

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
SPECIAL SESSION
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2019

At 1:00 p.m., the Board of Somerset County Commissioners met in Special Session with Commissioner Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing and Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Commissioner President Craig Mathies, Sr. was not present for today's meeting.

Also in attendance were County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez.

Vice President Charles Laird asked Commissioner Willing to lead those in attendance in devotion. Following a quote read by Commissioner Willing, the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

The Board was then advised for the need of a Closed Session.

Therefore, on a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing, the Board voted 4-0 to enter into Closed Session at 1:31 p.m. by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle §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.

At 1:59 p.m., the Board of Somerset County Commissioners reconvened in Special Session with Commissioner Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, and Commissioner Eldon Willing. Commissioner Rex Simpkins was not present for the beginning of the meeting.

Also in attendance were County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez.

Closed Session Summary Report for November 19, 2019

On November 19, 2019, from 1:31 p.m. until 1:59 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing, it carried 4-0 to enter into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle §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 Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Rex Simpkins, Commissioner Randy Laird, and Commissioner Eldon Willing. Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez, Solid Waste Director Charles Cavanaugh, and Human Resources Director Erica Yeager. Topics discussed were: (1) Personnel; Actions taken: Promotion/Motor Equipment Operator, Termination, Promotion/Transfer Station Attendant II, Hiring/Transfer Station Attendant I.

Minutes from the November 5, 2019 Special Session were presented and approved on a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Willing that carried 3-0.

Commissioner Simpkins returned to the meeting.

Dr. John Gaddis, Superintendent of Somerset County Schools, and Ms. Daniele Haley, Supervisor of Facilities & Capital Planning for Somerset County Schools, were now before the Board to present the FY21 Capital Improvement Plan. Dr. Gaddis began by providing the Board with a copy of their master plan, which is now called the 2019 Local ESSA Consolidated Strategic Plan.

Ms. Haley then addressed the Board to discuss the FY21 Capital Improvement Plan and the Facilities Master Plan (given to the Board for informational purposes). Ms. Haley advised of their request for planning and funding approval for a Roof Replacement project at Crisfield Academy & High School as well as a local planning request for replacement of the Ewell Elementary School. Ms. Haley advised that these projects would be 100% state funded. Dr. Gaddis further discussed the cost effectiveness of replacing the Ewell Elementary School versus a roof replacement.

Dr. Gaddis then discussed the proposed Princess Anne project (a down the road project) and advised that Ms. Haley has been in the process of conducting a survey that will help determine if it is feasible (business and educational wise) to continue operating three current elementary schools or combine them into one school.

Mr. Taylor then requested the approval for the Vice President's signature certifying that the Somerset County Commissioners received and reviewed the FY 21 Capital Improvement Plan and are in support of the project request in the plan.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird, it carried 4-0 to approve the Vice President's signature on the letter as presented for the FY21 Capital Improvement Plan.

Dr. Gaddis then advised that at their Board meeting he will be requesting permission to send a letter to the Board of Commissioners for Somerset County giving them the Marion Sarah Peyton School. He further advised that they have completed their walkthrough; however the remaining furniture in the building will be left and available for use (all broken items discarded). Ms. Haley will deliver the keys to the building on December 1, 2019.

Following a brief discussion, Dr. Gaddis and Ms. Haley left the meeting.

Mr. Clint Sterling, Director of Recreation and Parks, was now before the Board to discuss the Exclusive Use Facility Agreement (previously presented at the November 5, 2019 meeting) for the Board's review and discussion. Mr. Sterling advised that there is no charge for any use of County recreation facilities associated with Somerset County's recreational program. Additionally, Somerset County Public School's sports teams may use County recreation facilities for free during their season. Organizations and teams outside of the Somerset County recreation program and public schools may use the facility in Westover (renovated for recreational purposes a few years ago with open space funds) free of charge; however a fee will be charged if the building is being used for a fee based event (fee to get in, tickets purchased for event, etc). County recreation facilities may also be used by these organizations and teams outside of the Somerset County recreation program and public schools for a minimal fee (based on hourly and daily rates that are detailed within the Exclusive Use Facility Agreement). Mr. Sterling advised that to use/rent any of these facilities, interested persons need to contact the Recreation and Parks department for availability. He further advised that renter's are encouraged to purchase renter's insurance through Tulip (this does not increase the fee to rent the space, and the recreation department will process the paperwork for them).

A discussion was held in regards to the information provided, with the Board thanking Mr. Sterling and reiterating that we will always make something available for the children of Somerset County.

Mr. Sterling left the meeting.

Next, Mr. Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services, was now before the Board to present the following proposed updates to the County's Nuisance Ordinance for House Demolition:

Section I (C.) Any dilapidated, burned-out, fallen-down, ramshackle, or decaying structure or remnant thereof which is unattended and/or uninhabitable or unusable for its intended purpose and is beyond reasonable hope of re-habilitation or restoration.

And, Section II. Proposed Process:

- Structure is identified either by complaint for DTCS Staff
- Building Inspector determines if structure is uninhabitable and unable to be repaired.
- If confirmed by Building Inspector, violation process is initiated, to include notification of property owner by letter; issuance of citation; and if violation is still not resolved, filing in court. (County must have the Court's approval to enter the property and remove the structure.) County received bids to remove the structure; bid is awarded; and lien is placed against the property's taxes.
- In addition to removing the structure, the final site work includes removing all leftover debris; grading the site; and, if necessary, adding fill dirt to level the site.
- If property is also in violation of tall grass and/or junk (as defined by the Nuisance Ordinance) and/or untagged vehicles, these violations are issued at the same time as the dilapidated structure notice is issued. If still unresolved after 15 days, the County will enter the property to cut tall grass/overgrowth and separate citations will be issued for junk and/or untagged vehicles, for court action.
- In order to keep costs to a minimum for the removal of dilapidated structures, work is restricted to removal of the structure and any incidental work needed to access the structure, such as removal of underbrush and/or tree, but tree removal is limited to that absolutely necessary

Following this, a brief discussion was held.

Mr. Pusey and his staff then left the meeting.

Mr. Taylor reviewed correspondence received and advised that included in the agenda packet is a Clearinghouse Review from the Maryland Department of Planning for the renovation of 12 structures located in the Princess Anne Townhomes on Pine Hole Drive. Mr. Taylor made the recommendation to code this a C5 (consistent with the planned program and objectives).

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing to code the Clearinghouse Review from the Maryland Department of Planning for the renovation of 12 structures located in the Princess Anne Townhomes on Pine Hole Drive as C5. This motion carried 4-0.

A letter was received from Ms. Claudia Nelson, Director of Somerset County Department of Social Services, advising the application for a grant to receive \$8,333.00 for the Maryland

Summer SNAP Program (FY 2020) with a required county match of \$347.00. Ms. Nelson requested the Board's commitment for the \$347.00 match.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing to commit a match \$347.00 for the Maryland Summer SNAP Program (FY 2020). This motion carried 4-0.

Under discussion items, Mr. Taylor presented a proclamation request for the Washington High School Girls' Field Hockey team as they made it to the 1A East State Tournament Finals.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing to approve the proclamation for the Washington High School Girls' Field Hockey Team. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor presented a proclamation request for the Crisfield High School Boys Soccer Team for their advancement to the MPSSAA 1A State Semifinals.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to approve the proclamation for the Crisfield High School Boys Soccer Team. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor presented a letter of support request from the City of Crisfield as they are applying for a grant to repair a tide gate, culvert modifications, and pump stations due to the frequent tidal and storm water flooding that is impacting Crisfield, and requested the Vice President's signature on the prepared letter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to authorize the Vice President's signature on the letter of support requested above. The motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was then opened for public comment, and Mr. Leonard Ward of Elmo Dryden Road came forward to express his concerns for the condition of Elmo Dryden Road. Mr. Ward advised that the road needs to be repaired as shoulders are disappearing and the road is only 6ft wide in some areas (making it impossible for vehicles to pass one another). Mr. Ward further advised that he has been in contact with a gentleman at the State Highway Association who claims the County can receive special funds for road repair; however the Board advised they were unaware of these special funds and requested the gentleman's name whom Mr. Ward had spoken with, to which he was unable to provide a name. Discussion continued on the increased traffic flow on Elmo Dryden Road (since Mr. Ward moved to that address 25 years ago) and the

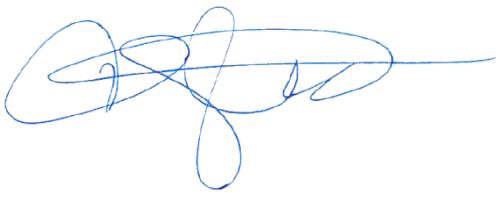
amount of chicken houses now located in that area (increasing the amount of trucks now traveling that road). Mr. Ward also advised that he learned that you are allowed to shoot two buzzards a year as long as you obtain a permit.

Vice President Laird addressed Mr. Ward's concerns for the condition of Elmo Dryden Road and advised that the Board will do what they can to see about the repairs to the road.

Following this, Mr. Taylor advised that at 3 p.m. the Keep Somerset Beautiful organization will be holding a recognition ceremony in the board room to celebrate their recent affiliation with Keep America Beautiful and the Board has been invited to attend.

With no further business to conduct, the Board then adjourned the Special Session meeting at 2:49 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing that carried 4-0.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized name with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name Kimberly Lopez.

Kimberly Lopez
Executive Secretary