

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**TUESDAY MAY 11, 2021**

At 2:00 p.m., the Board of Somerset County Commissioners met in Special Session with Commissioner President Craig Mathies, Sr., Commissioner Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing, and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

Also in attendance were County Administrator-Clerk Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez.

**Closed Session Summary Report for May 11, 2021**

On May 11, 2021, from 2:20 p.m. until 2:58 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird (carried on a vote in favor by Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing) to enter into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle §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 President Craig N. Mathies, Sr., Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Rex Simpkins, and Commissioner Eldon Willing. Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Secretary Kimberly Lopez, Recreation and Parks Director Clint Sterling, and Human Resources Director Morena Corbin. Topics discussed were: (1) Personnel; Actions taken: Hiring.

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President Mathies opened the meeting and asked Commissioner Willing to lead those in attendance in devotion and the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes from the May 4, 2021 special and closed session meeting were presented and approved upon a motion made by Commissioner Willing and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird. Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Simpkins voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS, came forward for the Smith Island Drainage Construction Project bid openings. President Mathies opened the sealed bids and read them aloud as follows:

- Steven's Marine - \$219,840.00
- Taylor & Sons Pile Driving - \$278,000.00

Mr. Pusey advised that he would review the bids (along with Mr. Woody Barnes, County Roads Director, and Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Maintenance and Solid Waste Director) and return to the Board with their recommendation.

At 2:05 p.m., President Mathies called the public hearing open to receive public comment on a request filed by Mr. Kirk G. Simpkins to rezone Map 7, Grid 4, Parcel 9, from I-1 Light Industrial to MRC Maritime-Residential-Commercial. Mr. Taylor read the notice of public hearing into record as follows:

Pursuant to the Somerset County Zoning Ordinance and Section 4-204 of the Land Use Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County to hear opponents and proponents on:

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 2 p.m.  
County Commissioners' Meeting Room, Room 111, 11916 Somerset Avenue  
Princess Anne, Maryland

The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request initially filed by Kirk G. Simpkins to rezone Map 7, Grid 4, Parcel 9, from I-1 Light Industrial to MRC Maritime-Residential-Commercial. The parcel totals 1.1 acre and is addressed at 13317 Dorsey Road in Mt. Vernon. The property is located within a Limited Development Area of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area.

The Somerset County Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed rezoning on April 1, 2021, and forwarded a favorable recommendation to the County Commissioners for the Applicant's property, and the Planning Commission recommended that other properties in the immediate are zoned I-1 also be rezoned to MRC. The properties are owned by Donald H. and Emily Lawn Kirkley (Map 7, Grid 4, Parcel 79, Lots 5 and 6); Marcus R. and Robin D. Henderson (Map 7, Grid 4, Parcel 79, Lot 7); and Fred H. Johnson, Trustee (Map 7, Grid 6, Parcel 79, Lot 8 and Map 7, Grid 4, Parcel 213, Lot 3).

All zoning maps, Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan and files may be inspected at the Department of Technical and Community Services (DTCS), 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 211, Princess Anne, MD during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For further information please contact DTCS at 410-651-1424.

Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County  
Ralph D. Taylor, County Administrator

Mr. Pusey then provided a summary of the staff report provided by DTCS and advised the Board of the favorable recommendation to rezone the above-mentioned properties to MRC based on an apparent mistake in the original zoning, making them more compatible with the zoning in the neighborhood.

President Mathies called for any proponents.

Mr. Kirk Simpkins advised he was in favor.

President Mathies called for any opponents; to which there were none.

It was then advised that written comments would be taken until May 21, 2021, and the public hearing was called to a close at 2:15 p.m.

Mr. Pusey left the meeting.

Mr. Taylor reviewed sent correspondence with the Board.

Mr. Taylor then presented a letter addressed to Mr. Willis Dryden, Tax Supervisor, requesting the abatement of the county tax portion in the amount of \$343.52 on Airport Hangar #2 Account 08-165300 at the Crisfield-Somerset Airport.

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird to approve the letter to Mr. Willis Dryden, Tax Supervisor, requesting the abatement of the county tax portion in the amount of \$343.52 on Airport Hangar #2 Account 08-165300 at the Crisfield-Somerset Airport. Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

President Mathies opened the floor for public comments.

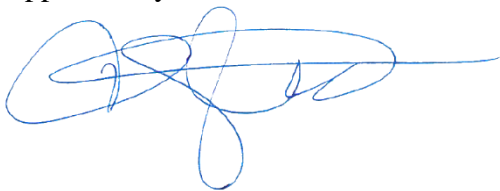
Mr. Robert McIntyre of 2801 Mt. Vernon Rd. addressed the Board regarding the submitted bids for the Smith Island Drainage Construction Project; advising that while he understands the County needs to consider the cost for this and other projects, that the lowest bid isn't always the best bid.

President Mathies thanked Mr. McIntyre for his comment and advised that is why they do not award the bids immediately upon opening them. He continued by stating that bids for projects are carefully reviewed by the department heads in charge of the project and are awarded based on the recommendation of who can complete the job by the County's standards.

With no further public comments, the Board was advised for the need of a Closed Session.

Therefore, on a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, (that carried on a vote in favor by Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing), the Board entered into Closed Session by Authority of State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle §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 at 2:20 p.m.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners  
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Kimberly Lopez  
Executive Secretary