



SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA
December 4, 2018
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
1:00 p.m.

Appointments:

- 1:00 p.m. - Swearing In Ceremony
- * 2:00 p.m. - Board Organization
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - Nominate President and Vice President
 - Appoint County Administrator/Clerk
 - Appoint County Attorney
- * 2:15 p.m. - Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services Director
 - Hazard Mitigation Elevation Projects

Correspondence:

Received

MD Department of Housing and Community Development re: Grant MD-19-CD-26 Release of Funds

Discussion:

- * 1. Tri County Council Appointments/Commissioner Representatives (2nd Vice Chair and Treasurer)
- * 2. MACo Legislative Committee Member and Alternate
- * 3. Recreation and Parks Commission Appointment
- * 4. Homeless Board Appointment
- * 5. Commission on Aging Board Appointment
- * 6. Delmarva Water Transport Commission Appointment
- * 7. Social Services Board Vacancy (1)
- * 8. Workforce Development Board Vacancy (3)
- * 9. Agricultural Reconciliation Board Vacancy (1)
- * 10. Adult Guardianship Review Board Vacancy (2)
- * 11. Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center BOD Vacancy (1)
- * 12. Holiday Meeting Schedule
- * 13. Employee Holiday Schedule

2:30 p.m. Closed Session – Ralph D. Taylor, Charles Cavanaugh, Erica Yeager
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

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SPECIAL SESSION

At 1:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Board of County Commissioners, 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. President Laird then asked those present today to join him in a moment of silence in recognition of former President George H.W. Bush.

At this time, Mr. Charles T. Horner, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Somerset County swore in Mr. Craig N. Mathies, Sr., Mr. Charles Laird, Mr. Randy Laird, Mr. Rex Simpkins and Mr. Eldon Willing as County Commissioners for Somerset County. A recess was taken at 1:07 p.m.

At 2:00 p.m., the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County reconvened in Special Session. Present for the meeting were Commissioner Interim President Randy Laird, Commissioner Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies Sr., and newly elected Commissioners Charles Laird and Eldon Willing.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Aide Lory E. Ebron were also present.

Closed Session Summary Report December 4, 2018

On December 4, 2018, at 2:24 p.m. until 2:51 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird, 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 Craig N. Mathies Sr., Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Randy Laird, and Commissioner Eldon Willing.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, HR Director Erica Yeager, Public Works Director John Redding, and Charles Cavanaugh,

Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance. Topics discussed were: (1) Hiring of MEO I (2) Probationary to Permanent Employee Status (3) Health Officer/Deputy Vacancy (4) County Attorney Appointment. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to hire MEO I (2) Approval to move probationary employee to permanent employee status.

Meeting minutes were presented for approval regarding the Commissioner Regular Session meeting held on November 27, 2018. Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Mathies seconded the motion. Commissioners Charles Laird and Eldon Willing abstained; therefore the motion carried 3-0-2.

President Laird stated the next order of business was the nomination for President. Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to nominate Craig N. Mathies, Sr., to serve as President of the Somerset County Commissioners. Commissioner Eldon Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

President Mathies asked for the nomination of Vice President. Commissioner Randy Laird nominated Commissioner Charles Laird to serve as Vice President. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Vice President Charles Laird next nominated Mr. Ralph D. Taylor to serve as County Administrator/Clerk for a 4-year term to run concurrently with the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. President Mathies swore in Mr. Taylor as County Administrator/Clerk at this time.

Vice President Charles Laird made a motion to nominate Kirk G. Simpkins to serve as County Attorney until April 1, 2019. Commissioner Randy Laird seconded the motion. Commissioner Simpkins abstained; therefore the motion carried 4-0-1.

At this time, Mr. Taylor took a brief moment to thank his family for their strong support noting that the job is a 24 x 7 x 365 commitment, and he couldn't do the job without them and their support. President Mathies took a moment to recognize Mr. Taylor's family who were present in the audience today.

Being that the meeting was running ahead of schedule, Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

Ms. Cindy Stone, Director/DHCD Office of Community Programs provided the Notice of Removal of Grant Conditions and Release of Funds notice for Grant No.: MD-19-CD-26 (Housing Rehabilitation) in the amount of \$335,000.00.

Mr. Taylor presented the request from Mr. Michael Pennington, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland requesting Somerset County's nomination for the positions of 2nd Vice Chair and Treasurer.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Laird, Commissioner Rex Simpkins was nominated as 2nd Vice Chair on the Tri-County Council Executive Board. Vice President Laird seconded the motion. Commissioner Simpkins abstained; therefore the motion carried 4-0-1.

Next, a motion was made by Commissioner Laird to nominate Commissioner Willing as Treasurer on the Tri-County Council Executive Board. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

A letter was received from Mr. Michael Sanderson, Executive Director, MACo, requesting Somerset County's 2019 Legislative Committee Nomination for Member and Alternate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to nominate Vice President Laird as Somerset County's proposed 2019 Member, and President Craig Mathies as the proposed 2019 Alternate. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Rex Simpkins made the motion to appoint Vice President Laird to serve as the County Representative on the Recreation and Parks Commission; and Mr. Charles Fisher to serve as Citizen Representative to complete the three year term expiring in April 2021. Commissioner Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Randy Laird made a motion to appoint Commissioner Willing to serve as the County Representative on the Somerset Committee Board on Homelessness. Vice President Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to appoint Vice President Laird to serve as the County Representative on the Somerset County Commission on Aging Board. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Willing made a motion to appoint Vice President Laird to serve as the County Representative on the Delmarva Water Transport Committee. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, Mr. Taylor reviewed the various Board and Commission vacancies that exist that need to be filled.

Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services Director came forward at this time to present information relating to two Hazard Mitigation Home Elevation Project requests. Mr. Taylor first explained that Somerset County Emergency Services is the sub applicant for hazard mitigation elevation projects in the county and Emergency Services is here to determine if the county will provide upfront financing for home elevation projects when the county serves as the manager for construction projects. Ms. Cross explained that Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) received two notices of interest from county residents requesting to be applicants. One is located in Dames Quarter and the other in Crisfield. She explained that MEMA referred the individuals to Emergency Services, as individual residents cannot apply for this grant funding. The breakdown of funding was explained and it was noted that in some cases the applicants do not have the money to pay the upfront requirement of 25%, and additionally, the federal share may take up to 6 months to receive. The estimated cost for the projects can be as much as \$175,000, and applications must to be provided by December 15. Ms. Cross noted she is waiting to receive additional information from both applicants as of today.

Following the discussion, and being there were unanswered questions, Commissioner Laird made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting so that Ms. Cross can obtain more information. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, Mr. Taylor requested to discuss the holiday meeting schedule, as both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Tuesday this year. It was noted that the County has chosen to close offices on Christmas and New Year's Eve when the holiday fell on a Tuesday. Mr. Taylor also mentioned that that the regularly scheduled Tuesday meetings could be scheduled for Wednesday or cancelled. Additionally, Mr. Taylor advised that the State of Maryland has closed offices on Wednesday, December 5 in honor of President Bush's funeral, and the Town of Princess Anne has called to advise they will also close their office tomorrow.

A motion was made by Vice President Laird to close county offices on Monday, December 24, 2018. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to close county offices on Monday, December 31, 2018. Commissioner Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

The Board by consensus, decided that all county offices will be open on Wednesday, December 5, 2018.

Lastly, Vice President Laird advised the Board that he serves on the Somerset County Forestry Board, a non-paying position, and was told he could continue to hold that seat by the Forestry Board. The Board was in consensus to allow Vice President Laird to continue serving on the Somerset County Forestry Board.

With no further business, at 2:24 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 Randy Laird, the Board entered into Closed Session. The motion carried 5-0.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings adjourned at 2:51 p.m. upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins. The motion carried 5-0.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide