

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.



SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA
November 17, 2020
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
2:00 p.m.

Tentative

Correspondence:

Received:

- * Mr. Eddie Somers, Smith Island United re: Request for reallocation/Hurricane Sandy Disaster Funds

Discussion:

- * 1. Request to Purchase Surplus Property
- * 2. Websters Cove Boat Slip 20 Sublease Request
- * 3. Pauper Burial Request

Public Comment: 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.

- * **2:15 p.m.** - Need to Enter into Closed Session:

Closed Session- Mr. Ralph Taylor, Mr. Kirk Simpkins, Sheriff Ronnie Howard, Mr. Eugene Evans, Mr. Roger Dize, Mr. Jerry Holbrook, Mr. Bob Murphey, Mr. Ryan Bozman, Mr. George Nelson, Mr. Scott Ward, Mr. Matt Tomlin, Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Ms. Morena Corbin

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; (b)(7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

- * *Denotes Action Item*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
SPECIAL SESSION
November 17, 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 November 17, 2020, from 2:10 p.m. (following a brief recess) until 4:35 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 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; and (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Present for the Closed Session Meeting were President Craig N. Mathies Sr., Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing, and Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, Attorney Kirk Simpkins, Sheriff Ronnie Howard, Eugene Evans, John Milligan, Roger Dize, Jerry Holbrook, Bob Murphey, Ryan Bozman, George Nelson, Scott Ward, HR Director Morena Corbin, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance Charles Cavanaugh, Internal Auditor Ms. Sharon Muir, Finance Director Gene Adkins.

Topics discussed: (1) Consult with Counsel -Ambulance Service, Manokin River (2) Hiring for Landfill Equipment Operator and Interim Landfill Supervisor (3) Rescinded motion to Hire MEO I (4) Employee Termination (5) Department Restructure (6) Minimum Wage Phase In. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Hiring of MEO I and Interim Landfill Supervisor (2)

Approval to rescind motion to hire MEO I (3) Approval to terminate employee (4) Approval to move forward to restructure department.

Mr. Taylor began with meeting correspondence. A letter was received from Mr. Eddie Somers, President, Smith Island United requesting the reallocation of \$200,000 of Sandy CDBG Grant funding for their Smith Island drainage project. Vice President Charles Laird questioned if the funding could be used for flood gates and tiles in Crisfield; noting that he feels the county needs to shore up the home port too, and the dire need in Crisfield. Mr. Pusey advised that he can check with Ms. Cindy Stone as to whether the funds could be used for that purpose. Commissioner Randy Laird also noted the funding of \$150,000 (\$100,000 Sandy and \$50,000 DNR) for the Crisfield drainage study with bids coming in at \$98,000 leaving an unused balance of \$50,000 which will also need to be reallocated. Mr. Pusey explained the current deadline, and other funding reallocations that will need to be considered. Mr. Pusey will contact Ms. Stone and report back to the Board for reallocation approval at a later date.

A request to purchase surplus property was received from Ronald Howard and Amy Brownawell regarding Account 14-005005 (.956 acres, Deal Island Road) for \$627.00. The 10% deposit was received.

A motion was made by Commissioner Willing to approve the sale of Account 14-005005 for \$627.00. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Taylor presented two boat slip sublease requests as follows:

Mr. Robert Taylor requests approval to sublease Slip #20, Webster's Cove Marina to Josh Mister. A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to approve the request to sublease Slip #20 to Josh Mister. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Doug Taylor requests approval to sublease Slip #16, Webster's Cove Marina to Eric Benton (Lady Sarah). A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to approve Mr. Taylor's request to sublease Slip 16 to Eric Benton. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

A pauper burial assistance request was received from the family of Patricia White, Crisfield, to provide a simple service. Ms. White did not have any life insurance.

A motion was Commissioner Randy Laird to approve \$250.00 burial assistance to Anthony Ward Funeral Home to assist the family of Ms. White. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

With no further business, at 2:10 p.m., the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commission Randy 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; and (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. The motion carried 5-0.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 4:35 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Rex Simpkins and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird. The motion carried 5-0.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide