



AGENDA
December 10, 2019
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
2:00 p.m.

Appointments:

- 2:00 p.m. - Proclamation Presentation - Washington High School Girls Field Hockey Team
Proclamation Presentation – Crisfield High School Boys Soccer Team
- * 2:10 p.m. - Ms. Tracie Bartemy, Ms. Linda R. Johnson, SCPS
 - FY20 Inter-category Budget Transfers
- * 2:20 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, Department of Technical and Community Services
 - Approved Plans/Federal Grant Eligibility
- * 2:25 p.m. - Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director
 - USDA Loan Resolution Approval Phase I/JM Tawes
- * 2:30 p.m. - Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services Director
 - Next Generation 911

Correspondence:

Received

- * MD Clearinghouse Review re: MD20191121-0930/FY19 Pre-Disaster Mitigation 11528 Long Point Rd.
- * MD Clearinghouse Review re: MD20191205-0963/FY19 Pre-Disaster Mitigation 7950 Riverview Road
- MD Department of Budget and Management re: FY21 Capital Budget Request
- Maryland Department of the Environment re: ‘Air Quality Permit to Construct’ Application (28170 Old Eden Road)
- Charter Communications re: Spectrum Changes
- Comcast re: Xfinity TV Changes

Sent

Ms. Jennifer McShane re: Surplus Property

Discussion:

- * 1. Franchise Agreement-Natural Gas Distribution
- * 2. Planning Commission Appointment (1)
- * 3. Adult Guardianship Review Board Appointments (3)
- * 4. Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board Appointment (1)
- * 5. Marion School Walk Thru

Public Comments (5-minute time limit to speak)

- * **2:45 p.m. - Closed Session-** Ralph Taylor, Yvette Cross, Erica Yeager, 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 (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

- * Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
December 10, 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 December 10, 2019

On December 10, 2019, at 2:35 p.m. until 3:25 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird, and seconded by Commissioner Randy 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; 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, Emergency Services Director Yvette Cross, P & Z Director Gary Pusey, and Attorney Kirk Simpkins. Topics discussed were: (1) Hiring of FT Communications Dispatcher (2) Hiring of PT Communications Dispatcher (3) Hiring of PT GIS Coordinator (4) Legal advice. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Hiring of FT and PT Communications Dispatchers (2) Hiring of PT GIS Coordinator.

Minutes from the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on November 26, 2019 were approved as presented upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing. The motion carried unanimously.

The members of the Girls Washington High School Field Hockey team came forward to accept a proclamation from the Commissioners for their outstanding 2019 season and advancing to the 1A East State Tournament Finals.

The members of the Boys Crisfield High School Soccer Team came forward to accept a proclamation from the Commissioners for their great 2019 season, and for advancing to the MPSSAA 1A State Semifinals.

The Board of County Commissioners congratulated both teams for their successful seasons, and thanked all of those who attended for coming to our meeting today.

Next, Ms. Tracie Bartemy and Ms. Linda R. Johnson came forward to present FY20 Inter-Category Budget Transfers as follows:

<u>Category:</u>	<u>Transfer Requested:</u>
Administration	\$48,500
Mid-Level Administration	93,000
Student Personnel Services	21,000
<u>Fixed Charges</u>	<u>(162,500)</u>
Total	\$0.00

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird, and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried unanimously to approve the request for inter-category transfers for FY20 as presented.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Department of Technical and Community Services (DTCS) came forward at this time to present required “County-Approved” plans for Federal Grant Eligibility. He proceeded to explain the three plans requiring approval today: the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) plan, the Minority Business Plan and the Section 3 Plan. All plans presented were previously adopted by the Board of Commissioners in December 2016 for a three (3) year term. He then requested approval for the President’s signature on all three plans presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Willing, it was approved to authorize President Mathies to sign the three required plans for Federal Grant Eligibility for a three-year term. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, came forward at this time to present the USDA Loan Resolution for the Boards approval regarding the \$4 Million Phase I/ JM Tawes project. A Public Hearing was held on November 26, 2019, and no written comments have been received. This 20-year permanent loan will be disbursed to the County to pay off the temporary financed loan, and

will have a fixed rate of 2.75%, with a closing date of December 19, 2019. The first quarterly payment in the amount of \$65,200 will be due March 19, 2020. Mr. Adkins then requested a motion to approve the USDA Loan Resolution as presented for signature.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried unanimously to approve the USDA Loan Resolution as presented.

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

A Clearinghouse Review (MD20191121-0930) was received for a Hazard Mitigation PDM Grant to elevate 11528 Long Point Road. The project is consistent with mitigation strategies and would eliminate or reduce damage to property and disruption of life caused by repetitive flooding. The grant portion is 75% with the homeowner responsible for 25%. The recommendation was made to code this review as C5 (it is consistent with our plans, programs, and objectives).

Commissioner Randy Laird made a motion to code Clearinghouse Review MD20191121-0930 as C5. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A Clearinghouse Review (MD20191205-0963) was received for a Hazard Mitigation PDM Grant to elevate 7950 Riverview Road. The project is also consistent with mitigation strategies and would eliminate or reduce damage to property and disruption of life caused by repetitive flooding. The grant portion is 75% with the homeowner responsible for 25%. The recommendation was made to code this review as C5 (it is consistent with our plans, programs, and objectives).

Vice President Charles Laird made a motion to code Clearinghouse Review MD20191205-0963 as C5. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A letter was received from the Maryland Department of Budget and Management advising of the receipt of our letter, dated August 5, 2019, requesting \$500,000 in forthcoming FY21 State Capital Budget funding to construct hangars at the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport.

Correspondence was received from the Maryland Department of the Environment informing our office that their department has received an "Air Quality Permit to Construct" application from Stone Tech Materials, LLC at project location 28170 Old Eden Road, Fruitland, MD 21826. The proposal is for the installation of one waste concrete and RAP crushing and

screening plant. The notice was sent to Somerset County due to the close proximity to the Wicomico – Somerset County line in advance of the notice being placed in local newspapers.

The final Franchise Agreement between the Board of Commissioners for Somerset County and Chesapeake Utilities Corporation was presented for approval. Noting Natural Gas has been a priority for Somerset County for many years, the process is moving forward at this point and time, with a key component being to sign a franchise agreement with Chesapeake Utilities. This agreement is a 25-year agreement, which remains exclusive for 3 years, after which it can be converted to non-exclusive. The Franchise, upon PSC approval, will pay \$10,000 upon the effective date to the county. It is felt Natural Gas will be great for the economy, and grow Somerset County in a positive way in the very near future. The county attorney has reviewed the agreement and found it legally sufficient.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to sign the Franchise Agreement with Chesapeake Utilities Corporation as presented. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services Director came forward at this time to request the Boards approval regarding a commitment letter for efforts to procure and implement “Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1)”, which moves forward a single provider for regional NG9-1-1. The following jurisdictions will be included in this effort: Caroline County, Cecil County, Dorchester County, Kent County, Queen Anne’s County, Talbot County Wicomico County, Worcester County, and Somerset County. All counties will be required to sign the letter of commitment to be included with this effort. It was noted that joining this effort will result in cheaper reoccurring costs as well as better service to improve public emergency communications services.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to authorize Mr. Taylor to sign the Commitment Letter regarding Next Generation 9-1-1. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The request to re-appoint Mr. James Mullen to the Planning Commission was presented.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried unanimously to re-appoint Mr. Mullen to serve on the Planning Commission. With this approval, Mr. Mullen’s term will extend to September 2024.

Dr. Diana Wagner has submitted her interest to serve on the Adult Guardianship Review Board, which currently has three vacancies.

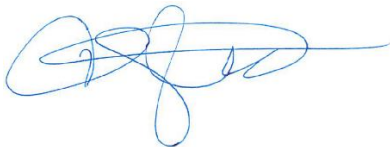
A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to appoint Dr. Diana Wagner to serve as the citizen representative on the Adult Guardianship Review Board. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Lastly, Mr. Taylor discussed the walk through recently completed on Monday at the Marion School. It was noted that the building is not in the best of shape, with an old steam boiler, 40 HVAC units, and visible termite damage. Additionally, according to Dr. Gaddis, electrical costs for the building is \$150,000 per year. Mr. Parks of the Crisfield Salvation Army also attended the walk-through. Noting his appreciation for the consideration of his organization to use the building, he stated that there was no way he could afford the offer. The site consists of 9.8 acres with a 35,000 square foot building. It was noted that plans for the property need to be considered with the poor condition of the structure.

At 2:35 p.m., the Board entered into Closed Session upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Randy 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; and (b) (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

With no further business, the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 3:25 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Rex Simpkins and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide