

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**  
**July 7, 2020**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**FOR SOMERSET COUNTY**  
**11916 Somerset Avenue**  
**Room 111/Meeting Room**  
**Princess Anne, MD 21853**  
**2:00 p.m.**

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**Appointments:**

- 2:00 p.m. – Service Award Presentations
  - Ms. Sharon Muir - 40 Years
  - Mr. Gary Powell - 35 Years
- 2:10 p.m. - Liquor Board Audit Report
  - Mr. Scott Tawes, Mr. Andy Haynie, Ms. Cynthia Knopp, Mr. Bob Hogg
- \* 2:25 p.m. - Bid Opening/Crisfield Drainage Study
  - Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS
- \* 2:30 p.m. - Request for Lien Subordination/29816 Deal Island Road
  - Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS
- 2:35 p.m. - Invasive Species Tracking
  - Ms. Victoria Spice, Lower Shore Land Trust, Mr. Clint Sterling, Mr. Woody Barnes, Mr. John Redden
- \* 2:45 p.m. - Bike Path Change Order
  - Mr. Clint Sterling, Recreation and Parks
  - Mr. John Redden, County Engineer
- \* 2:55 p.m. - Airport Project Change Order #1
  - Mr. John Redden, County Engineer

**Correspondence:**

**Received**

R. Adams Cowley/Shock Trauma Center re: Letter of Appreciation  
Secretary Ben Grumbles, MDE re: Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products Extension

**Sent**

Ms. Claudia Nelson, Director re: Social Services Adv. Board/Ex-Officio Member Appointment  
Mr. Marcus Murray re: Surplus Property Purchase

**Discussion:**

- \* 1. Detention Center Van Purchase
- \* 2. Surplus Property Offers (2)

**Public Comments: Five Minute Time Limit**

- \* **3:15 p.m. - Closed Session-** Mr. Ralph Taylor, Warden 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  
July 7, 2020

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 Eldon Willing and Commissioner Randy Laird. President Craig N. Mathies, Sr., and Commissioner Rex Simpkins were absent from today's meeting.

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 July 7, 2020**

On July 7, 2020, from 2:47 p.m. until 3:18 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 meeting.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, Ms. Kimberly Widdowson, Payroll/Benefits Specialist and Warden Hickman. Topics discussed: (1) Correctional Officer II hires. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to hire 3 Correctional Officer II's.

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Minutes from the Commissioner Regular Session and Closed Session meetings held on June 23, 2020, were approved as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Eldon Willing and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird. The motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Scott Tawes, Mr. Andy Haynie and Mr. Bob Hogg came forward to present the Somerset County Liquor Board audit for FY20. Ms. Cindy Knopp, Liquor Board member and Ms. Maggie Vincent were also present in the audience.

Mr. Haynie thanked the Board for having them attend the meeting today. He distributed this year's audit and explained that an "unmodified" opinion has been rendered, which is the highest and best opinion that can be given. There were no major issues with the statement and it was noted that this was a good year for sales and net profit. Mr. Haynie reviewed each store's individual numbers, noting that gross margin was up in two of the stores (Crisfield and Princess Anne), noting the Pocomoke store has more competition to deal with.

Mr. Tawes then explained turnover occurring at all store locations noting that all three stores have new managers and also discussed changes in sales strategies that had a positive impact. He explained that an intern from the School Board was a great asset with streamlining the software used. The following is the breakdown for distribution of funds for this fiscal year ended April 30, 2020:

Somerset County	\$116,468
City of Crisfield	\$ 13,407
<u>Town of Princess Anne</u>	<u>\$ 13,407</u>
Total:	\$143,282

Vice President Charles Laird thanked the members of the Liquor Board, noting the work involved, and expressed his appreciation for their efforts. Mr. Hogg said he wished to recognize Ms. Knopp, Secretary, and expressed his gratitude, noting she has handled the major part of communication with managers and staff, acknowledging that she is doing a great job.

Mr. Gary Pusey and Ms. Donna Laird came forward at this time to accept sealed bids received regarding the Crisfield Drainage Study, a Hurricane Sandy Recovery grant funded project. He noted that \$150,000 (\$100,000 Hurricane Sandy/\$50,000 DNR) had been budgeted to perform a drainage assessment for the City of Crisfield. Ten areas have been identified by the City to be looked at. Vice President Charles Laird proceeded to open the sealed bids as follows:

<u>Bidder:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
AMT	\$146,204.16
Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc.	\$135,000.00
Bayland Consultants	\$ 98,985.00
George, Miles and Buhr, LLC	\$139,960.00
McCrone	\$123,610.00
Pinnacle Group Engineers	\$111,000.00
Solutions, IPEM	\$150,000.00
Weston & Sampson	\$134,320.00

Mr. Pusey requested to review the bids submitted and return with a recommendation in two weeks. Ms. Laird left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Pusey remained present to request a lien subordination regarding a Housing Rehabilitation Grant for 29816 Deal Island Road. He explained that in 2018, the county used \$20,400 to replace a septic system and drain field at the noted address location. The lien remains on the property for 15 years, or until December 8, 2023. Currently the county is in first position with its lien, however the homeowner needs to make improvements to her home and is going through Hebron bank for financing. The bank has agreed to finance the loan with the condition that the county agree to subordinate its interest to second position. Mr. Pusey noted the improvements are needed, and include a new roof, bathroom floor and plumbing repairs. Staff believes these repairs are important and see no problem with the county moving into second position, as the house is valued at \$100,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird for the county to move to second position for the lien at 29816 Deal Island Road. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Next, Ms. Victoria Spice, Lower Shore Land Trust, Mr. Clint Sterling, Mr. Woody Barnes and Mr. John Redden came forward to discuss the forming of a LES Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management.

Mr. Sterling thanked the Board for their time, and reviewed the meeting staff attended in early spring, held with Ms. Spice, regarding a way to catalog the invasive species in the lower three counties and develop a plan to eradicate. It was thought that this may be a matter the Board would be interested in, which is what brings them in today.

Ms. Spice also thanked the Board, introducing herself as the Invasive Species Coordinator at the Lower Shore Land Trust. She discussed the events/requests originally discussed in 2016, and was hoping to reopen the conversation. She then presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the following:

- The original idea began in 2016
- The Kick Off Meeting was held in the Spring of 2019 and included TCC of LES, Somerset County Planning and Zoning, Wicomico County Planning and Zoning, Worcester Count NRCAC, Dorchester Soil Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy and MDA Noxious Weed Program
- Wicomico County began restoration at 2 recreation sites/funds interim coordinator
- Grant funding opportunity is identified in the Winter of 2019
- Coordinator is hired in the Spring of 2020

- Various types of invasive species is identified as being in the three lower counties such as Wisteria, Porcelain Berry, Bamboo, Japanese Honeysuckle, Japanese Knotweed, Phragmites, Palmer Amaranth, and Callary Pear
- The vision for the future included the forming of a Partnership of Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) Steering Committee
- The development of education/training tools
- Mapping the extent of invasive species
- Identifying funding opportunities
- Determining steps to take beyond the grant

Ms. Spice noted she is not here today to ask for any money this time around, but to build the foundation of an understanding of invasive species in our area, identify some of the gaps in management, and to identify funding resources. In closing, she asked only for the Boards partnership/support (non-monetary at this time) of this program and to allow staff to participate in the quarterly meetings, so that the program can move forward.

A discussion was held regarding the Phragmites problem in Somerset County, and the prioritizing of efforts to address this species, which will probably be focused on “ghost forest” areas where the forests meet the marsh. Commissioner Randy Laird noted the Phragmites concerns in our local ditches. Ms. Spice noted that this would be an area of discussion to determine the best management practices in order to try to address it.

Commissioner Eldon Willing then made a motion to provide support (non-monetary) and staff participation in the work group. Commissioner Randy Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Next, Mr. Redden and Mr. Sterling presented Change Order No. 3, in the amount of \$16,000, from David A. Bramble, Inc., regarding the Bike Path Contract #SO1815125. It was explained that the project is considered substantially complete, with there being a small punch list of items, but a drainage problem was found in the Marion area whereby a 30” RCP pipe (installed as per the plans) was replaced with a 36” RCP (the original size) pipe to improve drainage.

Commissioner Willing made a motion to approve the change order presented by David A. Bramble, Inc., for \$16,000. Commissioner Randy Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Vice President Charles Laird thanked staff for the work on this project. The question was asked if more benches can be installed along the path. Mr. Sterling replied that the plan is to add additional amenities later.

Next, Mr. Redden presented Change Order #1 regarding the Crisfield-Somerset County Airport, W41 Airport Obstruction and Removal Project. He explained that the majority of this project is complete, noting that Economy Tree has done an excellent job, and this part of the project is being wrapped up. This change order involves two pieces, involving quantity balancing of existing contract items and the total adjustment (that adds the Annemessex tree removal) which results in an adjustment reduction of \$21,325.08.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to approve Change Order #1 regarding the W41 Obstruction and Removal Project. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A FY21 budgetary allocation support request was received from R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center who have previously served Somerset County trauma patients. The request was received after this year's budget was finalized. The request will be considered during next year's budget deliberations.

Mr. Taylor next presented a request for formal approval authorizing the Detention Center to purchase a van to use for roadside trash pick up in the amount of \$28,136. The request had been previously approved by phone poll.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to formally approve the purchase of a van by the Detention Center for \$28,136. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

A request to purchase surplus property was received from Ms. Latoya Johnson to purchase Account No. 03-047946 (Map 0046 Parcel 0054) for \$1,692.00. The required 10% non-refundable deposit has been made.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to approve the sale of Account No. 03-047946 to Ms. Johnson for \$1,692.00. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

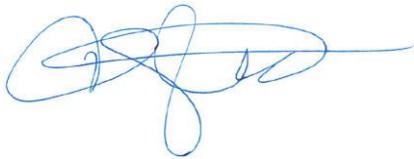
A request to purchase surplus property was received from Ms. Elsie Robinson to purchase Account No. 12-004893 (Map 0072 Parcel 0514) for \$3,620.00. The required 10% non-refundable deposit has been made.

A motion was made by Commissioner Willing to approve the sale of Account No. 12-004893 to Ms. Robinson for \$3,620.00. Commissioner Randy Laird seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

With no further business, at 2:47 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 3-0.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 3:18 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing. The motion carried 3-0.

Approved by:



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Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



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Lory E. Ebron  
Executive Aide