



**AGENDA**  
**October 15, 2019**  
**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. - Service Award Presentations
- Mr. Bruce Parkinson/25 Years
  - Mr. Charles Cavanaugh/30 Years
- \* 2:10 p.m. - Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services
- Radio System/Antenna Repair Invoice

**Correspondence:**

**Received**

- Charter Communications re: Monthly Price Changes/New Customers
- \* Mr. Ed Goyda, Somerset County Library re: Library Board Appointment

**Sent**

Department of Natural Resources re: Request for Public Informational Meeting/Kraft Aquaculture Lease  
Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of MD re: FY2020 Executive Board Nominations

**Discussion:**

- \* 1. Surplus Property Offer (1)
- \* 2. Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board Vacancy (1)
- \* 3. Somers Cove Marina Commission Reappointment (1)

**Public Comments (5-minute time limit to speak)**

- \* **2:30 p.m. - Closed Session-** Ralph Taylor, 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 (b)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and (b) (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition.

- \* Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
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At 2:00 p.m., President Craig Mathies, Sr., called the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County to open in Regular Session. Also, present for the meeting were Commissioner Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing, and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

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

President Mathies asked Commissioner Willing to lead those present in Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Closed Session Summary Report October 15, 2019**

On October 15, 2019, at 2:22 p.m. until 3:21 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird, seconded by Commissioner Rex Simpkins, it carried unanimously 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; (b) (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; and (b) (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Present for the Closed Session Meeting were President Craig Mathies Sr., Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, HR Director Erica Yeager, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance Charles Cavanaugh, Attorney Kirk Simpkins. Topics discussed were: (1) Probationary Employee Status (2) Acquisition of Property (3) Consult with Counsel to obtain legal advice (4) Scale House Attendant Job Description revision. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to move probationary employee to permanent employee status (2) Approval of offer to purchase property (3) Approval to revise job description for Scale House Attendant.

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Minutes from the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on October 1, 2019 and Special and Closed Session meetings held on October 8, 2019 were approved as presented upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bruce Parkinson was asked to come forward to accept his 25 years of Service Award Recognition. The Board expressed their appreciation to Mr. Parkinson for his many years of service.

Next, Mr. Charles Cavanaugh was asked to come forward to accept his 30 years of Service Award Recognition. The Board also expressed their appreciation to Mr. Cavanaugh for his many years of service.

Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services Director, came forward at this time.

Ms. Cross advised the Board that she is in receipt of an invoice from Harris Corporation in the amount of \$18,495.50 for work performed. She explained that an “ice bridge” also known as a “transmission line bridge” was constructed to support the transmission line relating to the Radio System project which was found to be lacking following an inspection performed. She explained that this “bridge” protects the line from the elements. Without this protection, if the lines were to be damaged, the system would not work properly. Additionally, grounding for lightning strikes was also found to not be in place. Harris Corporation performed the work, without consulting the county beforehand, and has now invoiced the county for the work performed. They advised that they did not want the county to experience delays, and performing the work would keep the project on schedule. President Mathies questioned if it was confirmed that is work was missing and needed. Ms. Cross said it was. Commissioner Simpkins questioned if Harris Corporation was familiar with the bid process, with contract changes requiring approval, adding it was highly unusual to make upgrades without notification. Vice President Charles Laird stated that although they had the county’s best interest at heart, a phone call would have been a big help. Mr. Taylor asked if the original Harris contract had a contingency. Ms. Cross replied no. President Mathies suggested the Board check with Attorney Simpkins for his opinion before a decision is rendered. Ms. Cross left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

Mr. Ed Goyda, Library Director, advised that the Library Board of Trustees has requested that Ms. Beth Holmes-Mayson be appointed to her first full term on the Library Board. Ms.

Mayson was appointed in April 2018 to complete Ms. Keisha Evans' term following her resignation.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried unanimously to appoint Ms. Mayson to serve her first full term on the Somerset County Library Board of Trustees.

Next, Mr. Taylor presented a request to purchase surplus property received from Mr. George Sackett, who offered the listed price of \$464.00, plus closing costs, to purchase Account 12-002610 (Map 0079 Parcel 0027).

Vice President Charles Laird made a motion to accept Mr. Sacketts offer of \$464.00, plus closing costs, to purchase Account 12-002610. Commissioner Randy Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 2:22 p.m., the Board entered into Closed Session upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird, and seconded by Rex Simpkins, 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 (b) (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; and (b) (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. The motion carried unanimously.

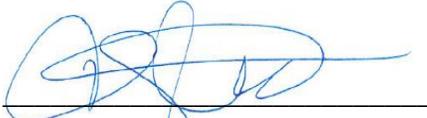
At 3:51 p.m., the Board entered back into Open Session upon a motion made by Commissioner Rex Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board re-entered Open Session as they have changed their position regarding the motion made during the October 1, 2019 meeting to request a Public Informational Meeting be held with regard to the Application for Shellfish Aquaculture Lease submitted by Ralph L. Kraft, Jr., and Mary E. Kraft.

Therefore, Vice President Charles Laird rescinded his motion to request a Public Informational Meeting be held regarding the Application for Shellfish Aquaculture Lease submitted by Ralph L. Kraft, Jr., and Mary E. Kraft. Commissioner Eldon Willing rescinded his second. Commissioner Randy Laird abstained (as he was not present at the time the motion was made); therefore, the motion to rescind carried 4-0-1.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m., upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird. The motion carried unanimously.

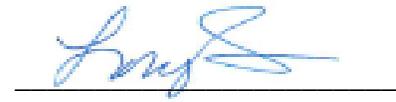
Approved by:



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Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



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Lory E. Ebron  
Executive Aide