



AGENDA
October 16, 2018
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
2:00 p.m.

Appointments

- 2:00 p.m. - 30 Year Service Award Presentation- Ms. Stephanie Fykes
- 2:05 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS
 - FY 2019 Grant Agreement Approval for Rural Legacy

Correspondence:

Received

- Mr. Ronald L. Frampton, Chairman/Selective Service System re: Draft Board Vacancy
- * Mr. Ashish J. Solanki, MAA re: Grant Agreement MAA-GR-19-015
- Mr. Marvin Johnson, Manager, Land & Right of Way/Eastern Shore Natural Gas re: FERC Application
- Mr. Eric Collins, Charter Communications re: Pricing Adjustments
- Ms. Cindy Stone, DHCD re: Sale of Surplus Homes
- Ms. Genevieve LaRouche, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service re: Eastern Black Rail Endangered Species

Sent

- The Honorable Daniel Powell re: Circuit Court Annex/Former Treasurers Office
- Secretary David Brinkley, Dept. of Budget and Management re: Tourism Exhibit Center
- Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS re: Housing Review Board Reappointments
- Mr. Ed Goyda, Director re: Library Board of Trustees Appointment

Discussion:

- * 1. Pauper Burial Request – Garnett A. Brown, Jr.
- * 2. Proclamation Approval
- * 3. Workforce Development Board Vacancy (3)
- * 4. Agricultural Reconciliation Board Vacancy (1)
- * 5. Adult Guardianship Review Board Vacancy (2)
- * 6. Eastern Shore Area Health Ed. Center BOD Vacancy (1)

Closed Session- Ralph D. Taylor

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.

- * Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY OCTOBER 16, 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 October 16, 2018

On October 16, 2018, at 2:18 p.m. until 2:22 p.m. at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston, 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.

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 and Executive Aide Lory Ebron. Topics discussed were: (1) Probationary employee status. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to move employee from probationary to permanent employee status.

Meeting minutes were presented for approval regarding the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on October 2, 2018. Commissioner Boston made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Stephanie Fykes and Sheriff Ronnie Howard came forward at this time in recognition of Ms. Fykes' 30 years of service to Somerset County. Following the presentation of the certificate of recognition, the Board personally thanked Ms. Fykes for her many years of service.

Mr. Gary Pusey and Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Department of Technical and Community Services came forward. Mr. Pusey first presented the FY19 Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Grant

Agreement in the amount of \$1,060,000 proposed to purchase easements on two properties within Somerset County totaling 185 acres, and one property in Worcester County. County Attorney Simpkins has reviewed the agreement and found it legally sufficient.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to authorize President Laird to sign the FY19 Dividing Creed Rural Legacy Grant Agreement as presented.

Next, Mr. Pusey distributed a letter to each Commissioner from Ms. Liz Zucker, thanking the Board and the Somerset County planning staff for all of their support provided to the Nature Conservancy and the sponsorship of the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area.

Last, Mr. Pusey provided the letter drafted for President Laird's signature regarding the transfer of sponsorship from the Nature Conservancy to the Lower Shore Land Trust, with Ms. Zucker's departure from the Nature Conservancy. The transfer of sponsorship was approved during the last commissioner meeting held on October 2, 2018. Mr. Pusey also advised that his office is working on the drafting of responsibilities and duties that will be reviewed by Attorney Simpkins before submission to the Board for their review/approval.

Mr. Taylor presented the Maryland Department of Transportation Grant Agreement (MAA-GR-19-015) for the President's signature. The grant, in the amount of \$9,133.00, is the states 5% portion to assist with easement acquisition and obstruction removal design services at the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, it carried 5-0 to authorize President Laird to sign the MAA grant as presented.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A letter was received from the Selective Service System, Maryland Local Board 066 for Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties advising of a vacancy for a member residing in Somerset County. Any interested persons willing to serve can apply online at the Selective Service System website (www.sss.gov).

Our office was advised that Eastern Shore Natural Gas has filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on September 14, 2018 requesting a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct, own, operate and maintain the Del-Mar Energy Pathway project (6.83 miles of mainline pipeline extension in Wicomico and Somerset Counties). The complete application is available at the Princess Anne Library.

Charter Communications advised in their letter dated September 28, 2018 of rate increases to the following services: Broadcast TV, Digital Receivers, Digital Transport Adapter and Latino View.

A letter received from Ms. Cindy Stone, Department of Housing and Community Development advised of the process Somerset County must comply with regarding the sale of surplus homes, that were purchased as temporary housing for Hurricane Sandy home replacement residents. Mr. Taylor advised that a meeting is scheduled with Ms. Stone on Thursday, and he will discuss the matter further with her at that time.

An email was received from Ms. Genevieve LaRouche, U.S. Fish and Wildlife advising that the Eastern Black Rail is under consideration to be placed on the Endangered Species List. Additional information can be found at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife website (www.fws.gov). A 60-day comment period on this proposed rule will expire on December 10, 2018.

A pauper burial request for assistance was received from the brother of Garnett A. Brown, Jr., who passed away without resources to handle his final expenses. Mr. Brown was a long time resident of Somerset County.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve a \$250.00 payment to Anthony E. Ward Funder Home to assist with Mr. Brown's expenses.

Mr. Taylor requested the Boards approval to prepare a proclamation in recognition of Mr. Bill Sammler, who has retired from the National Weather Center, Wakefield, Virginia, following over 34 years of service. Mr. Taylor noted Mr. Sammler's direct assistance with Somerset County in assisting our county in becoming "Storm-Ready" as well as working directly with us regarding severe emergency weather events over the years.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to approve a proclamation in recognition of Mr. Sammler's retirement. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board of the need to enter 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.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Boston, the Board entered into Closed Session at 2:18 p.m. The motion carried 5-0.

With no further business, at 2:22 p.m. upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Fisher, 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