. - Open Session** – Presentation of Meeting Minutes for Approval

**1:05 p.m. - Closed Session- Ralph D. Taylor, Gary Pusey, Erica Yeager, Kirk Simpkins**

Authority of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland § 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 (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; and (8) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

**1:30 p.m. - Open Session:**

**Correspondence:**

**Received**

- Ms. Elizabeth Nashold, Director/Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of the Navy re: EIS/OEIS Study
- \* Mr. Ed Goyda, Library Director re: Library Board Appointment
- \* Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS re: Housing Board of Review Reappointments (4)

**Sent**

Governor's Office of Rural Broadband: Rural Broadband Expansion  
Dr. Heidi M. Anderson, UMES President re: Welcome Letter  
Ms. Jennifer McShane re: Surplus Property Purchase  
Ms. Janet McIntyre re: Planning Commission Appointment  
Mr. Marion Mister re: Seafood Reconciliation Board Reappointment  
Mr. John Barnette re: Seafood Reconciliation Board Reappointment

**Discussion:**

- \* 1. Treasurer's Office/Circuit Court

**Appointments:**

- 2:00 p.m. - Maryland Department of Transportation
  - Consolidated Transportation Program Tour
- \* 2:30 p.m. - Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director Solid Waste and Maintenance
  - Bid Opening- Generator Installation Sheriff's Office
- \* 2:35 p.m. - Ms. Sherree Marshall, Director Department of Aging
  - SSTAP Agreement FY19
- \* 2:40 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey – Rural Legacy Sponsorship

\* Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2018

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, 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 October 2, 2018**

On October 2, 2018, at 1:03 p.m. until 1:38 p.m. at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to enter into Closed Session by Authority of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland §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 (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; and (8) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

Present for the Closed Session Meeting were President Randy Laird, Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Craig Mathies Sr., and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, HR Director Erica Yeager, Director Gary Pusey and Attorney Kirk Simpkins.

Topics discussed were: (1) Hiring/Office Assistant II (2) Health Officer Interviews (3) Pending litigation (4) Potential Litigation (5) Submission of "Request for Interest". Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to hire Office Assistant II (2) Consensus to move forward with Request for Interest (3) Approval to move forward regarding litigation (4) Approval to negotiate potential litigation.

---

Meeting minutes were presented for approval regarding the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on September 11, 2018 (Special Session) and September 18, 2018. Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Boston seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

The Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session at 1:03 p.m.

Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins the Board entered into Closed Session by Authority of the General Provisions 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 (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; and (8) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

At 1:38 p.m., the Board resumed Open Session upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher. The motion carried 5-0.

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.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A letter was received from Mr. Ed Goyda advising that the Library Board of Trustees has recommended the Board's consideration to appoint Ms. Karen Riggin to the Library Board of Trustees to fill the current vacancy (Heather Hurst).

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to appoint Ms. Karen Riggin to the Library Board of Trustees, expiring in July 2023.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Department of Technical and Community Services advised that four members of the Housing Board of Review terms are expiring. Mr. Eugene Borden, Ms. Rosalie White, Ms. Alice Gardner and Ms. Jacqueline Collins have all said they would like to continue serving. If approved, their terms will expire in 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher to reappoint Mr. Eugene Borden, Ms. Rosalie White, Ms. Alice Gardner and Ms. Jacqueline Collins to another three-year term on the Housing Board of Review. Commissioner Boston seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Next, Mr. Taylor discussed a request received from Judge Powell to move Circuit Court functions from the Annex to the former Treasurer's Office building. Expenses are expected to be minimal, as only phones and internet services, and a thorough office cleaning are needed to move the offices to the new location. Once these offices are moved, demolition of the Annex can commence.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 5-0 to approve moving the Circuit Court functions from the Annex to the former Treasurer's Office building as presented.

A recess was taken at 1:45 p.m.

At 2:00 p.m., the Board of County Commissioners Regular Session meeting resumed. 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. Also coming forward at this time were the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation Mr. Pete Rahn and staff for the annual Consolidated Transportation Program Tour (CTP) here to present the draft CTP for FY19-FY24. Mr. Rahn thanked the Board for the meeting invitation today, stating it nice seeing everyone again. He began by introducing the MDOT staff present with him today: Rashad Johnson (MVA), Jeannie Fazio (MTA), Greg Slater and Jay Meredith (SHA), Ashish Solanki (MAA), Melissa Williams (MTA) and Tom Kirk (Secretary's Office).

Secretary Rahn thanked the Board for agreeing to visit at the summer MACo conference this past August. He reviewed the Hogan Administration's declaration for Maryland to be "Open for Business", noting the Governor's commitment of \$16 Billion in total funding for Maryland Transportation; 53% going towards roads and bridges, in line with the Governor's commitment made in 2015 for bridge funding. The Hogan Administration's commitment to Somerset County was then reviewed which included the road paving projects started this spring totaling \$9 million, the addition of a right turn lane at Route 413/Tulls Corner Road, and additional lighting to be installed on the Pocomoke River Bridge. Also mentioned was the MD

364/Dividing Creek Bridge project, planned to begin in summer 2019. Over the next four years, Somerset County is expected to receive \$5.4 million in Highway User Revenue funding, as well as a \$473,000 grant recently awarded by Governor Hogan.

Reviews by each MDOT department present continued. Mr. Johnson, from the Motor Vehicle Administration, presented the Safe Driving Pledge, and asked all those present today to sign the pledge and to also spread the word to county schools, children and grandchildren and share the importance of good driving habits by setting a good example. Ms. Fazio then reported that \$210,000 has been committed to the Somerset County Department on Aging. Also, Mr. Solanki advised that \$9,000 has been allotted from CTP funding for air safety regarding the Obstruction and Removal project at the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport. Ms. Williams from the Maryland Transportation Authority advised that EZ Pass transponders has gone up to 15.1% in Somerset County, with a total 1445 transponders issued to residents within the county.

Secretary Rahn discussed the requirement of the tour, to present information relating to funding provided throughout the state, with much of the information not specifically pertaining to Somerset County. He noted that it is his intention to make Somerset County aware of what is going on statewide, and he is looking for opportunities to assist, by offering contact with those within his department who have expertise opinions; and he welcomed conversations to continue as they are very important to MDOT. In closing, Secretary Rahn discussed the Maryland Transportation Plan, which is separate from the CTP, as a 20-year vision for transportation in the state, required by state law. He advised the draft plan is currently available online with a 60-day comment period. He urged the Board to look at the document and provide feedback.

Following the summaries provided by each state department represented today, President Laird opened the floor to any questions or comments the Board may have. He advised that Senator Mathies, due to a previous commitment, was unable to attend the tour today, however he asked that his support of Somerset County and its needs be noted.

Commissioner Fisher first stated his appreciation of the paving performed at Tulls Corner Road which was very much needed, thanking MDOT for all that has been done, understanding that limited funds are available. He also questioned the unavailability of flights to/from the Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport to BWI. Mr. Solanki explained that the reasoning is airline economics, a decision made by American Airlines, who owns Piedmont.

Commissioner Simpkins complimented the Salisbury MVA personnel for the speedy and pleasant service he received during his last two visits.

Commissioner Boston also thanked those present for the work completed on Tulls Corner Road, noting the work looked great. He also thanked the MDOT for what has been done for Shore Transit and the Senior Center. A short discussion was held regarding the Dividing Creek bridge, which has been scheduled to occur after school is out next year, and before harvest season begins. Intentions are to accelerate this project within a 3-month period, so that it will be less of a convenience to our local residents and farmers.

Commissioner Mathies expressed his gratitude for the work completed around the county, especially at the UMES round-a-bout. He complimented the repairs made to the peeling paint, and inquired if there was a product available that was more durable to use. It was noted that at this time, a product has not been found, and the concrete, which was power washed to have the peeling paint removed, will remain unpainted.

Delegate Otto spoke, thanking the President and members of the Commission. He also thanked MDOT representatives here today for the expected lighting work to be performed on the Pocomoke River Bridge. He stated it was good news to hear that the Dividing Creek Bridgework has been planned and he appreciated the timely fashion of the project. He also stated his appreciation of the clearing of our roadways when it snows, and also expressed his appreciation for Highway User Revenues, asking them to keep up the good work and share what you can. Delegate Otto also discussed the railroad system Somerset County, noting its importance to the poultry and fertilizer business. He advised that he was asked to write a letter of recommendation with regard to the Pocomoke Rail Bridge, and he requested that the project be put on the MDOT roles if at all possible.

Delegate Mary Beth Carozza next thanked the Secretary for bringing his team down, and the Commissioners for hosting the meeting. She noted the meetings are very important, as they give a report to taxpayers and our partners, and provides an opportunity to hear where we are with certain projects. She noted the acceleration of the project as good news and as we work on projects individually, a premium is put on safety, and as more projects for Somerset County come forward, she asks that they be moved up on the list to underscore and improve safety. Delegate Carozza also thanked Governor Hogan for his focus on returning Highway User funds, and stated her commitment to work with the County Commissioners on county projects as well.

Mr. Rick Pollitt, City of Crisfield also thanked the President, Commissioners, Secretary and staff. He also expressed his thanks to Governor Hogan for restoring highway user revenues, noting that every penny coming to Crisfield gets roads improved. He also expressed his

gratitude to the local representatives for the county and city, Mr. Jay Meredith and Mr. Ashish Solanki. He stated Mr. Meredith has been terrific as successor to Donnie Drewer, doing an outstanding job, and Mr. Solanki has also been a terrific supporter of the Crisfield-Somerset County airport. He noted an upcoming meeting with Dr. Anderson, UMES President, noting that with the UMES Aviation program, the opportunity to establish a partnership with their program would be a big step in the right direction. He noted the grant for a park at the southern end of the bike trail. He also mentioned the Smith Island Study, which included the Ferry Study for Smith Island to look at a better organized and reliable transportation system. He closed by saying anything that can be done to put added weight to the study would be appreciated.

After also thanking the Board of Commissioners and the MDOT team here today, Ms. Traci Grangier, Town of Princess Anne noted Town support of the Mt. Vernon Road Pedestrian Study, and she thanked the Board of Commissioner's for the support letter provided. She also discussed the widening of West Post Office Road, noting the difficulty trucks have when making the turn. She also expressed the Town's gratitude to the Somerset County SHA office who have been awesome, and help with whatever is needed.

Lastly, President Laird requested a review of each item noted in the Priority Letter for recommended transportation improvements:

- Westover to Crisfield Bike Trail- funded/in permitting process
- Deceleration lane MD 413 North/Marion – completed
- Deceleration lane MD 413 South/Westover- under review
- Widening of MD388/MD675 – in long range plan
- Improved pedestrian and cyclist access US Route 13/MD362 – under review
- Dualization of MD Route 413 – in inventory- long range project is continuously downgraded by higher priority projects
- Acceleration lane US13 North/MD 667 - new addition/will review

The Board thanked Secretary Rahn and his staff for coming to the meeting today and providing the CTP information.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance, came forward at this time to accept sealed bids received with regard to the Generator Installation Project for the Sheriff's Office. Bids received were as follows:

<u>Bidder:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Barnes Electric	\$37,800
Carter Electric	\$48,995

Being this was the second bid solicitation advertised for this project, Mr. Cavanaugh made the recommendation to award the bid to the low bidder, Barnes Electric, with the bid award pending his final review.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to award the Sheriff's Office Generator Installation project to Barnes Electric for \$37,800 pending Mr. Cavanaugh's review.

Ms. Sherree Marshall came forward at the time to present the FY19 SSTAP grant agreement. Ms. Marshall noted that the grant amount was revised to \$117,447, the same amount received for FY18, as the General Assembly did not approve the proposed increase for FY19.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to approve the President's signature on the SSTAP grant for FY19 for \$117,447.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Planning Director, came forward at this time to present a request to transfer the Nature Conservancy's duties to the Lower Shore Land Trust regarding the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area. He explained that on January 9, 2007, the Board of Commissioners agreed to co-sponsor the program with the Nature Conservancy and Worcester County. Ms. Liz Zucker, with the Nature Conservancy, has handled all the duties associated with the program. Ms. Zucker has informed Somerset County that she will be retiring in March 2019, and there is no replacement. Ms. Zucker has advised that the Lower Shore Land Trust is capable of taking over her duties regarding the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area. Mr. Pusey then requested the Board's approval to transfer the duties previously performed by the Nature Conservancy to the Lower Shore Land Trust. He advised that a Memorandum of Understanding will be prepared for all parties to sign if the request is approved.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 5-0 to approve the transfer the duties previously performed by the Nature Conservancy to the Lower Shore Land Trust.

With no further business, at 2:52 p.m. upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, the Commissioner Open and Closed Session meetings were adjourned. The motion carried 5-0.

Approved by:



---

Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



---

Lory E. Ebron  
Executive Aide