

AGENDA

September 17, 2019

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

11916 Somerset Avenue

Appointments:

- * 2:00 p.m. - Dr. John Gaddis, Ms. Linda R. Johnson, SCPS
- FY2019 Inter-Category Budget Transfers
- * 2:10 p.m. - Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Mr. John Redden
- Bid Opening/Burgess Museum Construction Project
- * 2:15 p.m. - Mr. Gene Adkins, Starr Mister, Jennie Marshall
- Sanitary District Loan Resolution

Correspondence:

Received

- * Maryland Clearinghouse Review re: Rubberset Wastewater Pumping Station (MD20190816-0701)
- * Maryland Clearinghouse Review re: Cove Street Wastewater Pumping Station (MD20190816-0699)
Gallagher Evelius & Jones, LLP re: McCready Public Information Hearing

Sent

- * The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin re: Somerset County Priorities for Army Corps Projects
Mr. Joseph H. Pinto, Chairman re: MEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
Ms. Jennifer McShane re: Surplus Property Purchase
Ms. Shelly Johnson re: Surplus Property Purchase
Ms. Latoya Johnson re: Surplus Property Purchase

Discussion:

- * 1. Annual CSEA/CRA 19-023 (Child Support Enforcement Administration Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement)
- * 2. Adult Public Guardianship Review Board Vacancies – (3)
- * 3. Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board Vacancy – (1)
- * 4. Pauper Burial Assistance Request

Public Comments (5-minute time limit to speak)

- * **2:45 p.m. – Closed Session, Ralph Taylor, Erica Yeager, Gary Pusey, Charles Cavanaugh, Chris**

Woodward, John Redden

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
September 17, 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 Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session Summary Report September 17, 2019

On September 17, 2019, at 2:37 p.m. until 3:59 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.

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 Technical and Community Services Gary Pusey, Solid Waste and Maintenance Director Charles Cavanaugh, Public Works Director John Redden, Finance Director Gene Adkins, and Internal Auditor Sharon Muir. Topics discussed were: (1) Hiring of Zoning and Nuisance Enforcement Officer (2) Employee Resignation (3) MEO I Position (4) Transfer Station Attendant Position (5) School Resource Officers. Actions taken during closed session: None.

Meeting minutes from the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on September 3, 2019 were approved as presented upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gaddis, School Superintendent and Ms. Linda R. Johnson, Somerset County Public Schools, came forward at this time to present the following final inter-category budget transfers for FY19 for approval. The Board of Education approved the transfers during their August 20, 2019 meeting:

<u>Category:</u>	<u>Transfer Requested:</u>
Administration	\$30,000
Mid-Level Administration	60,000
Instructional Salaries	(20,000)
Other Instructional Costs	(5,000)
Student Transportation	5,000
Operation of Plant	40,000
Maintenance of Plant	(25,000)
Fixed Charges	(120,000)
Capital Outlay	35,000
Total	\$0.00

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

Before departing, Dr. Gaddis first advised the Board of an event scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at Wor-Wic Community College whereby school Superintendents from Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset County will be meeting with Dr. Kirwan, from the Kirwan Commission from 3:30-4:30 pm. There will also be an open forum from 6:00-7:30 pm., and Dr. Gaddis invited the Board to attend. Additionally, Dr. Gaddis advised that the Governor has missed the opportunity to have the school calendar on the local referendum, therefore it is being left up to the Board of Education to decide on a pre/post Labor Day school date start. Noting that Labor Day is late in 2020, he stated that discussions will be held with the Board of Education as well as with the community to determine what is best.

President Mathies questioned Dr. Gaddis if significant funding will be coming from the Board of Education regarding School Resource Officers (SRO). Dr. Gaddis advised that \$70,000 in funding has been allowed from the State for the first time to fund SRO's, and additional funding is being sought out from other grant avenues for next year. Dr. Gaddis also mentioned that he is in the process of working on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sheriff's Office relating to this matter that should be completed tomorrow. Dr. Gaddis and Ms. Johnson left the meeting at this time.

Next, Mr. John Redden, Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Ms. Julie Widdowson and Mr. Sumpter came forward to accept sealed bids received regarding the Burgess Museum Construction Project.

Mr. Cavanaugh explained that there will be two bid amounts listed; the cost for the construction project, and if under budget, an additional bid amount to construct an additional 500 square feet. President Mathies proceeded to open the sealed bid received for this project:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>	<u>Alternate Additional Bid</u>
RD Meredith General Contractor	\$494,000.00	\$70,400.00

It was noted that the bid received has come in over budget. A review will be performed with the architect to decide how to move forward. Details of the project were briefly discussed. Ms. Widdowson was asked if there was any additional funding that could be contributed. She advised there was a \$25,000 allowance in the budget, and possible proceeds that will be received from the sale of the old building. Alternate building structures that are less expensive to build were also discussed. Mr. Cavanaugh stated he will return with a recommendation at a future meeting.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, Ms. Starr Mister and Ms. Jennie Marshall from the Somerset County Sanitary District, came forward at this time to present a resolution (No. 1146) whereby the Sanitary District is requesting Somerset County to endorse and guarantee a 40-year promissory note with USDA for upcoming debt service payments through March 2060 for the Smith Island Clean Water Project. The total cost is projected to be \$9.26 Million, with 88% secured through the grant/loan. This promissory note in the amount of \$83,000 will have an interest rate of 2.3750%, with principle and interest of \$806.00 due quarterly. It is projected that there will be an \$11.00 quarterly increase to sanitary customers. Ms. Mister advised that the Sanitary District held a public hearing on August 8, 2019, and all comments received were positive for the project.

Commissioner Randy Laird made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1146, a resolution to endorse and guarantee a Somerset County Sanitary District 40-year promissory note with the USDA for upcoming debt service payments as presented. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items at this time.

A Clearinghouse Review project was presented regarding the Rubberset Wastewater Pumping Station Replacement (MD20190816-0701). This project in the City of Crisfield involves the replacement of the aging Rubberset Wastewater Pumping Station which is deteriorating and provides insufficient capacity to handle wet weather flows. Mr. Taylor recommended a C-5 designation (it is consistent with our plans, programs and objectives).

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to code the Clearinghouse Review project MD20190816-0701 as C-5. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A Clearinghouse Review project was presented regarding the Cove Street Wastewater Pumping Station (MD20190816-0699). This project in the City of Crisfield involves the replacement of the aging Cove Street Wasterwater Pumping Station which is also deteriorating and provides insufficient capacity to handle wet weather flows. Mr. Taylor recommended a C-5 designation (it is consistent with our plans, programs and objectives).

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to code the Clearinghouse Review project MD20190816-0699 as C-5. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor presented the letter sent to Senator Benjamin L. Cardin for formal approval (as the letter was previously approved by email poll). Senator Cardin requested the county provide a letter outlining the priorities for the Army Corps Projects. In addition to listing various project needs, the letter thanked Senator Cardin for his interest in Somerset County's navigation, flood control and ecosystem restoration projects and any assistance he may be able to provide.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to formally approve the letter to Senator Cardin. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor next presented the annual Child Support Enforcement Administration Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement (CSEA/CRA 19-023) for the Boards consideration and approval. This agreement will reimburse the county's child support division salary and supply costs. It was noted that there was a slight increase of \$1,143.00 as compared to last year, which has been budgeted into the contract. The total cost of the program is \$272,385.00 with the county being reimbursed 66% or \$92,611.00.

Upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried unanimously to authorize President Mathies to sign the CSEA/CRA 19-023 agreement as presented.

A pauper burial assistance request was received from the mother and family of De'Nari L. Harmon, who passed away recently.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to approve \$250.00 pauper burial assistance to assist with basic funeral costs for De’Nari L. Harmon. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. John Martin, Chesapeake Utilities requested to address the Board.

Mr. Martin stated his goal today was to make an introduction, as the Business Development Manager for Chesapeake Utilities. He had nothing formal to present, noting he has been tasked with developing efforts of bringing Natural Gas to serve the county and he believes that begins with establishing a business relationship that will be positive and mutually beneficial. He noted the charity work that is done by his company in the communities they are in. He discussed the positives of natural gas and the economic benefits natural gas can bring. He has been in touch with the Somerset County Economic Development office, and he also discussed a proposed timeline to have natural gas to our county.

President Mathies thanked Mr. Martin to taking the time to be at the meeting today, and giving his words of encouragement for Somerset County.

The Board was advised of the need of a Closed Session. At 2:37 p.m., the Board entered into Closed Session upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird, and seconded by Commissioner 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. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings adjourned at 3:59 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