

The County Commissioner meeting scheduled for March 31, 2020 as always is open to the public; however, we ask that you please consider the potential risks associated with COVID-19 if choosing to attend. We encourage public comment and welcome input by phone or e-mail if possible. Minutes will be made available to the public as soon as approved.



AGENDA
March 31, 2020
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
1:00 p.m.

Appointments:

- * 1:00 p.m. - Public Hearing/Town of Princess Anne Enterprise Zone Expansion
- * 1:10 p.m. - Mr. Chris Woodward, IT Director
 - Emergency Software

Correspondence:

Received

- * Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS re: Planning Commission Re-appointment
- * Ms. Claudia Nelson, Social Services re: Social Services Advisory Board Re-appointments (2)
- Mr. Dan Lambe, Arbor Day Foundation re: 2019 Recognition/Tree City USA

Sent

Mr. Willis Dryden, Tax Collection Supervisor re: PDA Tax Levy Rates 2020-2021

Discussion:

- * 1. Formal Approval- Somerset County State of Emergency Proclamation/Compensation Resolution
- * 2. Resolution Approval – Amendment to Landfill and Transfer Station Fees
- * 3. Approval – Howard H. Anderson Agricultural Building Lease Amendment No. 4

Public Comments (5-minute time limit to speak)

- * **1:20 p.m. - Closed Session-** Mr. Ralph Taylor, Gary Pusey, Louis Hickman

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

March 31, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance at the meeting was strictly limited to 10 persons and social distancing was practiced during the meeting.

At 1:00 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 Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing and Commissioner Simpkins. Vice President Charles Laird was absent from today's meeting.

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

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

Closed Session Summary Report March 31, 2020

On March 31, 2020, at 1:22 p.m. until 1:54 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, 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 (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 Eldon Willing and Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Vice President Charles Laird was absent from today's meeting.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, HR Director Erica Yeager (by phone) and Gary Pusey, Director of Technical and Community Services. Topics discussed: (1) Hiring of a Housing Rehabilitation Specialist/Inspector (2) Employee Termination (3) Crisfield-Somerset County FAA letter. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to hire a Housing Rehabilitation Specialist/Inspector (2) Employee Termination (3) Approval to authorize signature on FAA letter.

Minutes from the Commissioner Meeting and Closed Session meeting held on March 17, 2020 were approved as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Willing and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird. The motion carried 4-0.

At 1:00 p.m., President Mathies called a Public Hearing open to receive public comment on a proposed Princess Anne Enterprise Zone Expansion application. Mr. Taylor read the notice of public hearing which was advertised for two weeks into record as follows:

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY**

TOWN OF PRINCESS ANNE ENTERPRISE ZONE EXPANSION

The Board of County Commissioners will conduct a Public Hearing on March 31, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon in the Meeting Room of the Board of County Commissioners, Somerset County Office Complex, 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, Princess Anne, Maryland.

Fair Summary

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on a proposed Princess Anne Enterprise Zone Expansion application for designation of certain commercial areas as an Enterprise Zone under Title 5, Subtitle 7, Section 5-705 of the Maryland Annotated Code. A map of the proposed boundary expansion can be reviewed at the Commissioner's Office, 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, Princess Anne, MD, of the County Office Complex.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY**

Ralph D. Taylor
County Administrator

Ms. Tracey Gordy, Maryland Department of Planning came forward at this time. Ms. Gordy also introduced Ms. Lafabian Marshall, who remained in the audience, noting Ms. Marshall was instrumental with the preparation of the application. She also acknowledged Mr. Nick Johnson, Senior Intern who assisted with the maps.

Ms. Gordy described the request for expansion, which will include an additional 114 acres that will be added to the existing area, totaling 1,320 acres. The request for the expansion began with the owners of the new Brew Pub, who requested consideration that their location be considered as being part of the enterprise zone. During discussions with Mr. Thompson, Economic Development, it was thought that the expansion should also include Somerset Crossing (within Town limits), previously known as Somerset Campground, and home to a future project featuring medical, office, hotel and retail space in addition to flex pad sites. In addition, a new commercial area (Chase Plaza/King's Creek Market) will also be included. Ms. Gordy explained that renewal of the Enterprise Zones occurs every 10 years, the last being in 2013 for Princess Anne. Therefore, it was thought best that an expansion request would be applied for at this time, rather than wait the ten years. She thanked the Board for holding the public hearing today under these unusual and dire circumstances we are facing, as the application is due before April 15, 2020. The Town of Princess Anne held their own public hearing, with no one attending. The Town Commissioners unanimously approved the request.

President Mathies asked if there were any opponents or proponents present wishing to speak.

Mr. Daniel Thompson, Economic Development came forward as a proponent. Mr. Thompson discussed the Enterprise Zone process, noting that Crisfield was expanded 7-8 years ago to extend what the Priority Funding Area would allow there. He advised the Enterprise Zone areas are reviewed every 10 years, and expressed his support of the Princess Anne expansion noting that it now mirror's what was done in Crisfield in that the both areas are extended to as much as is allowed.

Public comment will be taken for 10 days, until April 10, 2020. The public hearing was declared closed at 1:12 p.m.

Mr. Chris Woodward, IT Director, came forward at this time to present a request to purchase software and a new server for file back-up purposes. He explained that the purpose of the upgrade is to provide protection against potential ransomware and malware attacks, similar to what Dorchester County recently experienced. He explained that the software will save data every 90 seconds as opposed to every hour as currently running. This one new server will take the place of 5 servers. Cost is just under \$26,000 (\$24,278.91), and Mr. Woodward stated that 1/3 of the cost is within this year's budget. If approved, this protection can be installed next week.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to approve the request to purchase software and a new server as presented. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS Director requested the re-appointment of Ms. Janet McIntyre to the Planning Commission. Ms. McIntyre is interested in continuing to serve on the commission. If approved, Ms. McIntyre's term will extend to May 11, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to re-appoint Ms. Janet McIntyre to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Letters were received from Ms. Claudia Nelson, Social Services Director, requesting the re-appointments of Ms. Cindy Abbott and Ms. Kathy Grant to serve three-year terms on the Somerset County Social Services Board.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird, and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, it carried 4-0 to approve Ms. Cindy Abbott to serve a three-year term on the Social Services Advisory Board.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Willing, it carried 4-0 to approve Ms. Kathy Grant to serve a three-year term on the Social Services Advisory Board.

Proclamation No. 23.03.20 was presented for formal approval, advising of the existence of a Catastrophic Health Emergency known as COVID-19, and the declaration of a State of Emergency in Somerset County, effective March 23, 2020. Phone poll approval was received on March 23, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to approve Proclamation No. 23.03.20. Commissioner Eldon Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor next presented Resolution No. 1148 for formal approval, advising that the county has declared a modified schedule for employee's effective March 23, 2020, and would not be paying additional compensation/premium pay to employees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to approve Resolution No. 1148 as presented. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Next, Resolution No. 1147 was presented for approval, amending Resolutions No. 1109 and No. 1120 to increase the Transfer Station fee for second vehicles to \$60.00, and decrease the commercial tire fee to \$100.00 per ton.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing, Resolution No. 1147 was approved as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

Lastly, Mr. Taylor presented Lease Amendment No. 4 regarding the Howard H. Anderson Agricultural Building. This amendment will extend the lease from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2023, and increase the monthly payable rent rate to \$3,629.33 (\$16.00 per square foot).

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to approve Lease Amendment No. 4 as presented. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

With no further business, at 1:22 p.m., the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins 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. The motion carried 4-0.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 1:54 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing. The motion carried 4-0.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide