



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

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**Appointments:**

- 2:00 p.m. - Mr. Eddie Somers Proclamation Presentation
- 2:05 p.m. - CHS Girls Field Hockey Team Proclamation Presentation
- 2:10 p.m. - CHS Boy Soccer Team Proclamation Presentation
- 2:20 p.m. - Dr. John Gaddis Proclamation Presentation
- Dr. Richard Warren Proclamation Presentation
- 2:25 p.m. - Dr. John Gaddis and Ms. Danielle Haley SCPS- FY20 Capital Improvement Plan
- 2:30 p.m. - Public Hearing - General Obligation/Emergency Services Radio Equipment Upgrade
- 2:40 p.m. - Mr. Gene Adkins and Mr. Chris Woodward
- Phone System Change Order
- 2:45 p.m. - Mr. Charles Cavanaugh
- Bid Opening/Off Road Ditch Maintenance Project-Asbury Avenue/Crisfield

**Correspondence:**

**Received**

Comcast re: Price Changes  
Eastern Shore Natural Gas re: Open House Meeting  
US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission re: Notice of Schedule/Del-Mar Energy Pathway Project

**Discussion:**

- \* 1. Proclamation Approval (2)
- \* 2. Surplus Property (1)

**3:00 p.m. Closed Session – Mr. 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  
November 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, and Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr., was absent from the meeting at this time.

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 Fisher to lead those attending the meeting in repeating the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Closed Session Summary Report November 27, 2018**

On November 27, 2018, at 2:50 p.m. until 3:22 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 4-0 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 Jerry S. Boston, Commissioner Craig Mathies Sr., and Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Commissioner Vice President Charles F. Fisher was absent from the meeting.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, HR Director Erica Yeager, Tourism Director Julie Widdowson, and Recreation and Parks Director Clint Sterling. Topics discussed were: (1) Employee suspensions (2) Part-time employee termination (3) Hiring of Office Assistant I. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to terminate part-time employee (2) Approval to hire Office Assistant I.

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Meeting minutes were presented for approval regarding the Commissioner meeting held on November 13, 2018. Commissioner Boston made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Eddie Somers came forward at this time to present the Board of Commissioners with his personal expression of gratitude for the past year, a Smith Island cake. Mr. Somers gave his

appreciation of the Boards willingness to work with them, and that he was looking forward to working together another year. Mr. Somers said that he appreciates what the Commissioners do for not only Smith Island but the county as a whole. President Laird thanked Mr. Somers for the cake. Mr. Somers was then asked to remain to accept a proclamation upon the announcement of his retirement from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fishing and Boating Services and Hydrographic Operations after 29 years of dedicated service. The Board congratulated Mr. Somers on his well-deserved retirement, and offered him their best wishes to him and his family.

Mr. Taylor advised that the High School proclamation recipients were running late, and therefore asked Dr. John Gaddis, Superintendent and Ms. Daniele Haley, Supervisor of Facilities & Capital Planning, SCPS came forward at this time to present the FY20 Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Haley explained that she and Dr. Gaddis were here today to seek the Boards approval for final submission of the FY20 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to the Maryland Public School Construction Program. Ms. Haley explained that also provided to the Board today is the FY19 Educational Facilities Master Plan, due in July. Funding was requested for \$3,161,000, the balance needed to complete the JM Tawes project. Ms. Haley advised however, that approval has been received in the amount of \$2,371,000 and therefore, she, Mr. Davis and Dr. Gaddis will be heading to Baltimore to seek approval for the funding shortage. Commissioner Simpkins asked about the two plans (A and B) being proposed: to enlarge and improve an elementary school or build a new school for all north county students. Dr. Gaddis explained that as he has previously mentioned that the model has changed for how elementary schools are being structured, and that being said, any changes look to be 5-7 years out.

Commissioner Mathies joined the meeting at this time.

Dr. Gaddis explained the plan differences in more detail, and advised that future decisions may be forced to be based of the handling of funding.

Ms. Haley then requested the Boards approval for the President's signature certifying that the Somerset County Commissioners received and reviewed the FY20 Capital Improvement Plan and are in support of the project request in the plan.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve the President's signature on the letter as presented for the FY20 Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Taylor then asked Dr. Gaddis to remain to accept a proclamation recognizing his naming as Maryland's Superintendent of the Year. Mr. Taylor read the proclamation into the record, and the Board expressed their sincere appreciation to Dr. Gaddis for all of his work and effort to positively influence our future leaders of tomorrow.

Next, the Crisfield High School Girls Field Hockey Team were invited to come forward to accept a proclamation honoring their outstanding 2018 season.

Following the girls Field Hockey Team, the Crisfield High School Boys Soccer Team were asked to come forward to accept a proclamation honoring their 2018 season, and advancement to the Regional Championship.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A letter was received from Comcast advising of upcoming price changes effective December 20, 2018.

Eastern Shore Natural Gas sent an invitation letter regarding their Open House Meeting being held on Thursday November 29, 2018 for the Somerset Extension portion of the Del-Mar Energy Pathway Project. The Open House Meeting will be held from 4-7 pm at JM Bennett High School, Salisbury, Maryland.

A Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) notice of schedule was received regarding Docket No. CP18-548-000 (Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company). The schedule of Environmental Review, Issuance of EA will be held on April 1, 2019. The 90-day Federal Authorization Decision Deadline date is June 30, 2019.

Mr. Taylor requested a formal motion to approve the proclamation for Mr. Eddie Somers upon the occasion of his retirement from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fishing and Boating Services and Hydrographic Operations.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Boston, it carried 5-0 to approve the proclamation for Mr. Eddie Somers.

Next, Mr. Taylor requested the Boards approval to prepare a proclamation for Mr. Michael Pennington, Tri-County Council for the Lower Shore upon recognition of his retirement to be presented in December.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher to approve the proclamation for Mr. Michael Pennington. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Taylor presented an offer for the purchase of surplus property from Mr. Robert A. Gunter, Jr. Mr. Gunter is offering \$600.00 plus closing costs to purchase Account 12-003730, 3146 Calvary Road, Crisfield, Maryland. Mr. Taylor advised that the half-deed price was \$2,389.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Fisher to accept Mr. Gunter's price of \$600.00 plus closing costs to purchase 3146 Calvary Road, Crisfield, Maryland. The motion carried 5-0.

Vice President Fisher left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services Director and Mr. Chris Woodward, IT Director came forward.

At 2:30 p.m., a Public Hearing was declared opened regarding the consideration of the passage of a borrowing resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of a general obligation note. Mr. Taylor proceeded to read the notice of public hearing into record as follows:

"The Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County will hold a Public Hearing on: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 2:30 P.M., Room 111, Somerset County Office Complex 11916 Somerset Avenue, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853 to consider passage of a borrowing resolution pursuant to the authority of Chapter 445 of the Laws of Maryland 2004 and Section 19-205 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland :

1. A Resolution of the County Commissioners for Somerset County authorizing the issuance and sale, upon the full faith and credit of the County, of a general obligation installment note in the principal amount not exceeding \$4,000,000 to provide financing for the Emergency Services Radio Equipment Upgrade Project.

The County will not issue debt greater than \$10,000,000 in any fiscal year. Interested persons are invited to attend the Public Hearing and will have a reasonable opportunity to express their views both orally and in writing. Written comments submitted prior to the hearing and up to 10 days following the hearing, through December 7, 2018, should be mailed to the following address: Somerset County Commissioners, Somerset County Office Complex, 11916 Somerset Avenue, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853. Board of County Commissioners, Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator."

Mr. Adkins advised that the notice of public hearing was advertised in the local papers on November 13<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment and answer any questions. Mr. Adkins also advised that an additional \$160,000 will be required for tower improvements and that a formal change order request will be forthcoming. Ms. Cross then explained the need to make technical upgrades to the towers located at the Princess Anne, Marion and Westover tower locations. The system is outdated, and with the technology being used with this upgrade, this system is expected to last fifteen years or more. Ms. Cross also

advised that lack of radio coverage, in the more remote areas of the southern end of the county is the main reason for this upgrade.

President Laird if there were any opponents or proponents present wishing to speak. There were none. Written comment will be taken for 10 days. Mr. Adkins advised that he will return in two weeks to move forward with the next phase of the project. The public hearing was declared closed at 2:39 p.m. Ms. Cross left the meeting at this time.

With Mr. Adkins and Mr. Woodward remaining present, a change order was presented for the Boards consideration and approval with regard to the phone system project. Mr. Woodward explained that some of the phones received as a part of the original project are not suitable for employees use. The phones can be sold back to the vender, and a more suitable phone purchased at a difference of \$9,210.60, the amount of the change order request. Mr. Woodward then explained in more detail the differences of the two phones, advising that being a 15-20 year investment, he would like the project to be done as properly as possible. He also advised that the recommended phone upgrade has better call quality.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 4-0 to approve the phone change order request in the amount of \$9,210.60 as requested.

At this time, Dr. Richard Warren, Jr., came forward to accept a proclamation recognizing Dr. Warren as Maryland's Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019. Mr. Taylor read the proclamation into record, and the Board congratulated Dr. Warren for his accomplishments and thanked him for his dedication to the youth of Somerset County.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance, came forward at this time to accept sealed bids received for the Drainage Ditch Maintenance project for Asbury/Somerset Avenue. The following sealed bids were received:

<b><u>Contractor:</u></b>	<b><u>Bid Amount:</u></b>
Doug Vann	\$7,869.00
Paul's Landworks and Construction	\$44,740.00
Rocky Acres (Jeff Howard)	\$14,730.00

Mr. Cavanaugh explained that the project entails 2,400 feet of ditching. It was his recommendation to award the bid to the low bidder Doug Vann.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Boston, and seconded by Commissioner Mathies, it carried 4-0 to award the Asbury/Somerset Avenue Drainage Ditch Maintenance project to Doug Vann for \$7,869.00.

With no further business, at 2:50 p.m. the Board was advised of the need to enter 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, it carried 4-0 to enter into Closed Session.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings adjourned at 3:22 p.m. upon a motion made by Commissioner Mathies and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins. The motion carried 4-0.

Approved by:



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Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



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Lory E. Ebron  
Executive Aide