

Due to State regulations with COVID-19, social distancing will be observed during the meeting and members of the public in attendance must wear a face mask. Live audio of the meeting will be available by clicking on the link provided on the County's website, or by entering this web address in your internet address bar: http://mixlr.com/somerset_county_commissioners/ Minutes will be made available to the public via the County's website upon approval. We thank you for your cooperation during this time.



AGENDA
December 8, 2020
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
2:00 p.m.

Appointments:

- * 2:00 p.m. - Mr. Tony Stockus, Ms. Jennie Marshall, Sanitary District
 - Form of Bond and General Certificate Approval for \$83,000 Loan/Smith Island Clean Water Project
- * 2:05 p.m. - Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director
 - JM Tawes Phase II Loan Resolution
- * 2:10 p.m. - Mr. Woody Barnes, Roads Director
 - Bid Award/Rumbley County Dock
- * 2:15 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS
 - State Rental Assistance Grant

Correspondence:

Received

- * MD Dept. of Planning Clearinghouse Review re: MD20201106-0956 Easement/Clean Bay Secretary Slater, Secretary, MD Dept. of Transportation re: Trans. Alternatives Program Funding MD Dept. of Housing and Community Development re: Community Legacy Program

Sent

Mr. Ed Goyda, Library Director re: Board of Trustee's Appointment
Mr. Lionel Milfort re: Surplus Property Purchase/Approval
Ms. Lotoya Johnson re: Surplus Property Purchase/Request

Public Comments: Members of the audience who have signed up to address the Board will be permitted to do so at this time and allotted 5 minutes.

- * **2:30 p.m. - Closed Session-** Mr. Ralph Taylor, Ms. Morena Corbin, Mr. Gary Pusey, Mr. Charles Cavanaugh

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
December 8, 2020

At 2:00 p.m., President Craig N. Mathies, Sr., called the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County to open in Regular Session. Also present for the meeting were Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing, Commissioner Randy Laird, 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 lead those present in Devotion and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session Summary Report

On December 8, 2020, from 2:15 p.m. until 3:08 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 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 Eldon Willing, Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, HR Director Morena Corbin, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance Charles Cavanaugh, and Director of Community and Technical Services Gary Pusey

Topics discussed: (1) Landfill Superintendent Position (2) Zoning Nuisance Enforcement Position. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to hire Interim Landfill Superintendent (2) Approval to hire Zoning Nuisance Enforcement Officer.

Minutes from the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on November 24, 2020, were approved as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing. The motion carried 5-0.

First, Mr. Taylor advised that the Sanitary District appointment regarding the Smith Island Clean Water Project loan has been postponed by the USDA to allow time for public notification and response. The appointment will be rescheduled in January 2021.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director, came forward to present the JM Tawes Phase II Loan Resolution with the USDA for approval.

Mr. Adkins explained that Kim Betterton, Bond Counsel with Ballard Spahr, prepared the documents for signature. He noted the project was substantially complete in September 2019, and in April 2020, mechanical and site work was completed. He advised he was here today to obtain approval to approve the issuance of the loan. He then provided a summary, noting the loan amount totaling \$3.4 Million, interest rate of 2.125% for 20 years. Quarterly payments will be due beginning March 17, 2021 for \$52,292.00. The loan will formally close in Baltimore on December 17, 2020. To date, \$3,183,834.15 has been spent of the \$3.4 Million. Although not received as of today, the Board of Education will be submitting a request for reimbursement of the remaining balance of \$216,165.85.

Mr. Adkins closed his comments by presenting the resolution being presented today, prepared by bond counsel, and reviewed by himself, for the Boards consideration and approval to authorize the issuance of a \$3.4 Million loan with USDA for Phase II of the JM Tawes School.

Commissioner Rex Simpkins made a motion to approve the resolution, as presented, for a \$3.4 Million loan with USDA. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. The Board proceeded to formally sign the resolution as approved. Mr. Adkins left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Woody Barnes came forward to make the recommendation regarding sealed bids received on December 1, 2020, for the Rumbley County Dock Engineering Request for Proposal. Following his review, and with concurrence from Sandi Pepe, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the recommendation was made to award the project to the low bidder, George E. Young in the amount of \$11,900.00.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to award the bid received from George E. Young for \$11,900.00 regarding the Rumbley County Dock Engineering Project. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS, came forward at this time to advise the Board of additional grant funding received for rental assistance. He advised that Ms. Cindy Stone contacted his office late last week about this additional grant funding totaling \$50,000. He explained that this grant has

different restrictions than the 2 previous grants awarded; and may be able to aid applicants who did not qualify to receive assistance from the earlier grants.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to accept the grant agreement for \$50,000.00. Commissioner Randy Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) Clearinghouse Review (MD20201106-0956) was received regarding a request for easement by CleanBay on State land. Mr. Taylor advised he would recommend coding the review R4 (Additional Information Requested. Additional information is required to complete the review. The information needed is identified below. If an extension of the review period is requested, please check here) to request an extension, and discuss the request with Mr. Barnes, Roads Director, which involves Benson Road.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to code the MDP Clearinghouse Review (MD20201106-0956) R4. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

A letter was received from the Maryland Department of Transportation advising of the Transportation Alternative (TA) funding in the amount of \$442,812 for design of the Rt. 413 Bike Trail Phase II project.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development advised the county of a \$50,000 grant application received from Smith Island United to implement a Façade Improvement Program to assist individual property owners with rehabilitation and revitalization efforts.

Commissioner Randy Laird made a motion to write a letter of support for the grant application. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Sent correspondence was reviewed, and included a letter sent to Mr. Ed Goyda, Library Director regarding the appointment of Jayna Grant to the Library Board of Trustees, to Mr. Lionel Milfort regarding approval to purchase surplus property and to Ms. Latoya Johnson advising that her request to purchase surplus property became null and void.

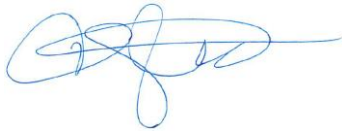
With no further business, at 2:15 p.m., the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, the Board entered into Closed Session by Authority of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated 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.

The motion carried 5-0.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 3:08 p.m., upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Rex Simpkins. The motion carried 5-0.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide