



AGENDA
March 19, 2019
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
1:00 p.m.

Appointments:

- 1:00 p.m. - Ms. Julie Widdowson, Tourism Commission Members/Burgess Museum
- * 1:10 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, Ms. Kristen Tremblay, DTCS
 - Bid Award: Deal Island Open Ditch Drainage System Assessment
 - Bid Award: Broadband Study
 - Critical Area FY20 Grant Application
 - MD Clearinghouse Review MD20190130-0047 Great Bay Solar Easement
 - Nature Conservancy re: Proposed Lower Eastern Shore Climate Action Network
- * 1:30 p.m. -
 - Sheriff Ronnie Howard
 - GOCCP Grant Application Submission

2:00 p.m. - Public Hearing-Smith Island Solid Waste Fee Increase

Correspondence:

Received

Federal Emergency Management Agency re: LOMR Map Revision
MD Department of Housing and Community Development re: FY19 Annual Housing Bond Allocation
Mt. Hope A.M.E. Zion Church re: Letter of Appreciation

Sent

The Honorable Luke Clippinger re: HB928-Correctional Services-Inmate Release
Dr. John Gaddis, Superintendent re: Inter-Category Transfers and Budget Amendment FY19
Ms. Deborah Haynie, Policy Advisor re: Federal Priorities

Discussion:

- * 1. Public Drainage Association-Drainage Tax Assessments
- * 2. City of Crisfield-Property Purchase Request
- * 3. Surplus Property Purchase
- * 4. Lower Shore Shelter Advance
- * 5. Proclamation Approval
- * 6. LOS- Grant Request/Friends of Teackle Mansion
- * 7. LOS- Somerset County Humane Society

Public Comments (5 minute time limit to speak)

- * **3:00 p.m. – Closed Session, Ralph Taylor, PJ Purnell, Kathleen Harrison, Robin Cockey, Heather Konyar, 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; and (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
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
March 19, 2019

At 1:00 p.m., President Mathies called the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County to open in Regular Session. Present for the meeting were Commissioner President Craig N. Mathies, Sr., 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 offer a Devotional, and to lead those present in Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session Summary Report March 19, 2019

On March 19, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. until 4:19 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins 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 (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; and (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

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

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, Attorney Robin Cockey, Attorney Heather Konyar and Attorney Kirk Simpkins, PJ Purnell and Kathleen Harrison. Topics discussed were: (1) Property acquisition (2) advisement to re-advertise job vacancy PT GIS Coordinator (3) McCready Health (4) Legal consultation. Actions taken during closed session: None.

Meeting minutes were presented for approval regarding the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on March 5, 2019. Vice President Charles Laird made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Julie Widdowson, Tourism Director and Mr. Phil Riggin, of the Tourism Commission came forward at this time to present the “Proposed Burgess Exit Strategy” with regard to the artifacts and items within the Burgess Museum. The plan is to select artifacts that will be used in the new space, refine the inventory and relocate items to keep in a specific area of the old building so that fumigation can be performed. Following fumigation, these items are to be stored at the Marion School, and the remaining inventory will be offered to various agencies. Options for the remaining items include auction, sale, scrapping or simply discard. Once all items are removed, the building/property will be sold and proceeds from the sale will be used to benefit the Burgess Project. Mr. Riggin asked to emphasize a few of the points, noting that the Tourism Commission supports this exit strategy plan, and he accentuated the importance of the proceeds to be funneled back into the museum to cover expected future operational costs. Following the discussion, the Tourism Commission received the Boards consensus to proceed with the exit strategy as presented.

Mr. Gary Pusey and Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Department of Technical and Community Services (DTCS) came forward at this time.

Ms. Tremblay first presented the recommendation from the Review Committee with regard to the Deal Island Open Ditch Drainage Assessment. Upon review of the bid submissions, Ms. Tremblay advised that the committee felt that time spent in the field (on the ground and conducting surveys) was critically important in understanding the area and its drainage concerns. After review of the bids, it was found that A. Morton, Thomas and Associates (AMT) far exceeded the amount of time in the field than proposed by any other firm. The grant award for the project was \$75,000; and it was noted that AMT’s bid submission was for \$73,970.00. Ms. Tremblay also stated that AMT (who was not the lowest bid submission), provided the most detailed and pragmatic approach to addressing the drainage issues on Deal Island. Ms. Tremblay also advised that AMT was also awarded the Smith Island Open Ditch Drainage Assessment, and was not the lowest bidder at that time as well. She also advised the Board that as requested during the bid openings held during the March 5, 2019 meeting, contact was attempted with Soltesz, whose bid submission was noted as being “proposed”. No response received as to today’s meeting. In closing, the Review Committee made the recommendation to award the Deal Island Open Ditch Drainage Assessment to AMT in the amount of \$73,970.00. Mr. Pusey was asked if the county is required to accept the low bid. Mr. Pusey stated that the state wants the county to select the best company to do the best job. Commissioner Willing questioned the

designation area chosen for Deal Island, asking if more area can be included noting that there are troublesome areas just outside the boundary lines on the map. Mr. Pusey explained that funding restricted the size of the area, and residents of the area were involved and understand what areas will be included, and have accepted the assessment areas as described.

Following the discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Willing to accept the bid submission for the Deal Island Open Ditch Drainage Assessment from AMT for \$73,970.00. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, Mr. Pusey presented the recommendation made by the Review Committee with regard to the Broadband Feasibility Study. The county has been approved for \$50,000 in Hurricane Sandy Disaster Grant funding to hire a consultant to conduct a broadband feasibility study for the County. The intent of the study is to find ways to provide broadband service to all underserved areas of the County. Upon review of the bid submissions, it was noted that all of the firms were qualified, however the recommendation was made to award the contract to CTC in the amount of \$60,000.00, as their submission was the most thorough and their experience with preparing rural broadband studies met the County's needs. They also have extensive experience in the State of Maryland. Reference feedback received regarding CTC was excellent and included Garrett County, Talbot County and the Governor's Office of Rural Broadband. Mr. Pusey advised that although the bid amount exceeded the grant award of \$50,000, the County has been approved to use available funding in the "program income" category to cover the shortage. Monies in this category are from other Sandy projects such as business loans and the sale of county owned homes, etc. All costs for this study will be paid by the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Grant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to award the Broadband Feasibility Study to CTC in the amount of \$60,000.00. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, Mr. Pusey presented for the Boards consideration, approval to submit the Critical Area FY20 Grant Application in the amount of \$11,000.00. Mr. Pusey explained that each year, the county receives a grant from the Critical Area Commission to help cover staff time associated with implementing the Critical Area requirements. An application must be filed to be officially approved for funding. Once the application process is approved, Mr. Pusey advised he would return at a later date for signatures on the actual Grant Agreement.

Vice President Charles Laird made a motion to approve the FY20 Critical Area Grant Application submission for \$11,000.00. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor next presented the Maryland Clearinghouse Review for further discussion regarding the Great Bay Solar Phase II Easement. The project was previously coded at P7 due to remaining buffer and road paving issues remaining with Phase I of the project. Mr. Pusey advised that the planting as requested has been completed to his departments satisfaction, noting that it meets approved plans. Mr. Taylor advised that paving of the involved roads (Dublin and Old Princess Anne Road) are expected to be completed this week. The extension date to re-submit comment is tomorrow, March 20, 2019. Mr. Taylor also reminded the Board of the \$2,297,000 Line of Credit being held by the county if work is not completed to our specifications. Options available for consideration are to recode the review, as possibly a C5 (pending completion of the paving work) or no action at this time, and request another extension to allow for the completion of the paving work.

Following a brief discussion, Vice President Charles Laird made a motion to not recode the Clearinghouse review project MD20190130-0047 until paving of the roads is totally completed, and we have reviewed the work ourselves. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Pusey advised he would contact the state clearinghouse to request an additional extension.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board of correspondence received from the Nature Conservancy regarding the proposed Lower Eastern Shore Climate Action Network (LESCAN). Organizers feel that this network can be of assistance to the lower shore relating to sea level rise. It was noted that Wicomico and Worcester counties have already joined; however concern was expressed that Somerset is not always treated equally regarding this matter as shown with the recent flood plain revisions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laird to not participate in the Lower Eastern Shore Climate Action Network. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Ronnie Howard came forward at this time to advise the Board that earlier this fall they had applied for a grant to fund a Firing Simulator System for their office in the amount of \$62,629.00. Due to the government shutdown at that time, Sheriff Howard advised that his office had only a 2 week window to apply for grant funding, and therefore did not have time to submit

the grant application before the Board. In order to receive full reimbursement before month end, the payment must be submitted this week.

A motion was made by Vice President Laird to approve the grant submission for a Firing Simulator System for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A letter was received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency advising that no requests for changes to the modified flood hazard information was received, and the determination as to the modified flood hazard information for our community is considered final. Base flood elevation corrections require a 90-day appeal period. The correction became effective February 28, 2019.

We received correspondence from the Department of Housing and Community Development regarding the FY19 Housing Bond Allocation. Every year, the county authorizes the transfer of our allocation, this year totaling \$3,956,873.00, because Somerset County does not have the capacity to administer a county-run housing program. It was noted that Somerset County residents still benefit from the program however, because the programs are offered by the State and are available to our county residents.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to authorize the President's signature on the letter authorizing the transfer of the FY19 Housing Bond Allocation for \$3,956,873.00. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A very kind letter was received from Mt. Hope A.M.E. Zion Church expressing their extreme gratitude and thanks to President Mathies and the Commissioners for the Proclamation presented with regard to the completion of the addition to their church.

Mr. Taylor read aloud the letter sent to Ms. Deborah Haynie, Policy Advisor, Office of Senator Van Hollen regarding Somerset County's Federal Priorities request.

Mr. Taylor next advised the Board of the results of the Annual Public Drainage Association (PDA) meetings held recently. The following action was taken by the Board authorizing the County's Tax Collection Office to levy the Drainage Tax Assessment PDA for Tax Year 2019-2020 as follows:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird, seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it was carried unanimously to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Upper Manokin Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2019-2020 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Upper Manokin PDA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
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Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

Mr. Tom Pinto requested to step down, and Mr. Doug Green was appointed in Mr. Pinto's place. Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Willing, it carried unanimously to concur with the recommendation to nominate Mr. Doug Green to serve as Manager for a three-year term, with Mr. Jerry Bozman and Mr. Buddy Powell continuing on from a previous appointment.

Commissioner Randy Laird left the meeting at this time.

Upon motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 4-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Dividing Creek Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2019-2020 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Dividing Creek PDA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$7.00 per acre
Woodland	\$3.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$30.00

Upon motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 4-0 to concur with the recommendation to reappoint Mr. Eric Culver to a three-year term as Manager; with Mr. Jimmy Johnson, Mr. Roger Richardson and Mr. Tommy Johnson continuing on from a previous term.

Upon motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird, it carried unanimously to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Handy Church Public Watershed Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2019-2020 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Handy Church PWA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$0.00 acre
Woodland	\$0.00 acre
Minimum Billing	\$50.00

Upon motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird it carried unanimously to concur with the recommendation to reappoint Mr. Bernard Johnson to serve a three-year term as Manager, with Mr. Larry Van Story and Mr. Thomas Watkins continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Willing, it carried 4-0 to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Passerdyke Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2019-2020 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Tony's Branch PDA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$4.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$20.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird it carried 4-0 to concur with the recommendation to reappoint Mr. Charles Fleming III for a three-year term as Manager, with Mr. Bob Gannon and Mr. Gene Donalds continuing on from a previous appointment.

Commissioner Randy Laird returned to the meeting at this time.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried unanimously to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Barkley Branch Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2019-2020 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Barkley Branch PDA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$4.00 per acre
Woodland	\$2.00 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$22.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing it carried unanimously to concur with the recommendation to re-nominate Mr. John Bromley for a three-year term as Manager, with Ms. Maureen Houlihan and Ms. Ingrid Balea continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried unanimously to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Tony's Branch Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2019-2020 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Tony's Branch PDA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$4.00 per acre
Woodland	\$2.00 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Willing and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried unanimously to concur with the recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Lee West for another three-year term as Manager, with Mr. Gary Rathkamp and Mr. Tommy Smith III continuing on from a previous appointment.

A request was received from the City of Crisfield to purchase the assignment of certificate for Account No. 07-126190 (Map 0101 Parcel 1088) for the amount of \$200.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried unanimously to accept the offer from the City of Crisfield to purchase the assignment of certificate for Account No. 07-126190 for \$200.00.

Mr. Taylor presented offers received to purchase surplus property. The offers were approved as follows:

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to sell Account No. 03-037045 (Map 0059 Parcel 0066) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,001.00 plus closing costs. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding the next property, President Mathies questioned if this property was located on Ward Road, as someone had asked him about how to make an offer. Mr. Taylor stated it was. A motion was then made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird to sell Account No. 03-047547 (Map 0057 Parcel 0006) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$2,000.00 plus closing costs. President Mathies abstained; therefore the motion carried 4-0-1.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to sell Account No. 04-063651 (Map 0042 Parcel 0191) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,950.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Willing to sell Account No. 06-095666 (Map 0038 Parcel 0087) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,200.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to sell Account No. 06-099971 (Map 0048 Parcel 0052) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,200.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to sell Account No. 07-111495 (Map 0101 Parcel 0339) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,199.00 plus closing costs. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to sell Account No. 07-120109 (Map 0101 Parcel 1278) to Ms. Magda Cruz for \$1,139.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to sell Account No. 07-120710 (Map 0102 Parcel 0650) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,100.00 plus closing costs. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to sell Account No. 07-121393 (Map 0103 Parcel 1407) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,300.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Willing to sell Account No. 07-123183 (Map 0103 Parcel 1407) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,459.00 plus closing costs. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to sell Account No. 07-128711 (Map 0101 Parcel 0811) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,090.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Randy Laird questioned if the next property on Joe Lewis Lane was located by the airport obstruction removal project. Mr. Taylor stated he didn't think so. A motion was then made by Commissioner Randy Laird to sell Account No. 08-151121 (Map 0064 Parcel 0017) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$790.00 plus closing costs. Vice President Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Willing to sell Account No. 09-161872 (Map 0020 Parcel 0228) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,050.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to sell Account No. 09-161961 (Map 0019 Parcel 0239) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$2,500.00 plus closing costs. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to sell Account No. 09-162429 (Map 0020 Parcel 0213) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,350.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Willing to sell Account No. 11-000088 (Map 0020 Parcel 0075) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,299.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to sell Account No. 11-002730 (Map 0020 Parcel 0077) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,975.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to sell Account No. 12-002610 (Map 0079 Parcel 0027) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$999.00 plus closing costs. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to sell Account No. 12-007078 (Map 0072 Parcel 0644) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,299.00 plus closing costs. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to sell Account No. 12-008600 (Map 0072 Parcel 0455) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$999.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to sell Account No. 12-009151 (Map 0072 Parcel 0750) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,299.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to sell Account No. 12-010044 (Map 0072 Parcel 1291) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$999.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to sell Account No. 12-012977 (Map 0103 Parcel 1499) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$999.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to sell Account No. 15-008075 (Map 0009 Parcel 0029) to Mr. David Barone, Jr., for \$1,299.00 plus closing costs. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Mathies called the Public Hearing open at 2:00 p.m. regarding the proposed increase to the Smith Island Solid Waste Fee. Mr. Taylor read the notice of public hearing into record as follows:

PUBLIC HEARING
INCREASE TO THE SMITH ISLAND SOLID WASTE FEE

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 SOMERSET AVENUE, ROOM 111
PRINCESS ANNE, MD 21853

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019
2:00 P.M.

“Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County will hold a Public Hearing to hear opponents and proponents regarding a proposed fee increase to the Smith Island Solid Waste District pursuant to Somerset County Code of Public Laws, Section 8-201 (b) Annual Fee, for the removal of solid waste in the Smith Island Election District.

Fair Summary

The Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County will hold a public hearing to present to the public, the consideration of an amendment to Ordinance 856 to increase the annual fee for waste removal, including ash and other residue from the County’s incinerator and improved properties on Smith Island. The proposed increase will be from \$48.00 to \$60.00.

The public is invited to attend the public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Somerset County Commissioners, 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853.

Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County
Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator”

President Mathies asked if there was anyone present wishing to speak. There were none.

It was noted that public comments will be taken for 10 days, after which an ordinance will be presented for the Boards consideration and approval. The public hearing was declared closed at 2:02 pm.

Mr. Taylor requested formal approval from the Board regarding a request made for an advance of funding from The Lower Shore Shelter in the amount of \$10,000. The advance will be reimbursed back to the county upon receipt of their reimbursement from the State.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried unanimously to approve the advance funding request to The Lower Shore Shelter in the amount of \$10,000 that will be reimbursed to the county upon receipt of their funding reimbursement submission.

A proclamation in recognition of Arbor Day was presented for approval. It was noted that Somerset County will become the first Tree City USA on the Eastern Shore of Maryland on April 24, 2019 during a ceremony that will be held at the J.M. Tawes Campus in Westover.

Formal approval was requested with regard to a letter of support request received from the Friends of Teackle Mansion who are applying for a \$10,000 grant from Preservation Maryland. The grant will be used for the ongoing restoration program at the mansion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird to approve the letter of support for the Friends of Teackle Mansion's grant application from Preservation Maryland. The motion carried unanimously.

Formal approval was requested with regard to a letter of support request received from the Somerset County Humane Society that will be used to apply for various grant applications.

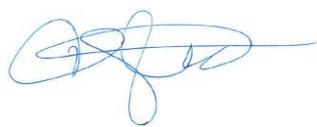
A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird to approve a letter of support for the Somerset County Humane Society. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, at 2:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board entered into Closed Session at 3:00 p.m., 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; and (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition; and (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings adjourned at 4:19 p.m. upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide