

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
March 2, 2021
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. Charles Cavanaugh, Director Solid Waste and Maintenance
 - Landfill and Transfer Station Fees
- * 2:10 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, Director, Dept. Technical and Community Services
 - Bid Award/Deal Island Living Shoreline Project

Correspondence:

Received

- * MD Department of Agriculture re: Estimated Operating Expenses/2021 Mosquito Season
- MD Department of Planning re: 2020 Census Data

Sent

Mr. Michael Marcello 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. Sanitary District Commission Appointment (1)
- * **2:30 p.m. - Closed Session-** Mr. Ralph Taylor, Ms. Lori Brewster, Ms. Morena Corbin, 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 2, 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 Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Rex Simpkins and Commissioner Eldon Willing. Vice President Charles Laird was absent from today's meeting.

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 2, 2021, from 2:21 p.m. until 3:08 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Rex Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing, with Commissioner Randy Laird 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., Commissioner Randy Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing and Commissioner Rex Simpkins. Vice President Charles Laird was absent from today's meeting.

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor, Executive Aide Lory Ebron, HR Director Morena Corbin, Director of Technical and Community Services Gary Pusey, Emergency Services Director Yvette Cross and Health Officer Lori Brewster.

Topics discussed: (1) Health Department Personnel (2) Zoning Nuisance Enforcement Officer (3) Senior Planner/Zoning Specialist (4) Contractual Hire. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval to hire Zoning Nuisance Enforcement Officer (2) Approval to hire Contractual Employee.

Minutes from the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on February 16, 2021, were approved as presented upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by

Commissioner Eldon Willing. President Mathies stated the motion carried. Commissioner Rex Simpkins joined the meeting during this time.

Mr. Charles Cavanaugh, Director of Solid Waste and Maintenance, came forward to discuss Landfill and Transfer Station Fee's for the upcoming year. He first discussed the current tipping fee of \$66.00 per ton, and presented the amount of increased revenue should the fee be increased. He also reminded the Board that historically, the City of Crisfield, Town of Princess Anne and the Sanitary District fees remain the same as the previous year should an increase be approved, to allow time for budget preparation; and requested a motion to approve as has been done in the past.

He continued, discussing the Transfer Station Permit Fee, currently set at \$60.00 for the first permit and \$60.00 for the second and the revenue generated. Estimations were also provided regarding additional revenue should the Board decide to increase the permit fee amount. It was noted that the Smith Island Fee is also currently set at \$60.00 per developed parcel. For comparison purposes, Wicomico County Tipping Fee is currently \$65.00 and Worcester is \$75.00.

Lastly, Mr. Cavanaugh questioned prorating the second permit fee, similar to what is currently done with the first fee. Currently, the second permit fee is not prorated.

The Board briefly discussed the information provided, and President Mathies recommended to further discuss the fees during budget deliberations. Commissioner Laird questioned if the fees for the Municipalities and Sanitary District can be voted on to remain the same as requested by Mr. Cavanaugh. President Mathies suggested the matter be discussed further, therefore, no action was taken. Mr. Cavanaugh left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Gary Pusey, Director, Department of Technical and Community Services came forward to present the award recommendation regarding the Deal Island Living Shoreline Construction Project. Two sealed bids were received during the February 2, 2021 meeting for this project; Unity Landscape Design/Build Inc., for \$1,149,291.39 and the second from Environmental Quality Resources for \$1,742,644.85. It was noted that the State of Maryland is funding this project, and the county has partnered with Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The project consists of 1,100 linear feet of segmented stone breakwaters, placement of clean sand fill, planting of marsh grasses and restoration of all areas disturbed during construction. It was noted that both proposals addressed all the items advertised in the Request for Proposals, and both contractors have built similar projects in other areas and are determined to be well qualified by DNR. Mr. Pusey then advised that staff recommendation was to award the bid to the

low bidder, Unity Landscape Design/Build Inc., for \$1,149,291.39. Additionally, it was noted that a community meeting will be held before the project begins to explain what the project will entail to the residents of the community. Commissioner Willing stated that concern has been expressed regarding the truck traffic that will incur to bring the material to the location. With Mr. Barnes, Roads Director and Mr. Redden, County Engineer, as well as Mr. Bhaskar Submaranian, DNR present to answer questions, it was explained that Mr. Barnes will be monitoring road conditions on a weekly basis during construction. Intentions are to make road repairs as the project proceeds to eliminate any inconvenience to residents. Commissioner Willing also questioned if stone could be brought in on barges. Mr. Bhaskar Submaranian explained that barging material in had never been considered for two reasons; first because of the water depth, and second, barging costs would drive up the price.

Commissioner Willing made a motion to award the Deal Island Living Shoreline Construction Project to the low bidder Unity Landscape Design/Build Inc., for \$1,149,291.39. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. Commissioner Randy Laird voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture, Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management/Mosquito Control has provided the proposed mosquito control budget for the 2021 season. The budgeted County share amount is the same as last year, \$277,575.

Commissioner Randy Laird made a motion to authorize Mr. Taylor to sign the Proposed Mosquito Control Budget for the 2021 season as presented. Commissioner Rex Simpkins seconded the motion. Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

A letter was received from the Maryland Department of Planning advising that Census Data for redistricting purposes will be delayed. It is anticipated that counties should receive the data by the end of September 2021. Mr. Taylor advised that the county will move forward with having a committee established in early summer in preparation.

A letter was sent to Mr. Michael Marcello advising that his request to purchase surplus property was approved.

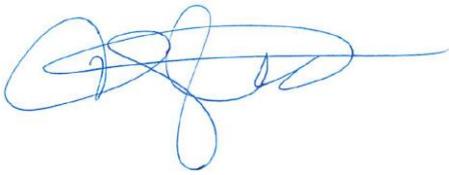
The Board discussed the current vacancy on the Sanitary District Commission. No action was taken. The matter will be discussed at the next scheduled meeting.

With no further business, at 2:21 p.m., the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Rex Simpkins and seconded by

Commissioner Eldon Willing, 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 Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 3:08 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Eldon Willing. Commissioner Rex Simpkins voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide