



AGENDA
April 2, 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. - Dr. John Gaddis, Linda R. Johnson, Danielle Haley SCPS
- FY20 Budget
- * 1:30 p.m. - Ms. Yvette Cross, Emergency Services
- Public Safety Tower/Crisfield Fire Department- MOU
- * 1:35 p.m. - Mr. John Redden, Public Works (Maintenance and Solid Waste)
Bid Openings:
- Courthouse Annex Demolition
- Scrap Metal Bid/Landfill Crisfield-Somerset County Airport Obstruction Removal
- * 1:45 p.m. - Mr. John Redden, Public Works
- Eden Allen Road Ditching Project/Phase II
- Airport Capital Improvement Plan
- * 1:50 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, Kristen Tremblay DTCS
- Fish & Wildlife Service-Notice of Boundaries
- Lower Shore Land Trust-Rural Legacy Process Request
- Request for Waiver of Permit Fees/Emergency Services Tower Reinforcement
Bid Opening:
- Hurricane Sandy Disaster Grant – Generators
- 2:05 p.m. - Ms. Jillian Cordova, US Census Bureau
- Census Complete Count Committee Request

Correspondence:

Sent

Ms. Maddy Ciulu, DHCD re: Housing Bond Transfer
Mr. William McInturff re: Appointment/Somerset County Ethics Commission
Mr. Tim Howlett re: Appointment/Lower Shore Workforce Alliance
Mr. Mike Corbin re: Appointment/Lower Shore Workforce Alliance

Discussion:

- * 1. Mosquito Spraying/Billing
- * 2. Health Officer Resolution
- * 3. Ordinance/Smith Island Solid Waste Fee Increase
- * 4. Proclamation Request

Public Comments (5 minute time limit to speak)

- * **2:30 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
April 2, 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 to offer a Devotional, and lead those present in Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session Summary Report April 2, 2019

On April 2, 2019, at 2:32 p.m. until 2:52 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing 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 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, HR Director, Erica Yeager and Recreation and Parks Director Clint Sterling. Topics discussed were: (1) Hiring of two PT Groundskeepers (2) Request to move two employees from probationary to permanent employee status (3) Vacancy at the Dog Control Office. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to hire two Part time Groundskeepers (2) Approval to move two employees from probationary to permanent employee status.

Meeting minutes were presented for approval regarding the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on March 19, 2019 and the Commissioner Special Session meeting held on March 26, 2019. Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. John Gaddis, Ms. Linda R. Johnson, Ms. Daniele Haley and Mr. Tom Davis, Somerset County Public Schools came forward at this time to present the FY20 Proposed Operating Budget Summary and the Proposed Capital Improvement Budget for FY20.

Dr. Gaddis first thanked the Board after which he introduced staff with him today. He briefly discussed the Kirwan bill, expected to be voted on today in Annapolis, passing in the House yesterday. This bill will provide significant monies to the Somerset County school system, providing many opportunities to support our students in providing social, emotional and behavioral support in our schools.

Ms. Daniele Haley then provided a breakdown of the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center project noting the local share is 17% of the total project cost (\$42,781,000), or \$7,400,000. She reviewed Local FY17 and FY18 actual expenditures, \$1,470,107 and \$585,424 respectively, and also provided the FY19 estimated cost of \$1,730,539, and the FY20 estimated request to be \$3,614,930. She closed her comments by noting that the figures have not changed from the original submission for construction funding.

Dr. Gaddis then briefly discussed the new school, inviting the Board to come visit the new building. He advised that there is already a waiting list for the Criminal Justice Program, which has never happened before. He also explained that he and Mr. Davis have met with Dr. Ray Hoy from Wor-Wic regarding running a full 'Continuing Ed' program and free adult courses at night. He also described how the process will work, and arrangements that are underway to have bus transportation available directly to the school. He advised that this school will truly change how we "do business" in Somerset County.

Next, Ms. Linda R. Johnson discussed the FY20 Proposed Operating Budget. During her PowerPoint presentation, she noted that the proposed FY20 local budget share is \$43,131,201, with the County "Maintenance of Effort" totaling \$10,088,825 (anticipated spending for 2,725 students). She advised that the expected increase in funding for FY20 is \$1,160,000. She noted that they continue to work on balancing the budget, with \$3.8 Million left to cut. She then explained that with the expectation of Kirwan funding, FY20 expenditures that are anticipated to increase are within the Salary, Health Insurance, Technology, Textbook and Special Education categories. She also explained that salary expenditures must increase by 3% in order to qualify for Kirwan funding. Additional discussion for clarification was held regarding this requirement. Potential additional funding for Somerset, should Kirwan pass, was also presented and it was

explained that the Kirwan grant funding will have a 2-year grant period, after which it will continue forward utilizing a funding formula that will be established.

President Mathies asked what the estimated student population was for next year. Dr. Gaddis and his staff did not have that information, and offered to email a 10-year chart that outlined student population figures once they return to their offices this afternoon.

Vice President Charles Laird discussed discipline issues in our schools and asked for an explanation on how this additional funding may help to address discipline problems. Dr. Gaddis explained how the funding will address those issues.

President Mathies also added that in regards to suspension rates, based on state regulations, a great burden has imposed on administrators. He noted that in Dorchester County, a second grader or younger cannot be suspended. He expressed his personal opinion on the changes needed to address these behavioral issues. Dr. Gaddis agreed and shared disciplinary action strategies with the Board, and how their approach to behavior will be changed to address county-wide norms to address this problem. He felt accountability to put the responsibility on the parents for their child's behavioral problems needs to occur.

Gene Adkins, Finance Director asked about non-recurring costs for this year. Dr. Gaddis advised there would not be a request for non-recurring costs again this year as previously promised. It was noted that a form needs to be completed stating there will be no non-recurring costs for this fiscal year.

Lastly, Vice President Charles Laird asked about field lighting for Crisfield High School, as a friendly reminder. It was noted that they are trying to see if the request, expected to cost around \$275,000, can be budgeted. Dr. Gaddis also noted that discussions need to be held with the community, and the school to see how the lights will be used and figure out how the expense can be budgeted. Dr. Gaddis, Mr. Davis, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Haley left the meeting at this time.

Ms. Yvette Cross, Director of Emergency Services, came forward at this time to present a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Somerset County, the City of Crisfield and the Crisfield Volunteer Fire Department (CFD) to undertake a major upgrade to the public safety radio system that responders will use. This agreement will allow space in the CFD storage room for the installation of radio equipment, allow Harris radio maintenance technicians 27 x 7 access, permit the installation of a 190 foot radio tower, and allow connection to the existing generator

until relocation is made. Attorney Kirk Simpkins has reviewed the MOU and found it to be legally sufficient.

Commissioner Randy Laird made a motion to authorize President Mathies to sign the MOU as presented. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. John Redden, Public Works Director, came forward at this time. President Mathies proceeded to open the following sealed bids for consideration:

Former Courthouse Annex Demolition

<u>Contractor:</u>	<u>Bid Amount:</u>
Doug Vann Excavating	\$81,585.00
Reynolds Excavating	\$18,890.00
Ryan Miller	\$12,875.00
Environmental Services	\$53,233.44
Bozman Sand & Gravel	\$73,500.00
Pocomoke Recycling Inc.	\$17,500.00

Mr. Redden requested to review the bids and return with a recommendation at the next scheduled meeting.

Scrap Metal

<u>Contractor:</u>	<u>Bid Amount:</u>
Fitzgerald's Auto Salvage	\$90.00 Per Ton
Salisbury Scrap Metal	\$65.00 Per Net Ton

Mr. Redden requested to review the bids and return with a recommendation at the next scheduled meeting.

Airport Obstruction Removal

<u>Contractor:</u>	<u>Bid Amount:</u>
Economy Tree Service, Inc.	\$749,616.78
Harper and Sons, Inc.	\$1,358,578.00

Mr. Redden requested to review the bids and return with a recommendation at the next scheduled meeting.

Next, Mr. Redden briefly discussed the Eden Allen Ditching Project, Phase II. Sealed bids were received during the February 19, 2019 meeting. At that time, the Board tabled the bid award as Mr. Cavanaugh requested to review the submissions to make sure they met project

requirements. Mr. Redden advised that inconsistencies were found and the recommendation was made to rebid the project. The Board was in consensus to have the project rebid.

Lastly, Mr. Redden discussed the Airport Capital Improvement Plan, which is completed annually. He advised that the letter has been drafted for Mr. Taylor's signature, and the two biggest items noted within the plan were the removal of obstructions and the rehabilitation of the runway itself, planned for 2023/2024.

Upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird, Mr. Taylor was authorized to sign the Airport Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Commissioner Randy Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Pusey first discussed the letter presented during the March 5, 2019 meeting from the Fish and Wildlife Service, which advised that the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), originally established in 1982, are proposed to be revised. Public comments are being taken until April 17, 2019. Upon further review of the properties located in Somerset County, Mr. Pusey advised that most of the 15 areas identified consisted of wetlands and areas immediately along the coast of waterways that are undevelopable. There were two existing houses on Long Point Road that were previously in the CBRS that have been removed with this boundary revision. Mr. Pusey did advise however, that with this proposed revision, a house located on Hammock Point as been added. His department will notify these three property owners to inform them of these proposed changes. Mr. Pusey advised that staff therefore feels the impact to Somerset County regarding these boundary changes are minimal.

Ms. Tremblay next discussed the Dividing Creek Rural Legacy Area (DCRLA), sponsored with the Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) and Worcester County, and the MOU approved during the October 29, 2018 meeting for management of the program. It was explained that previously, up-front incidentals such as surveys, title work and appraisals reimbursed by the State at the conclusion of the grant funding was covered by the Nature Conservancy. LSLT is unable to cover these up-front costs and has requested that the County sponsor these incidentals, and be reimbursed at a later date. Ms. Tremblay was asked if there is a possibility that the county

could not be reimbursed the up-front costs. She stated that only if the application falls thru. Ms. Tremblay was then asked to review all applications for accuracy prior to submission.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Randy Laird to approve the County to cover the up-front costs for the DCRLA. Vice President Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Pusey presented a request received for a waiver of permit fees regarding the Emergency Services Tower Reinforcement project for public properties. The three sites include 28573 Hudson Corner Road (Sarah Peyton School), the Maryland State Police Barracks at 30581 Perry Road, and the former Sheriff's Office (30426) Sam Barnes Road. The total fee waiver being requested today is \$300.00. Consideration may also be given to waiving fees for the future antenna installation as well.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to approve the fee waiver request in the amount of \$300.00 regarding the Tower Reinforcement project. Vice President Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, President Mathies proceeded to open sealed bids received with regard to the Generator Relocation/Installation Project as follows:

Generator Relocation/Installation Project

<u>Contractor:</u>	<u>Bid Amount:</u>
Carter Electric	\$32,510.00
Barnes Power	\$66,975.00

Mr. Pusey requested to review the bids and return with a recommendation.

Ms. Jillian Cordova, who is with the US Census Bureau came forward to discuss the 2020 Census. Noting that the census process is less than one year out, she discussed the formation of a Complete Count Committee for each county that will play a key role in developing partners to educate and motivate residents to participate in the 2020 Census. She explained how the State has issued \$13 billion in Federal funding based on census information collected and the importance in collecting the information to receive funding. She advised how the ability to file census information can be done electronically, but they will also still accept 'call in' and 'mail in' information. She advised that the Census Bureau is doing a lot of hiring for the Somerset County area and is in need of applicants. She told the Board that the Princess Anne

area is the largest area on the Eastern Shore where they are concerned about the response rate. It is felt that the largest population group that is not responding is the 18-24 year old group, and may be directly tied to the college, as they may believe they do not need to report census information. Ms. Cordova explained that the Count Committee will consist of a group of trusted committee members who will decide the best variable that will work to get and hopefully increase responses. She explained how the collection of census information is safe, and kept confidential. Any information collected is not shared. She closed her comments by asking the Board of Commissioners to consider appointments that can be made for this committee. The first meeting is scheduled to occur in May.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

Following a review of sent correspondence, Mr. Taylor asked to discuss the Mosquito Spraying fee. It was noted that the last change to the fee for annual mosquito spraying was in March 2012 when the rate changed from \$65.00 to the current rate of \$75.00. During budget deliberations, consideration was being given to increase the rate to \$100.00 per household.

Commissioner Simpkins stated that being there was not a full board present during those discussions, he made a motion to table the matter so that it can be discussed with the full board. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A proposed resolution was presented for the Boards approval to establish a process for nomination for a Health Officer for Somerset County. Mr. Taylor advised that this would be in accordance with state law requirements.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Willing, it was approved to adopt Resolution No. 1139 to establish a process for nomination for Health Officer for Somerset County. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, Mr. Taylor presented a proposed Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 856 that will increase the solid waste disposal fee from \$48.00 to \$60.00 per developed land for Smith Island property owners, effective July 1, 2019. This increase will be compatible with those others property owners in Somerset County for the disposal of solid waste.

Vice President Charles Laird made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1140 that will amend Ordinance No. 856 to increase the solid waste disposal fee to \$60.00 to be equal to the rest of the county. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A proclamation was presented for approval to proclaim April 2019 as Fair Housing Month in Somerset County.

Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to approve the proclamation proclaiming April 2019 as Fair Housing Month in Somerset County. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

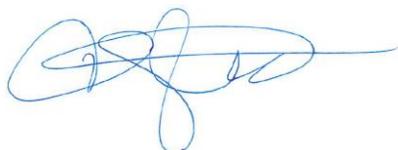
President Mathies advised the Board of a request for a proclamation he received to honor Mr. Kirkland Halls 41 years of service.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird to approve a proclamation in honor of Mr. Hall's many years of service. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board of the need for Closed Session. With no further business, at 2:32 p.m. the Board entered into Closed Session upon a motion made by Commissioner Rex Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing, 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 Commissioner and Closed Session meetings adjourned at 2:52 p.m. upon a motion made by Commissioner Willing 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