

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/](http://mixlr.com/somerset_county_commissioners/) Public comments will be accepted by phone or email. 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**  
**June 23, 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, Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Mr. Adam Gibson, DTCS
  - Rezoning Requests for Miller and King (R-2 to AR)
  - **Public Hearing** - Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Easements (9)
- \* 2:10 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, Ms. Kristen Tremblay, Mr. Adam Gibson, DTCS
  - Citizens Participation Plan and the Residential Anti-Displacement Plan
- \* 2:20 p.m. - Mr. Gene Adkins, Mr. Willis Dryden, Ms. Kira Evans, Finance/Tax Office
  - Personal/Corporate Property Tax Write Offs
- \* 2:30 p.m. - Mr. Clint Sterling, Recreation and Parks
  - Unbudgeted Capital Expense
- \* 2:35 p.m. - Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance
  - 20-Year Solid Waste Plan Update

**Correspondence:**

**Received**

- \* US Department of Federal Aviation Administration re: CARES Act Grant Offer/Crisfield-Somerset County Airport (3-24-0012-106-2020)  
Governor's Coordinating Offices re: FY21 State Aid for Police Protection Fund  
Clyde Marriner, Jr., re: Letter of Appreciation/Roads Department

**Discussion:**

- \* 1. Surplus Property Offer (1)
- \* 2. Somerset County Social Services Board Ex-Officio Member Appointment

**Public Comments: Five Minute Time Limit**

- \* **2:50 p.m. - Closed Session-** Mr. Ralph Taylor

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  
June 23, 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, and Commissioner Randy Laird. Commissioner Rex Simpkins 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 June 23, 2020**

On June 23, 2020, from 2:40 p.m. until 2:55 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Eldon Willing, and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird 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.

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

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, and Ms. Kimberly Widdowson, Payroll/Benefits Specialist. Topics discussed: (1) Correctional Officer hires (2) IT position vacancy (3) PT Transfer Station Attendant hire (4) Probationary to Permanent Employee status request (5) Director of HR hiring. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to move employee from probationary to permanent status (2) Approval to hire PT Transfer Station Attendant (3) Approval to hire HR Director.

---

Minutes from the Commissioner Regular Session and Closed Session meetings held on June 9, 2020, were approved as presented upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Pusey, Ms. Tremblay and Mr. Gibson, DTCS came forward at this time.

Mr. Pusey first discussed the Public Hearings held two weeks ago regarding the rezoning of Miller (Stewart Neck Road) and King (Black Road) properties from R2 to Ag.

Regarding the Miller property, it was noted that no comments have been received following the 10-day period. Mr. Pusey distributed for review, copies of the required ordinance and finding of facts, and he made the recommendation was made to approve the rezoning request from R2 to Ag.

A motion was made by Commissioner Willing to rezone the Miller property, identified as Map 23, Grid 4, Parcel 42 from R2 to Ag and to approve Ordinance No. 1153 as presented. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0 (Commissioner Simpkins was absent).

Next, Mr. Pusey presented a copy of the drafted ordinance and finding of facts to rezone the King property, identified as Map 23, Grid 3, Parcel 185 from R2 to Ag. Mr. Pusey noted that this property has always been used for agriculture.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to rezone the King property, identified as Map 23, Grid 3, Parcel 185 from R2 to Ag and to approve Ordinance No. 1154 as presented. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

At 2:08 p.m., President Mathies opened the Public Hearing to consider applications for approval that have been filed to sell easements to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation. Mr. Taylor read the Notice of Public Hearing into record as follows:

“Under the provisions of Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, applications have been filed with the Somerset County Commissioners to sell easements to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation on the following properties:

**Gerard & Donna Dumsha – Old Princess Anne Road** – Property located on East side of Old Princess Anne Road on Map 74, Parcels 72 & 49 consisting of 238.8 Acres.

**Gary King – Brownstone Road** – Property located on the East side of Brownstone Road on Map 23, Parcel 2, 2 lots consisting of 100.38 acres.

**J & J Agriculture (James Nelson) – Old Rehobeth Road** – Property located on both the North and South side of Old Rehobeth Road on Map 59, Parcel 45, consisting of 76.7 acres.

**Ryan Miller – Stewart Neck Road** – Property located on the Northwesterly side of Stewart Neck Road on Map 23, Parcels 41 and 42, consisting of 59 acres.

**Scott Tawes, James Nelson and Doug Reynolds – Millard Long Road** – Property located on the Southeasterly side of Millard Long Road on Map 31, Parcel 61, consisting of 76 acres.

**Dorothy and Percy Marshall – Charles Cannon Road** – Property located on the Southeasterly side of the intersection of Charles Cannon Road and Lovers Lane on Map 49, Parcel 51, consisting of 213.31 acres.

**\*Matt and Susan Roach – 31260 Old Rehobeth Road** – Property located on the Northern side of Old Rehobeth Road on Map 59, Parcel 8, consisting of 29.32 acres.

**KPK Family Farms Inc. (Gary King) – Black Road** – Property located on the Northern side of Black Road on Map 14, Parcel 201, consisting of 136.7 acres.

**James and Joy Long – Rehobeth Road** – Property located on the Southern side of Rehobeth Road on Map 50, Parcel 25, consisting of 57.29 acres.

\*This farm’s acceptance into the program is contingent on the acceptance of the J & J Agriculture property, which is adjacent to this farm. This is due to a condition that properties under fifty (50) acres can be accepted into the program, if they are adjacent to an already accepted easement or a potential easement.

**A HEARING WILL BE HELD BEFORE THE SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**ON TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020 AT 2:00 P.M.** in the office of the Board, 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, Princess Anne, MD, to hear comments from the public regarding these applications.

Agricultural Land Preservation Easements may be sold by landowners whose land meets eligibility requirements of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

For further information concerning these applications or the Agricultural Land Preservation Program, call the Somerset County Department of Technical and Community Services: Telephone 410-651-1424. Materials related to the public hearing may be found at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 211, Princess Anne, MD, 21853.

Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County”

Mr. Gibson explained this is an annual program, whereby applications are completed and submitted to his attention at the Planning and Zoning Office. State guidelines for ranking are followed, and recommendations are submitted to the Agricultural Preservation Board and Planning Commission for approval prior to submission to the Commissioners. Mr. Gibson advised that the Agricultural Preservation Board denied the 7<sup>th</sup> application listed for Matt and Susan Roach, due to the surrounding wetlands around it, however it was noted that their application would be contingent on the acceptance of the J & J Agriculture property, which is adjacent to their farm. This is due to a condition that properties under 50 (fifty) acres can be accepted into the program if they are adjacent to an already accepted easement or potential easement. The Planning Commission recommended approval for all nine properties, and it is also staff’s recommendation to recommend and submit all nine (9) applications to the State for potential easement for FY21.

Upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird, seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird, it carried 4-0 to approve the submission of the nine (9) easements Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation applications as presented.

Vice President Charles Laird commented that in regard to these voluntary boards, such as the Agricultural Preservation Board, noting that if something is not approved, it is presented to the Planning Commission; he commented that it would be helpful in the future to get the packets of information out two weeks in advance so everyone has the same information and there is full participation in making people aware of what is being voted on so that there won't be any questions asked among the community. Mr. Pusey agreed that the request will be honored.

There were no proponents or opponents present. The Public Hearing was declared closed at 2:16 p.m., upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Willing. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Gibson and Ms. Tremblay left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Pusey next presented two approved plans for federal grant eligibility. It was explained that in order to be eligible to receive federal grant funds, such as Community Development Block Grants, certain plans must be adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

**Citizen Participation Plan:**

This plan outlines steps the county will take to ensure the public is made aware of CDBG funding and how it can be used. This includes advertising meetings relating to CDBG projects to allow for public comment and providing information about the CDBG process and how the public can initiate projects that may be eligible. This plan, previously approved and adopted in 2017, will be good through June 23, 2025 if approved today.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it carried 4-0 to approve the Citizen Participation Plan as presented.

**Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan:**

This plan outlines the steps the county must take if any approved CDBG funded project results in the displacement of residents. This includes moving expenses, new residence and housing payment assistance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to authorize President Mathies to sign the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Gene Adkins, Mr. Will Dryden and Ms. Kira Evans, Finance and Tax Offices came forward as follow up to the Corporate/Personal Property Tax Write Offs previously presented during the June 9, 2020 meeting for years 2004-2017. A copy of the updated list, as well a letter providing attorney opinion on the matter was distributed and reviewed. Staff advised the Board

that the initial collection amount totaled \$191,000, but through efforts of the department, has been reduced to \$94,211.26. It was also explained that this write off will bring the list current. Collection plans going forward were also discussed and the Board was advised that a potential collection list will be presented to the Board by May every year.

Commissioner Randy Laird made a motion to approve the write-off of \$94,211.26 uncollected corporate/personal property tax collections for FY2004-2017. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Next, Mr. Clint Sterling, Recreation and Parks came forward to present an unbudgeted capital expense for the purchase of a 50" Toro Mower. Mr. Sterling explained that the department has a need for an extra mower, and he has found a Toro Mower for \$3,099.00. He has \$2,000 in Non-POS Capital in the current year budget and is requesting permission to purchase the mower which will show as an overage in his capital budget.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to approve the purchase of the Toro Mower for \$3,099.00. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Sterling expressed his appreciation of the Boards support.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh came forward at this time to present a request to completely overhaul the Somerset County Solid Waste Plan. He explained that the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) has been contracted to draft the plan in the past. The cost for a 10-year plan will be \$16,141.00. Mr. Cavanaugh noted that \$25,000 has been budgeted for this expense.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird to approve MES to draft a 10-year Solid Waste Plan. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

The CARES Act Grant Agreement for the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport in the amount of \$1,000.00 was presented for approval.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird to authorize Mr. Taylor to sign the CARES Act Grant Agreement. The motion carried 4-0.

A letter was received from the Governor's Coordinating Offices advising that the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners will receive \$107,120.00 from the FY21 State Aid for Police Protection Fund.

A request to purchase surplus property was received from Mr. Marcus Murray Sr., regarding Account 05-086485 (Map 0008 Parcel 0325) in the amount of \$408.00 plus closing costs. Mr. Taylor noted that Mr. Murray has paid the required non-refundable deposit.

A motion was made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird to accept Mr. Murray's offer to purchase Account 05-086485 for \$408.00 plus closing costs. The motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Claudia Nelson has advised that in accordance with the Maryland Association of Social Services Boards, Member Handbook, on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year the local governing body authority shall designate one member to serve as an Ex-Officio member.

Vice President Charles Laird made a motion to re-appoint President Craig Mathies, Sr. to serve an Ex-Officio on the Social Service Board. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, at 2:40 p.m., the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Willing and seconded by Commissioner 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. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 2:55 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Eldon Willing, seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird. The motion carried 3-0.

Approved by:



---

Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



---

Lory E. Ebron  
Executive Aide