

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
SPECIAL SESSION  
TUESDAY JULY 14, 2020

At 2:21 p.m., the Board of Somerset County Commissioners met in Special Session with Commissioner President Craig Mathies, Sr., Commissioner Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, and Commissioner Eldon Willing, and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

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

**Closed Session Summary Report for July 14, 2020**

On July 14, 2020, from 2:53 p.m. until 3:14 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried 5-0 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 President Craig N. Mathies, Sr., Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Rex Simpkins, and Commissioner Eldon Willing. Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, and Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez. Topics discussed were: (1) Personnel; Actions taken: None.

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The meeting began with Mr. Tony Stockus and Ms. Starr Mister (of the Somerset County Sanitary District) along with Mr. Gene Adkins (Finance Director) before the Board to discuss the Sanitary District CDA Refinance and Line of Credit.

Mr. Stockus advised that the intent of the Sanitary District is to refinance a current USDA loan to a lower interest rate (without extending the life of the loan). Secondly, upon a recommendation from their accountants, they are requesting to establish a line of credit for working capital (for the use of, but not limited to, the current pipeline projects and the purchase of a truck until the USDA loans can be finalized).

Upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, the Board approved the borrowing resolution (Resolution #1156) for the line of credit in the amount of \$722,000.00. This motion carried 5-0.

Next, the CDA Refinancing of the USDA existing loans in the amount of \$4.633 million was presented as follows:

- Rumbley-Frenchtown, Waterline (Bond 1994) \$193,541.08 (estimated cost savings of \$13,000.00)
- Princess Anne B&R, Water and Wastewater System (Bond 2002) \$733,946.99 (estimated cost savings of \$137,600.00)
- Westover Sewer Project, Sewer Expansion (Bond 2009) \$3,705,872.01 (estimated cost savings of \$696,151.55)

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Willing to authorize the refinancing of these loans. However, upon further clarification, the Board was advised of a resolution for the purpose of this refinancing. Therefore, Commissioner Randy Laird withdrew his motion and Commissioner Willing withdrew his second. The Board accepted this 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President to approve Resolution #1155 for the refinancing of the above stated loans with the County's guarantee. This motion carried 5-0 with Mr. Gene Adkins advising that he has fully reviewed Resolution #1155 and found it sufficient for the Board's signatures.

Following this, Mr. Stockus, Ms. Mister, and Mr. Adkins left the meeting.

Next, Mr. Gary Pusey came before the Board to provide an update on Hurricane Sandy Grant Funding, advising of the 3 phases of the 14 Grant (which was for housing) and the 6 phases of the 15 Grant (which covered infrastructure) and the current remaining funds from each of those phases (which are virtually all committed at this time) as follows:

- MD-14-DR (Phase 3) Funds Available: \$2,560.04 (Job Training), \$60,000.00 (Business Loans), \$50,000.00 (Broadband Extension), \$218,630.27 (Strategic Econ. Opp. Analysis).
- MD-15-DR-1 (Phase 3) Funds Available: \$123,927.74 (Rhodes Pt. Shoreline Stabilization)
- MD-15-DR-1 (Phase 5) Funds Available: \$1,257,177.27 (Fairmount WWTP-Construction), \$118,042.81 (Project Administration)
- MD-15-DR-1 (Phase 6) Funds Available: \$56,989.38 (Generators – Crisfield/Deal Island), \$200,00.00 (Rhodes Pt./Shoreline Stabilization Dredging), \$97,596.84 (Crisfield Drainage Study), \$62,289.32 (Community Rating System Project).

Mr. Pusey then advised that these funds will be available until September 20, 2022, at which they will expire. A discussion was held regarding these projects and the funds.

With the discussion concluded, Mr. Pusey joined the audience.

Ms. Kim Widdowson was now before the Board to present the Dental Vision, Integra Retiree, and Integra County Commissioner Agreements for the new year for President Mathies' signature.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins to approve President Mathies' signature on the Dental Vision, Integra Retiree, and Integra County Commissioner Agreements for the new year. This motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Widdowson left the meeting.

Mr. Taylor then reviewed received correspondence, inviting Mr. Pusey to join them once again. A letter from the Honorable Chief Judge John P. Morrissey was shared with Board regarding Rental Assistance Resources, advising that Mr. Pusey's office has received a grant for the rental assistance program (\$100,000.00 to the County and \$100,000.00 to the Seton Center). Applicants must be unemployed or underemployed to qualify for assistance (and half must be low to moderate income households).

Mr. Pusey left the meeting.

Correspondence was shared on upcoming changes to Charter Communications.

Correspondence from the Governor's office was shared in regards to enforcing COVID-19 rules and regulations.

Mr. Taylor then shared correspondence sent to Ms. Elsie Robinson and Ms. Latoya Johnson with regards to their surplus property purchases.

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

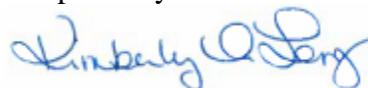
Therefore, on a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird that carried 5-0, the Board entered into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle §3-305 (b) (1) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction at 2:32 p.m.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Kimberly Lopez  
Executive Secretary