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AGENDA
March 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. – Ms. Sherree Marshall, Ms. Brenda Selby, Commission on Aging
 - Opportunity for Public Hearing/SSTAP Grant- No requests received
 - FY22 SSTAP Grant Application
 - Proclamation Presentation/Meals on Wheels Program
- * 2:10 p.m. – Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS Director
 - Bid Opening/Crisfield Elevation
- * 2:15 p.m. - Mr. John Redden, Cty Engineer, Mr. Clint Sterling Director Recreation and Parks/Tourism
 - Burgess Museum Sale
- * 2:20 p.m. – Mr. Clint Sterling, Director Recreation and Parks/Tourism
 - General Maintenance Unbudgeted Request/Golf Clubhouse
- * 2:30 p.m. - Sheriff Ronnie Howard
 - Mutual Aid Agreement

Correspondence:

Received

- * MD Department of Planning re: Clearinghouse Review MD20210218-0125/Chesapeake Utilities Easement
- * MD Department of Planning re: Clearinghouse Review MD20210223-0131/Maintenance Dredging-Wicomico River
- * MD Department of Planning re: Clearing house Review MD20210223-0132/Draft Environmental Impact Statement- Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study
- * MD Department of the Environment re: Rapid Assessment Study/Access Property
- * State of Maryland/Office of the Governor re: Somerset County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board Vacancies
- U.S. Senator Ben Cardin's The American Rescue Plan

Discussion:

- * 1. Sanitary District Commission Appointment (1)
- * 2. Dividing Creek PDA - Drainage Problem/Pocomoke River
- * 3. Public Drainage Association Levy's FY22
- * 4. Proclamation Approvals: Meals on Wheels, Mr. Armwood Jr., Child Abuse Prevention Month, Fair Housing Month

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.

- * **2:40 p.m. - Closed Session-** Mr. Ralph Taylor, Ms. Daniele Weber, Ms. Morena Corbin, Warden Louis Hickman, Mr. Clint Sterling, Mr. Gary Pusey
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 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 March 16, 2021, following a brief recess, from 2:52 p.m. until 3:52 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 Eldon Willing and Commissioner Rex Simpkins 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.

Present for the Closed Session Meeting were President Craig N. Mathies Sr., Vice President Charles Laird, Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, HR Director Morena Corbin, Director of Technical and Community Services Gary Pusey, Warden Louis Hickman and Administrative Deputy Health Officer Danielle Weber.

Topics discussed: (1) Health Department Personnel (2) Senior Planner/Zoning Specialist (3) Correctional Officer I Hires (4) PT Tourism Assistant. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to hire two Correctional Officer I's.

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

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

Ms. Sherree Marshall and Ms. Brenda Selby, Somerset County Commission on Aging, came forward.

First, Ms. Marshall presented this year’s Statewide Special Transportation Assistance Program (SSTAP) grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration. The grant, in the amount of \$117,447 will be used towards general purpose transport services for the elderly, handicapped and persons with disabilities.

Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to approve the SSTAP grant application for FY22 as presented. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. Commissioner Willing and Commissioner Randy Laird voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Next, Ms. Marshall and Ms. Selby were presented with a Proclamation, proclaiming March 2021 as the 19th Annual ‘March for Meals Month’. The Meals on Wheels program ‘March’ campaign was established in March 2002 and delivers nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, Ms. Marshall acknowledged that Ms. Selby has been with Commission on Aging Department for 40 years, and has been instrumental with the Meals on Wheels program, and she thanked her for her many years of dedicated service.

Mr. Gary Pusey and Mr. Mark Konapelsky, Department of Community and Technical Services came forward to accept sealed bids received for the House Elevation projects to raise 5 homes. President Mathies proceeded to open sealed bids received as follows:

Contractor	39 W Chesapeake Ave., Crisfield	9338 Deal Island Rd.	3181 Sackertown Rd., Crisfield	7950 Riverview Rd., Westover	11528 Long Point Rd., Dames Quarter
Khorr Construction	\$238,000	\$183,000	\$235,000	\$203,000	\$203,000
Eastern Sun Construction LLC	\$77,700	\$89,300	\$81,500	\$81,700	\$89,800

Mr. Pusey advised that staff will review the bids received, and return with a recommendation.

Mr. Clint Sterling, Director of Recreation and Parks/Tourism, came forward to discuss the process requirements for the sale of surplus property. County Attorney Kirk Simpkins has advised that the Burgess Museum located in Marion, Maryland can be sold through auction or sealed bid. Mr. Sterling advised that the building will be sold with the remaining contents. All items have

been removed that were wanted, including those going to the new museum location at the Tourism Office/Rest Area in Princess Anne, and by various organizations that were interested. Commissioner Randy Laird asked if anyone has checked with the family members to see if there were any items they would want to have. Mr. Sterling advised he would check with the family before proceeding. Proceeds from the sale will go to the foundation to fund the displays inside. Consensus was received (C Laird, R Laird, E Willing) to move forward to sell this surplus property and remaining contents by soliciting and selecting sealed bids.

Next, Mr. Sterling discussed an unbudgeted expense for remodeling of the Great Hope Clubhouse area. Plans to do the work were made last year, but postponed due to COVID-19. Mr. Sterling advised that he would like to replace the carpet, and purchase new tables. Painting was performed in house by staff, and Mr. Sterling advised he'd like to have the work completed before the start of busy season. It was also noted that the clubhouse is also used for meetings and other types of events as well. Estimated cost for the work is \$13,000, which Mr. Sterling advised he has in various budgetary categories; noting he has the funds within this year's budget.

Vice President Charles Laird made a motion to approve Mr. Sterling's request to perform renovation work at the Great Hope Clubhouse totaling \$13,000 available in the general maintenance budget. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Randy Laird voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Sheriff Ronnie Howard came before the Board at this time to present the Mutual Aide Agreement/Sheriff's Departments and Counties of the Eastern Shore. He advised that entering into an agreement with other Eastern Shore counties had been previously discussed, citing events occurring during Hurricane Sandy for example, which required various counties to work together, however, there was hesitancy because there was not an agreement in place. He noted that Queen Anne's, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico and Dorchester are counties that have already adopted the agreement, with Cecil and Caroline potentially adopting the agreement today. This agreement will allow Eastern Shore counties and Sheriff's Departments to share forces. Mr. Taylor advised that Attorney Kirk Simpkins has reviewed the agreement and found it legally sufficient.

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to authorize President Mathies to sign the agreement. Commissioner Willing seconded the motion. Commissioner Randy Laird and Vice President Charles Laird voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

A Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) Clearinghouse Review (MD20210218-0125) was received regarding a project by Chesapeake Utilities to construct a district regulator station within a proposed easement to provide Eastern Correctional Institute (ECI) Cogen Facility with required operating pressure. The location is near the State Police Barracks on Perry Road. Mr. Taylor recommended coding the review as C-5 (It is consistent with our plans, programs, and objectives).

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to code MDP Clearinghouse Review project MD20210218-0125 as C-5. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Eldon Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

A MDP Clearinghouse Review (MD20210223-0131) was received regarding a project to coordinate maintenance dredging of the Federal Navigation Channel in the Wicomico River. Spoil placement will be at Deal Island Wildlife Management Area. Mr. Taylor recommended the project be coded C-5 (It is consistent with our plans, programs, and objectives).

A motion was made by Commissioner Simpkins to code Clearinghouse Review MD20210223-0131 as C-5. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

A MDP Clearinghouse Review (MD20210223-0132) was received regarding a project for a draft Environmental Impact Statement/Chesapeake Bay Bridge Crossing Study to address existing and future congestion and approaches to identify a selected corridor alternative. Mr. Taylor recommended the review be coded as C-5 (It is consistent with our plans, programs, and objectives).

A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Laird to code Clearinghouse Review MD20210223-0132 as C-5. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Mr. Taylor next presented a request received from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to access county owned property located on Smith Island to perform a Rapid Assessment (Study) of living shorelines in that area.

Commissioner Randy Laird made a motion to authorize MDE access to the property. Vice President Charles Laird seconded the motion. Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

A letter was received from the Governor's Secretary of Appointments Office reminding of the regular member and alternate member vacancies on the Somerset County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board. Submission of a list of three (3) nominations for each seat is requested.

Mr. Taylor informed that our office has received the "American Rescue Plan" from Senator Cardin's office. \$4,968,000 has been allocated to Somerset County; with Crisfield's allocation being \$2,142,984 and Princess Anne at \$2,936,155, and can be used to respond to and prepare for COVID-19 activities, as well as the replacement of revenues lost as a result of COVID-19.

Mr. Taylor advised the Board that Ms. Kathleen Shaffer has withdrawn her nomination to serve on the Sanitary Commission.

A letter was received from the Dividing Creek Public Drainage Association Managers regarding the condition of the Pocomoke River. They wanted to make the Board aware that the Pocomoke River is filling with down trees, and other matter, and should the trend continue, they believe Dividing Creek drainage will be affected. They feel this is a matter that Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties should share, and asked for any cooperation the Board may have to pointing out and alleviating this problem. Mr. Taylor was asked to call the Dividing Creek PDA managers to discuss the matter in further detail.

Next, Mr. Taylor presented the results of the Annual Public Drainage Association (PDA) meetings to authorize the County Tax Collection Office to levy the FY22 Drainage Tax Assessment for each PDA as follows:

Upon motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird, seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, with Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing voting in favor, the motion carried to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Upper Manokin Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2021-2022 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Upper Manokin PDA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$3.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, with Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Willing voting in favor, the motion carried to concur with the recommendation to nominate Mr. Jerry Bozman to serve as Manager for a three-year term, with Mr. Doug Green and Mr. Buddy Powell continuing from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, with Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Willing voting in favor, the motion carried to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Dividing Creek Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2021-2022 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Dividing Creek PDA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$7.00 per acre
Woodland	\$3.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$30.00

Upon motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins, with Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Willing voting in favor, the motion carried to concur with the recommendation to appoint Mr. Roger Richardson to a four-year term as Manager; with Mr. Jimmy Johnson, Mr. Eric Culver and Mr. Tommy Johnson continuing on from a previous term.

Upon motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Rex Simpkins, with Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Willing voting in favor, the motion carried to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Handy Church Public Watershed Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2021-2022 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Handy Church PWA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$0.00 acre
Woodland	\$0.00 acre
Minimum Billing	\$50.00

Upon motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird, with Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing voting in favor, the motion carried to concur with the recommendation to reappoint Mr. Bernard Johnson and Mr. Thomas Watkins continuing on from a previous appointment. It was brought to the Boards attention that Mr. Larry Van Story has passed. Mr. Watkins and Mr. Johnson will look to find a replacement within the year.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, seconded by Commissioner Willing, with Vice President Charles Laird and Commissioner Randy Laird voting in favor, the motion carried to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Passerdyke Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2021-2022 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Passerdyke Public Drainage PDA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$4.50 per acre
Woodland	\$1.50 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing, with Vice President Charles Laird and Commissioner Randy Laird voting in favor, the motion carried to concur with the recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Gene Donalds and Mr. Charles Fleming III to continue on from a previous appointment. It was brought to the Boards attention that Mr. Bob Gannon has passed. Mr. Donalds and Mr. Fleming will look for a replacement.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird, seconded by Vice President Charles Laird, with Commissioner Rex Simpkins and Commissioner Eldon Willing voting in favor, the motion carried to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Barkley Branch Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2021-2022 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Barkley Branch PDA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$4.00 per acre
Woodland	\$2.00 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$22.00

Upon motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing, with Vice President Charles Laird and Commissioner Randy Laird voting in favor, the motion carried to concur with the recommendation to re-nominate Ms. Maureen Houlihan for a three-year term as Manager, with Mr. John Bromley and Ms. Ingrid Balea continuing on from a previous appointment.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Rex Simpkins, with Vice President Charles Laird and Commissioner Willing voting in favor, it carried unanimously to approve the request of the Board of Managers of the **Tony's Branch Public Drainage Association** that the Somerset County Tax Collection Office be authorized to levy the Tax Year 2021-2022 Drainage Tax Assessment for the Tony's Branch PDA to remain the same as follows:

Cropland	\$4.00 per acre
Woodland	\$2.00 per acre
Minimum Billing	\$25.00

Upon motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Randy Laird, with Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing voting in favor, the motion carried to concur with the recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Tommy Smith III to serve as Manager for a three-year term, with Mr. Lee West and Mr. Gary Rathkamp continuing on from a previous appointment.

Last, the Board formally approved the following proclamations:

Meals on Wheels

Approved upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing. Vice President Charles Laird and Commissioner Randy Laird voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Mr. Alvin James Armwood

Approved upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins. Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Approved upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Vice President Charles Laird. Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Fair Housing Month

Approved upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins. Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

With no further business, at 2:42 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. Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 3:52 p.m., upon a motion made by Vice President Charles Laird and seconded by Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Commissioner Eldon Willing and Commissioner Randy Laird voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide