

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
MAY 15, 2018
PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:00 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the County Commissioners Office, Commissioner President Randy Laird declared a Public Hearing open regarding Somerset County's Budget for Fiscal Year 2019. Also in attendance: Commissioner Vice-President Charles F. Fisher, Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr., Commissioner Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Jerry S. Boston, County Administrator-Clerk, Ralph D. Taylor; Finance Director, Gene Adkins; Executive Aide, Lory E. Ebron; and Internal Auditor, Sharon Muir.

Mr. Taylor began by stating that the Constant Yield advertisement, had been published in the May 2, 2018 Daily Times newspaper and the May 9, 2018 publication of the Crisfield-Somerset Times, the Somerset Herald and The Daily Times to announce the hearing tonight. The purpose of tonight's hearing is two-fold:

1. To receive public comment on the FY19 proposed budget; and
2. Pursuant to the provision of Section 6-308 of the Property Tax Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, to present the Constant Yield Rate for FY 2019 as \$1.0061 and; the tax rate for FY 2019 as \$1.00 per \$100 of full-value assessment. This proposed tax rate represents no change from last year's rate; however it was noted that this is the third consecutive year that our tax rate is below constant yield.

The Budget being discussed tonight is the estimated income and planned expenditures for FY 2019 as discussed by the Board through today, May 15, 2018. Final deliberation on the Budget will continue until Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 2:00 p.m., at which time the tax rate for FY 2019 will be set. The procedure for the hearing was explained, and anyone wishing to make comments will be asked to come forward, state their name and address, and present their testimony. Written comments on the proposed budget will be accepted for 10 days, until Monday, May 28, 2018.

Next Mr. Adkins first reported that the Somerset County Board of Education budgeted appropriation included in this budget for FY 2019 will be \$9,741,620 to be paid from the County's General Fund. This compares to \$9,741,620 for FY 2018; therefore the County has approved level funding for the Board of Education plus \$140,000 for non-recurring costs.

Mr. Adkins presented the budget highlights on a PowerPoint presentation. Handouts were also provided which included the complete budget detail. At this time, the Board of Commissioners have

proposed to retain the current tax rate for FY19 at \$1.00, which is less than the constant yield tax rate of \$1.0061. The presentation reviewed the decrease of the counties real property assessable tax base of \$181,077 and it was noted that revenue remains flat. Mr. Adkins continued, advising that \$14.8 million in Capital Projects were approved, including \$4.95 million for the Hiker/Biker Trail, \$3.7 million for school construction, and \$3.9 million for the Emergency Services Radio System. A special appropriation was approved for the County Roads Department for \$1.763 million, and it was noted that Maryland Highway User Revenue increased \$177,777. It was stated that \$1,999,750 of fund balance will be used to balance the budget with estimated revenues (totaling \$49,137,827.00) and planned expenditures (totaling \$49,137,827.00) for Fiscal Year 2019. Significant revenues and expenditures were also reviewed. At the conclusion of the budget review, Commissioner President Laird advised there were no individuals present the Public Hearing to present testimony on the proposed budget.

President Laird declared the public hearing closed at 7:14 p.m. Written comments will be taken for 10 days.

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide

Approved By:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County