

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
SPECIAL SESSION  
TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2020

At 1:30 p.m., the Board of Somerset County Commissioners met in Special Session with Commissioner President Craig Mathies, Sr., Commissioner Randy Laird, and Commissioner Eldon Willing, and Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Commissioner Vice President Charles Laird was not in attendance for the meeting.

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

President Mathies asked Commissioner Willing to lead those present in Devotion and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Closed Session Summary Report for April 21, 2020**

On April 21, 2020, from 1:47 p.m. until 2:56 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird, 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; and (b) (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition.

Present for the Closed Session Meeting were President Craig N. Mathies, Sr., Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Rex Simpkins, and Commissioner Eldon Willing. Vice President Charles Laird was not present for the meeting. Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez, Director of Technical and Community Services Gary Pusey, Finance Director Gene Adkins, and Tax Collections Supervisor Willis Dryden. Topics discussed were: (1) Personnel; Actions taken: Probation and Resignation, (2) Property Acquisition; Actions taken: Condemnation.

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Minutes from the March 31, 2020 Open and Closed Session Meeting were presented and approved upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins. The motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Yvette Cross, Director of Emergency Services, came before the Board to provide a briefing on COVID-19 to date, stating that there are over 14,000 cases in Maryland with 12 being

in Somerset County (4 of those are hospitalizations). Local law enforcement has been reinforcing the Governor's orders throughout the County. Mr. Taylor further advised that on top of the daily briefings being held in Emergency Services, he also has weekly briefings with the Governor's Office, another with County Executives, and a surge plan call. The Board thanked Ms. Cross for the information shared and Commissioner Randy Laird requested that the number of recovered patients from COVID-19 be added to the Somerset County Health Department's website.

Ms. Cross left the meeting.

Mr. Taylor then reviewed correspondence received and advised that the Town of Princess Anne has nominated Mr. Eugene Colborn, Jr. to serve as the Town's representative on the Somerset County Planning and Zoning Commission.

On a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing, the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Mr. Eugene Colborn, Jr. to serve as the Town's representative on the Somerset County Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mr. Taylor then reviewed correspondence sent.

Entering into discussion items, Mr. Taylor advised the Board that letters were not sent to adjoining property owners for the surplus properties approved for the website during the previous Commissioner meeting; however, the letters are usually sent before the properties go through the foreclosure process. With the properties already foreclosed on and in the County's possession, the Board advised to continue with placing the available surplus properties on the website.

Next, Mr. Taylor requested the formal approval of Resolution 1149 (Princess Anne Enterprise Zone), stating that no written comments have been received.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing to approve Resolution 1149. This motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor then requested the ratification of the phone poll (that carried with votes by Commissioner Randy Laird, Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Simpkins, and Commissioner Willing) held regarding the MOU for Administrative Office of the Courts/Courthouse Security.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird for formal approval of the MOU for Administrative Office of the Courts/Courthouse Security. This carried 4-0.

A discussion was held in regards to the lease agreements for the Liquor Dispensary.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to approve a 5 year lease term at the amount of \$1000 a month for Princess Anne and a 5 year lease term in the amount of \$650 a month for Pocomoke. This motion carried 4-0.

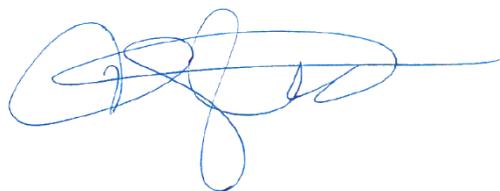
Mr. Taylor provided a brief update on the 2020 Census and stressed the importance of the community's participation (through word of mouth, social media, and traditional advertising).

Lastly, Mr. Taylor advised that a meeting is scheduled with the Somerset County Health Department to discuss possible funding through the CARES ACT.

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

Therefore, on a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins that carried 4-0, the Board entered 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; and (b) (3) consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition at 1:47 p.m.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Kimberly Lopez  
Executive Secretary