



AGENDA
March 3, 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. Gary Pusey, Director DTCS
 - Request for Waiver of Permit Fees/Fairmount Wastewater Treatment Plant Decommissioning

Correspondence:

Sent

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin re: Federal Priorities FY21
Senator Chris Van Hollen re: Federal Priorities FY21
Senator Mary Beth Carozza and Delegate Charles Otto re: Second Amendment Rights
Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair re: HB677/Correctional Services -Immigration Detention/Prohibition
Senator William C. Smith., Jr., Chair re: SB850/ Correctional Services -Immigration Detention/Prohibition
Ms. Michelle Cable, MD Ag Land Preservation Foundation re: Local Matching Funds Program

Discussion:

- * 1. Surplus Property Purchase Offers (2)
- * 2. Pauper Burial Assistance Request

Public Comments (5-minute time limit to speak)

- * **2:30 p.m. - Closed Session-** Mr. Ralph Taylor, Chris Woodward, Erica Yeager
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 (8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.
- * Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
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At 2:00 p.m., Vice President Charles Laird called the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County to open in Regular Session. Also present for the meeting were Commissioner Randy Laird, and Commissioner Eldon Willing. President Craig N. Mathies, Sr., and Commissioner Simpkins were absent from today's meetings.

County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Aide Lory E. Ebron were also present.

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

Closed Session Summary Report March 3, 2020

On March 3, 2020, at 2:23 p.m. until 2:39 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird, and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing it carried unanimously 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 (b) (8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

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

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, and Executive Aide Lory Ebron, IT Director Chris Woodward, HR Director Erica Yeager and Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance Mr. Charles Cavanaugh. Topics discussed: (1) Employee Probationary to Permanent Status (2) Hiring of a Network Security Specialist (3) Hiring of Motor Equipment Operator 1. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to move employee from probationary to permanent employee status (2) Approval to hire a Network Security Specialist (3) Approval to hire a Motor Equipment Operator 1.

Minutes from the Commissioner Meeting and Closed Session meeting held on February 18, 2020, and the Special and Closed Session meetings held on February 25, 2020 were approved

as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing. The motion carried 3-0 (R Laird, C Laird, E Willing).

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director, Department of Technical and Community Services (DTCS) came forward to present a request for the waiver of permit fees regarding the Fairmount Wastewater Treatment Plant Decommissioning Project. Mr. Pusey explained that as a part of the Fairmount Wastewater Treatment Plant Decommissioning, the pump station on Hall's Creek Road will be enlarged. Plans have been approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment. Permit fees for the enlargement project total \$572.00. The engineer for the project, on behalf of the Sanitary District, is requesting the fees be waived so that the funds can be applied towards project construction.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird, and seconded by Commissioner Willing to approve the fee waiver in the amount of \$572.00 as requested regarding the Fairmount Wastewater Treatment Plant Decommissioning Project. The motion carried 3-0 (R Laird, C Laird and E Willing).

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

Letters were sent to Senator Benjamin L. Cardin and Senator Chris Van Hollen regarding FY21 federal priority requests for Somerset County. Those programs included:

1. Increased funding for the United State Army Corps of Engineers for shallow draft dredging projects in which there are numerous needs within the county.
2. Increase in funding for Unites States Army Corps of Engineers for coastal resiliency efforts as well as shoreline erosion control projects that are so needed due to our geographical location and associated direct impact from sea level rise.
3. Increase in USDA funding for Rural Broadband as Somerset County is so disadvantaged.
4. Continued funding for the Federal Aviation Administration of the Obstruction Removal Project currently ongoing at the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport.
5. Increased funding for TAP funds to complete the Hiker/Biker trail phase II from Marion to Westover. This will complete the entire project from Crisfield to Westover.

A letter was sent to Senator Carozza and Delegate Otto expressing the Boards wish to convey their support of our citizens second amendment rights, urging our representatives to take all necessary steps to preserve this right for our citizens.

Letters were sent to the appropriate committees in opposition to HB677 and SB850 (Correctional Services-Immigration Detention-Prohibition (Dignity not Detention Act). These bills would prohibit governmental entities in Maryland from housing immigration related detainees; to which Somerset County requested an unfavorable report.

Mr. Taylor next presented two surplus property purchase offers as follows for consideration:

Account 03-037045 – Milan and Charnae Robinson offered \$930.00 to purchase 30970 Old Rehobeth Road. The asking price was \$930.00 (plus closing costs and 10% deposit).

A motion was made by Commissioner Willing to approve the sale of Account 03-037045 for \$930.00 (plus closing costs and 10% deposit) to Milan and Charnae Robinson. Commissioner Randy Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0 (E Willing, C Laird, R Laird).

Account 15-008075 – Jyrell Ballard offered \$1,147.00 to purchase this lot on Loretto Road. The asking price was \$1,147.00 (plus closing costs and 10% deposit).

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to approve the sale of Account 15-008075 to Jyrell Ballard for \$1,147.00 (plus closing costs and 10% deposit). Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0 (E Willing, C Laird, R Laird).

A pauper burial assistance request was received from the family of Noah L. Atkinson of Crisfield, Maryland. Mr. Atkinson did not have life insurance, and the family is requesting assistance to provide a simple service and cremation.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird, seconded by Commissioner Willing, a \$250.00 pauper burial assistance request was approved for Mr. Noah Atkinson. The motion carried 3-0 (R Laird, E Willing, C Laird).

Next, Mr. Robert J McIntyre asked to address the Board. Mr. McIntyre stated he has been enjoying attending the meetings. He noted he went to the meeting when the auditor said how good a shape the county is in. He has attended Sanitary District, Commissioner and Roads Board meetings. He stated he would like to talk about the golf course today. In looking over the audit reports available on the website, he figured the golf course has cost the county \$3,029,000 since 2015. He asked if he was correct, noting that he loves to play golf, though never good at it, but questions why \$600,000 +/- a year continues to be dumped into the golf course every year and how long are we going to continue to fund this “Jewel of the Nile”. He doubts if any of the local residents near the golf course will play, and there are 16 other golf courses between Easton and Ocean City that people could go to. He said that its nice to say we have a golf course, but questions the cost to keep it open. He discussed the revenue (approximately \$665,000) that will be received from Great Bay Solar Phase II that essentially will go right to cover the golf course deficit. Mr. McIntyre stated he can’t understand why we can’t change the golf course. He suggested other uses for the golf course such as shortening the course to 9 holes, tying it in with the Crisfield Bike Path,

or make something there for the kids. He closed by asking the Board do something, stating that doing nothing is worse than doing something.

Next, Mr. Terry Pehan, Old Auger Road, Crisfield, Maryland came forward. Mr. Pehan noted that he understands there's a lot on their plate, with most people not coming in to say they are doing a good job, or appreciate the time they are putting in. He mentioned the recent recycling program article in the paper that explained the loss of takers of the county's recyclable products. He commended Mr. Cavanaugh who he feels is doing a great job trying to find outlets for our recyclable material. Mr. Pehan then displayed a plastic, metal and glass container discussing the many years it takes for each to disintegrate in a landfill. He stated 17-23% of materials is recycled material in commercial landfills. He could not offer a solution, but noted the work the Keep Somerset Beautiful is doing. He discussed his research done in looking for other outlets, each of which would only take certain, specific types of material, but not all. He asked that an economical way is found to keep these materials out of the landfill, noting the use of the recycling bins at our transfer stations. He encouraged the Commissioners and Mr. Cavanaugh to pursue a solution as vigorously as they can so that these materials don't end up on the side of our roads because people get out of a recycling mode that we've gotten used to. He thanked the Board and asked them for their continuing process. He then thanked the Commissioners and Mr. Taylor for staying with the tree mitigation project at the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport, which has been ongoing since 2006. He believes it is finally coming to fruition. He noted that we've asked our selves is it necessary and the bottom line is, it is necessary for the funding aspect of the airport. Mr. Pehan thanked the Board for their time today.

Commissioner Randy Laird advised Mr. Pehan of the state mandate that requires the county to recycle 20%.

With no further business, at 2:23 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 Commissioner Eldon Willing, 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 (b) (8) consult staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 2:39 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing. The motion carried 3-0 (R Laird, C Laird, E Willing).

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide