

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/ 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
February 16, 2021
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
11916 Somerset Avenue
Room 111/Meeting Room
Princess Anne, MD 21853
2:00 p.m.

Tentative

Appointments:

2:00 p.m. – Service Award Recognitions

- Mr. Karl Walter- 20 Years
- Acknowledge Mr. Timothy Polk – 20 Years

- * 2:10 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, Department of Technical and Community Services
 - Finding of Facts – Bonneville Rezoning Request/Map 32, Grid 4, Parcel 149, Lots B and C as I-1 (Light Industrial)

2:15 p.m. – Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director and Mr. Herb Geary, Stephanie Chance, TGM

- FY 20 Audit Report

Correspondence:

Received

Maryland Department of Commerce re: 2021 Private Activity Bonds Initial Allocation
MD Dept. of Health/Budget and Management re: Award Notification/Vaccination Activities

Sent

Ms. Laverne Stewart re: Planning Commission Appointment
Mr. Mike Phillips re: Surplus Property Purchase
Mr. Ronald Williams re: Surplus Property Purchase

Public Comments: Members of the audience who have signed up to address the Board will be permitted to do so at this time and allotted 5 minutes.

Discussion:

- * 1. Surplus Property Purchase Offer (1)
- * 2. Sanitary District Commission Appointment (1)
- * 3. Pauper Burial Assistance Request (1)

- * **2:30 p.m. - Closed Session-** Mr. Ralph Taylor, Mr. Kirk Simpkins, Mr. Robin Cockey, Mr. Gary Pusey, Ms. Morena Corbin

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; (b)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

- * Denotes Action Item

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
February 16, 2021

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 Randy Laird, Commissioner Rex Simpkins and Commissioner Eldon Willing.

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

President Mathies asked Commissioner Eldon Willing to lead those present in Devotion and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session Summary Report

On February 16, 2021, from 2:28 p.m. until 3:50 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird, and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, with Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing voting in favor, the motion carried 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)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

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 Aide Lory Ebron, HR Director Morena Corbin, Director of Technical and Community Services Gray Pusey, Attorney Kirk Simpkins and Attorney Robin Cockey (by phone).

Topics discussed: (1) Probationary to Permanent Status (2) Senior Planner/Zoning Specialist Hiring (3) Litigation. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to move employee to permanent status (2) Approval to hire Senior Planner/Zoning Specialist.

Minutes from the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on February 2, 2021, were approved as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Eldon Willing and seconded

by Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Vice President Charles Laird and Commissioner Randy Laird voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Mr. Karl Walter was asked to come forward at this time to receive his 20 years of service recognition award. Mr. Walter was thanked by the Board for his many years of service. Additionally, Mr. Timothy Polk, who was unable to attend the meeting today, was also recognized for his 20 years of service as well.

Next, Mr. Gary Pusey, Department of Technical and Community Services (DTCS) came forward to present the Findings of Facts prepared, for Board approval, based on the preliminary decision to deny the rezoning request received from Mr. Mitchell Bonneville regarding Map 32, Grid 4, Parcel 149 Lots B and C from I-1 Light Industrial to AR Agricultural Residential. In summary, it was found that the County Commissioners found there was no evidence of a change in the character of the neighborhood since the last comprehensive rezoning in 2001 and no evidence to justify a rezoning based on a mistake.

Commissioner Randy Laird made a motion to approve the findings of facts as presented regarding Map 32, Grid 4, Parcel 149 Lots B and C. Commissioner Rex Simpkins seconded the motion. Commissioner Willing voted in favor; and Vice President Charles Laird opposed, therefore, the motion carried.

Mr. Herb Geary, and Ms. Stephanie Chance, TGM Group LLC, Certified Public Accountants, Mr. Gene Adkins, Finance Director and Ms. Sharon Muir, Internal Auditor, came forward at this time to present the FY20 Financial and Compliance Audit. Mr. Geary complimented county staff who were more than prepared, resulting in the timely completion of this year's audit. Mr. Geary then distributed a handout, which provided highlights regarding the audit performed:

- Somerset County and its component units have approximately \$216 million in assets, and approximately \$128 million of revenues
- The County received an "unmodified opinion" which is the highest level of assurance that an independent audit firm can provide
- Management's discussion and analysis provides a very well written summary of the Fiscal Year 2020 audit
- Fund balances were reviewed for FY16-FY20. Mr. Geary noted that Somerset County fund balance is at 32% of Operating Expenditures, which is very commendable and on target
- Total Debt Obligations for FY16-FY20 were also reviewed as well as total debt to fund balance. Somerset County was complimented as being right on target with a debt ratio of 1.62 to 1
- Results of operations of the General Fund for FY20 were expected to be a \$1.8 million shortfall; but resulted in an increase of \$1 Million.
- Actual General Fund revenues totaled \$42.5 Million-under budget by \$422,000
- Actual General Fund expenditures were \$45.9 Million- over-budget by \$900,000

- Results of Operations of the Roads Board for FY20 reported an overall increase in fund balance of \$248K. He also advised the Roads Board Fund Balance is \$1.3 Million for FY20
- The County's full liability is \$22.9 Million and the Board of Education is \$34.3 Million and the Library is \$1.4 Million
- Schedule of expenditures of Federal Awards presents \$8.9 Million of Federal Funding. SHA funding totaled \$4.5 Million. Hurricane Sandy funding totaled \$2.7 Million and FAA funding totaled \$957,000. There were no findings or questioned costs

Lastly, Mr. Geary explained a new lease standard that will be implemented for FY22 (GASB 87/postponed by GASB #95 from March 2020) whereby the method of accounting for leases will be changed and it will be required to restate prior periods presented. Mr. Geary closed his comments, thanking the Somerset County team again for all their help in being so prepared for this year's audit. Mr. Geary, Ms. Chance, Mr. Adkins and Ms. Muir left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A letter was received from the Maryland Department of Commerce advising of the 2021 Private Activity Bonds Initial Allocation. Notice is received annually, and it was noted that historically, Somerset County has never participated in the transfer of unused allocation.

Correspondence was also received from the Maryland Department of Budget and Management and Maryland Department of Health advising of awarded funding for vaccination activities. Somerset County will receive \$479,950.

A letter was sent to Ms. Laverne Stewart advising her of her appointment to serve on the Planning Commission, and thanking her for her willingness to serve.

Letters were also sent to Mr. Mike Phillips and Mr. Ronald Williams advising them of the Boards approval to accept their offers to purchase surplus property.

Next, Mr. Taylor presented an offer made by Mr. Michael Marcello to purchase surplus property account # 12-009151 (3254 Sackertown Road) for the listed price of \$1,120.50. The 10% non-refundable deposit was received.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, it was approved to accept Mr. Marcello's offer of \$1,120.50 to purchase surplus property account # 12-009151. Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

The Board next discussed the current vacancy on the Somerset County Sanitary Commission. Upon reviewing districts with representation, it was noted that this vacancy falls within Commissioner's Simpkins District 2. The nomination presented by the Sanitary

Commission does not live in District 2. No action was taken. The vacancy will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

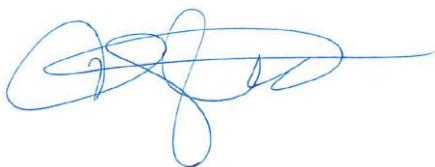
A pauper burial assistance request was received from the family of Mr. James Collins; who passed away recently having no life insurance or funds for burial.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to send \$250.00 to Anthony Ward Funeral Home, Princess Anne Maryland to assist with Mr. Collins' funeral costs. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. Vice President Charles Laird and Commissioner Randy Laird voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

With no further business, at 2:28 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 Vice President Charles 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; and (b)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. Commissioner Rex Simpkins and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 3:50 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Rex Simpkins and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird. Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide