



**AGENDA**  
**August 20, 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. - Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services Director
  - Proclamation Presentation-**National Recovery Month**
- \* 2:05 p.m. - Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director
  - MOU Somerset County Liquor Control Board
- \* 2:10 p.m. - Mr. Larry Beauchamp, Mr. Kevin Miller
  - Proposed Changes to Chesapeake Forest Hunting Lease Program

**Correspondence:**

**Received**

- \* MD State Clearinghouse Review re: Crisfield Inflow & Infiltration Removal PH I MD20190814-0691
- \* Somerset County Department of Social Services re: Adult Public Guardianship Review Board Reappointments  
Kenneth C. Holt, DHCD Secretary re : FY20 Community Development Block Grant Fund Approval

**Sent**

The Honorable Kenneth Holt, Secretary re: Letter of Support/Crisfield Capital Improvements Plan  
Secretary Brinkley, Department of Budget and Management re: Crisfield-Somerset County Airport Hangar Project  
Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS re: Board of Zoning Appeals Reappointment  
Ms. Tammy Biser re: Surplus Property Purchase Approval

**Discussion:**

- \* 1. Somerset County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board Reappointments (3) Alternate (1)
- \* 2. Pauper Burial Assistance Request

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

- \* **2:45 p.m. – Closed Session, Ralph Taylor, Sheriff Ronnie Howard, Jonathan Novak, Charles Cavanaugh, Louis Hickman, Erica Yeager, Wess Garner, Kirk Simpkins, Clint Sterling**

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)(8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

- \* 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 Commissioner Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing, and Commissioner 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 August 20, 2019**

On August 20, 2019, at 2:43 p.m. until 4:13 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and 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; and (8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

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, Warden Louis Hickman, Director Gregory Clint Sterling, Director Charles Cavanaugh, Public Works Director John Redden and HR Director Erica Yeager, Attorney Kirk Simpkins, Attorney John Novak, Attorney John King, Ms. Melanie Bailiff, Sheriff Ronnie Howard, Chief Deputy Paul Keplinger, and States Attorney Wess Garner.

Topics discussed were: (1) Potential Litigation (2) Hiring of Contractual Employee (3) Approval for two Detention Center employee promotions (4) Hiring of two Correctional Officers. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to pursue potential litigation (2) Approval to hire Contractual Employee (3) Approval to promote two Detention Center employees (4) Approval to hire two Correctional Officers.

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Meeting minutes from the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on August 6, 2019 and the Commissioner Special and Closed Session meetings held on August 13, 2019 were approved as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Yvette Cross, came forward at this time to accept a proclamation in observance of the designation of September 2019 to be National Recovery Month.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, came forward at this time to request the Boards approval for the President's signature on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) prepared between the Board of Commissioners for Somerset County and the Somerset County Liquor Control Board which was discussed during the last Commissioner's meeting. Legislation was approved during last year's session to increase the Liquor Board reserve by \$150,000 (\$50,000 at each of the three stores). The Board has approved Option #3 which allowed the disbursement of \$75,000 on August 13, 2019, and the second installment of \$75,000 in January 2020. Repayment of the advancement will be made from future Dispensary earnings, which may take one to two year's depending on profit earnings. This MOU details the arrangement for advanced funding, and will also be signed by Mr. Robert Hogg, Chairman, Somerset County Liquor Control Board.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, President Mathies was authorized to sign the MOU between the Board of Commissioners for Somerset County and the Somerset County Liquor Control Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Larry Beauchamp came forward at this time to discuss the proposed changes to the Chesapeake Forest Hunting Lease Program. He discussed the 98-acre tract that his Hunt Club leases that is surrounded by family farms and has no road frontage. He explained that before his club leased this property there were always issues and concerns regarding trespassing. He feels that if the state goes to a lottery type system, trespass and safety concerns will again be an issue. He requested the Board to take a stand on the issue in support of landowners and their concerns of safety, trespass and right of way issues. He also spoke on behalf of Mr. Miller, who had not arrived to the meeting, that allows the Hunt Club leasing adjoining property to his farm to use his driveway to access the property, and the long term relationship that has been established over many years.

Vice President Charles Laird stated that he has heard that DNR is reevaluating the use of a lottery system, primarily because of right of way issues, and he says that concerns are not falling on deaf ears in Annapolis.

Mr. Beauchamp, who serves on as a Citizen Advisory Committee Board Member presented budget information for Chesapeake Forest Hunting Lands, noting sources of income, and the revenue generated from the current program in place.

Mr. Kevin Miller joined the meeting at this time. He discussed the matter of right of ways, and the nightmare that will be created for him should the lottery system pass. He feels landowners will challenge the decision. He also explained that four generations have leased the property adjoining to him, and the trusting relationship that has been established over these many years. He also requested that a letter be sent to DNR in support of the Somerset County landowner concerns.

Following the discussion, Commissioner Randy Laird made a motion to have a letter drafted addressed to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources expressing the concerns of our landowners, and the right of way issues. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Beauchamp and Mr. Miller left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A Maryland Clearinghouse Review of the Crisfield Inflow & Infiltration Removal Phase I project (MD20190814-0691) was received. The project is located entirely in the City of Crisfield and involves repairs to the sewage collection system, including rehabilitation of 1 mile of sewer line along Maryland 413. Mr. Taylor recommended a C-5 designation (it is consistent with our plans, programs and objectives).

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried unanimously to code the Clearinghouse Review Project MD20190814-0691 as C-5. The motion carried unanimously.

A letter was received from Ms. Carey Kelley advising of the expiration of current members serving on the Somerset County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board, as well as three current vacancies. The letter will be addressed at the next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board of a Media Advisory received from the Naval Air Station Patuxent River Public Affairs Office notifying of a Noise Advisory regarding a controlled detonation at Bloodworth Island that has been scheduled for August 21, 2019.

The letter received from Mr. Chris Cavey, Secretary of Appointments advising of the expirations of Mr. Edgar Brimer, Ms. Paulette Collins, Mr. John King and Mr. Harry Gemmel

(alternate) serving on the Somerset County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board. It was noted that Mr. Brimer has declined to continue serving. Mr. John Cullen has expressed his interest to serve, and has submitted his application. A letter from our office, submitting the names of those interested is required to be sent to the Secretary of Appointments.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to submit a letter to Mr. Cavey advising that Ms. Collins, Mr. King, and Mr. Gemmell be appointed to serve as members of the Somerset County Tax Appeals Board, and Mr. John Cullen be named as alternate. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A request for pauper burial assistance was received from the family of Ms. Linda Cropper-Butler, a lifelong Somerset County resident to assist with providing her with a basic funeral service.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird to approve \$250.00 assistance from the pauper burial account to assist the family of Ms. Butler. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, the Board was advised for the need of a Closed Session. At 2:43 p.m., the Board entered into Closed Session upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird 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; and (b) (8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings adjourned at 4:13 p.m. upon a motion made by Commissioner Willing 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