



**AGENDA**  
**November 26, 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. - 20 Year Service Award Presentation- Ms. Susan Jones
- \* 2:05 p.m. - Public Hearing/Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director
  - Discuss Financing J.M. Tawes Project
- \* 2:20 p.m. - Mr. Gary Powell, Emergency Services Assistant Director
  - Pharmacy Memorandum of Agreements
- \* 2:30 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, Kristen Tremblay, DTCS and Jared Parks, Lower Shore Land Trust
  - DNR Grant Application/Crisfield Drainage Study
  - Rural Legacy Projects (3)
- \* 2:45 p.m. - Mr. Phil Parks, Salvation Army

**Correspondence:**

**Received**

MD DHCD re: Release of Funds MD-15-DR-1/Community Rating System  
MD DHCD re: Release of Funds MD-15-DR-1/Crisfield Drainage Study  
MD DHCD re: Scheduled Monitoring Visit  
Comcast re: Price Changes

**Sent**

Maryland Emergency Management Agency re: Letter of Support/City of Crisfield  
Public School Construction Program re: FY2021 Capital Improvement Plan  
Ms. Claudia Nelson re: SNAP Grant Application/County Match

**Discussion:**

- \* 1. Surplus Property Offer (1)
- \* 2. Planning Commission Re-Appointment (1)
- \* 3. Adult Guardianship Review Board Appointments (3)
- \* 4. Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board Appointment (1)

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

- \* **3:00 p.m. - Closed Session-** Ralph 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 26, 2019

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 Devotion and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Closed Session Summary Report November 26, 2019**

On November 26, 2019, at 2:55 p.m. until 4:12 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Rex Simpkins, seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, 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.

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, and Ms. Joyce Cottman, Lower Shore Shelter. Topics discussed were: (1) Personnel Investigation (2) Lower Shore Shelter. Actions taken during closed session: (1) None.

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Minutes from the Commissioner Special and Closed Session meetings held on November 19, 2019 were approved as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Susan Jones, Emergency Services Department was asked to come forward to accept her 20 years of service award. The Board thanked Ms. Jones for her many years of service.

President Craig Mathies, Sr., next opened the Public Hearing to discuss financing regarding the J.M. Tawes Project. Mr. Gene Adkins, Financing Director, came forward at this time.

Mr. Taylor then 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 26th, 2019 at 2:05 P.M., Room 111, Somerset County Office Complex, 11916 Somerset Avenue, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853, to consider passage of two borrowing resolutions pursuant to the authority of Chapter 445 of the Laws of Maryland 2004 and Section 19-207 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland:

A Resolution of the County Commissioners for Somerset County authorizing the issuance and sale, upon the full faith and credit of the County, a general obligation installment note in the principal amount not exceeding \$4,000,000 to provide permanent financing, with repayment over 20 years for Phase 1 of the replacement of the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center.

A Resolution of the County Commissioners for Somerset County authorizing the issuance and sale, upon the full faith and credit of the County, a general obligation installment note in the principal amount not exceeding \$3,400,000 to provide permanent financing for Phase 2 of the J. M. Tawes Technology & Career Center project. As with Phase 1, the permanent financing will be repaid over a 20-year term.

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 6, 2019, 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 began, explaining that the public hearing was advertised for two weeks in the local papers (the Somerset Herald and County Times). He reviewed the history of the project, going back to 2016, when the first public hearing was held, to announce the county's intent to borrow \$7.4 million, with the intention to have both interim financing and permanent financing over a 20-year period to fund the project.

He then explained that circumstances have changed slightly since 2016, and this public hearing is being held to explain what has changed. At the end of December 2018, reimbursement requests from the Board of Education regarding the project totaled \$2,125,094 (falling short of the Phase I loan amount of \$4 million). Therefore, interim financing was extended with Hebron Savings Bank (HSB) to January 5, 2020. At the end of October 2019, the final draw was made against the \$4 million interim loan with HSB. He advised that bond counsel is working towards permanent financing loan closing date of December 10, 2019 for Phase I. This will be a 20-year permanent loan with a locked in rate of 2.75% (noted as a very good rate). Ms. Haley, from the Board of Education (BOE) has advised that she expects to bill the county for the remaining \$3.4 million (Phase 2) within the next 3-5 months. Mr. Adkins stated that with the time period for Phase 2 spending being so short, it would be impractical to bid for interim financing. Because of this, the county has received permission from the USDA and bond counsel, to forego short term financing

for paying Phase 2 of county portion, and utilize the County's general cash balance. When the Phase 2 loan is closed, the County will pay itself back from the USDA permanent financing loan. He noted that his best estimate is that all reimbursement requests will be received from the BOE by April, and Phase 2 permanent financing will be closed by the end of June, 2020.

President Mathies questioned the loss of interest the county may experience by using the general fund balance in the interim. Mr. Adkins advised that the county is earning a minimal yield on its savings balance, so the loss is minor, and he feels the loss of earnings is less than if the county were to attempt to find such short term financing.

President Mathies asked if there were any opponents or proponents present wishing to speak. There were none. It was noted that public comment will be taken for 10-days, until December 6, 2019 at 4:30 pm. The public hearing was declared closed at 2:15 pm. Mr. Adkins left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Gary Powell, Assistant Director, and Ms. Vicky Lloyd, Emergency Services, came forward at this time to present Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) with the various local pharmacy's and veterinary clinics in the county. Mr. Taylor advised that these agreements will allow the distribution of medications at the shelters during emergency situations for both animals and individuals.

Ms. Lloyd explained the process involved with the distribution of medications. She advised that all of the agreements are the same with the exception of Somerset Regional Hospital, who have requested the reimbursement percentage be changed from 75% to 100%. The initial three-year agreements were approved in 2016 following Hurricane Sandy.

Mr. Taylor then read the entire agreement into record, noting that approval is being asked for the following MOA between the Somerset County Commissioners and: Chesapeake Health, Crisfield Discount Pharmacy, Marion Pharmacy, Karemore Pharmacy, Apple Drugs, Somerset Animal Hospital and Layfield Veterinary.

Commissioner Randy Laird made a motion to approve the MOA's as presented between the Somerset County Commissioners and: Chesapeake Health, Crisfield Discount Pharmacy, Marion Pharmacy, Karemore Pharmacy, Apple Drugs, Somerset Animal Hospital and Layfield Veterinary. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Powell and Ms. Lloyd left the meeting at this time.

Next, Mr. Gary Pusey, Department of Technical and Community Services and Mr. Jared Parks, Land Programs Manager, Lower Shore Land Trust, came forward at this time to present three Rural Legacy Projects for the Boards consideration. Mr. Parks began by explaining the process, which requires the Commissioner's approval to finalize. The three projects being presented for approval are as follows:

- Doris and Lee Carey/Bowlend Road (Tax Map 42 Parcels 41,57,157) totaling 81.61 acres
- Larry and Lynda Beauchamp/Follow Ditch Road (Tax Map 34 Parcel 31) totaling 100 acres
- James "Jimmy" Beauchamp/Dublin Road (Tax Map 34 Parcels 5, 87) totaling 70.31 acres

Costs regarding the projects was discussed, and it was noted that the County will be reimbursed for the survey's performed.

Vice President Charles Laird made a motion to accept the Rural Legacy Program easements as presented. Commissioner Eldon Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Parks left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Pusey remained present to request the Boards approval regarding the Crisfield Drainage Study grant agreement. He explained that on October 29, 2019, the Board approved and signed a Hurricane Sandy grant in the amount of \$100,000 to conduct a drainage study in the City of Crisfield. Since additional funding was needed, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approved a \$50,000 grant to be applied to the study as well, resulting in total funding of \$150,000. Mr. Pusey then presented the DNR Grant Agreement (also called a Memorandum of Understanding) for the Boards approval and President's signature to look at the drainage issues in the City of Crisfield and provide a solution.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to approve the President's signature on the DNR grant agreement for \$50,000. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

As the meeting was running slightly ahead of schedule, Mr. Taylor reviewed correspondence received and sent since the last meeting.

Mr. Phil Parks, Salvation Army came forward at this time. Mr. Taylor first advised that the Board of Education will turn over the Marion School to the County on December 1, 2019. A walk through of the building will be planned before the keys are turned over.

Mr. Parks was asked to come in to be involved with the discussion regarding the possible future uses of this school. He first explained that he has been with the Salvation Army for 39 years, and explained the various locations they have had over that time. The last location was at the Crisfield Armory, which unfortunately during Hurricane Sandy was flooded, developing mildew and mold. Mr. Parks stated that because of the condition of the Armory, the City closed the building 2 years ago, and since that time, the Salvation Army has been operating out of the Woodrow Wilson Center. He explained that the Woodrow Wilson Center is really too small to fully serve their needs, and no indoor activities have occurred since being at that location. He described the success of the field hockey and soccer programs, and how their programs fulfill a need in the community for an area where the children have nowhere to go.

Commissioner Laird questioned if the Salvation Army has the funds needed to maintain the building. Mr. Parks answered that they do not, explaining the drop in donations experienced since Hurricane Sandy. The ability of the children to get to Marion from Crisfield should the location change was also discussed. It was also questioned if the building could be “multi-use” by different various entities, who could possibly share in the cost to maintain the building.

President Mathies advised that before moving forward, the current condition of the building should be obtained, especially making sure the building is safe for the children. Mr. Taylor that he would arrange a walk-through of the building with Mr. Cavanaugh and Mr. Monk from Maintenance and Mr. Redden, County Engineer, after the holiday to determine its condition. Mr. Parks will be invited to join the walk-through and was also asked to provide information regarding financial contributions that the Salvation Army can provide. Mr. Parks advised he would have that information to the Board after January 1, 2020. Additionally, Mr. Taylor will ask the Board of Education to provide utility expenses incurred for the building as well. Mr. Parks left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor continued the meeting with discussion items.

A surplus property purchase request was received from Ms. Jennifer McShane to purchase Account 04-063651 (32767 Costen Road) for \$200.00. The listed price was \$1,911.00. The Board did not accept the offer as presented. Additionally, they requested that adjoining property holders be notified to insure they are aware that the property is available for sale.

Mr. Taylor then requested the Board approval to remove Account 08-151121 (Joe Lewis Lane) from the surplus property list and retain it as county owned property as the parcel lines up

with the approach at the end of the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport runway. The Board was in consensus to retain Account 08-151121 as county owned property.

Mr. Taylor reviewed the current vacancies on the Adult Guardianship Review Board and the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board. It was also questioned if the members of the Social Services Advisory Board have a limit of two consecutive years. Mr. Taylor advised he would look into the matter and report back to the Board.

At 2:55 p.m., the Board entered into Closed Session upon a motion made by Commissioner Rex Simpkins and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, 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.

With no further business, the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 4:12 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Rex Simpkins and seconded by Vice President Charles 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