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AGENDA
July 6, 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. - Mr. Danny Thompson, EDC
 - MEDCO Bond Transfer
- * 2:05 p.m. - Mr. Gary Pusey, DTCS
 - Nuisance Ordinance
- * 2:20 p.m. - Sheriff Howard
 - Vehicle Price Overage

Correspondence:

Received

Waterway Improvement Fund re: Bid Award

Discussion:

- * 1. Boat Slip Sublease Request/St. Peters
- * 2. Redistricting Committee

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.

2:30 p.m. - Closed Session- Mr. Ralph Taylor

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 6, 2021

At 2:00 p.m., Vice President Charles Laird, acting as Chair, called the Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County to open in Regular Session. Also present for the meeting were President Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr., Commissioner Eldon Willing, Commissioner Randy Laird and Commissioner Rex Simpkins.

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

Chair Vice President Charles Laird asked Commissioner Willing to lead those present in devotion and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session Summary Report

On July 6, 2021, from 2:27 p.m. until 3:10 p.m., at 11916 Somerset Avenue, Room 111, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins, and seconded by Commissioner Willing, 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. Commissioner President Mathies and Commissioner Randy Laird voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

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

Also present were County Administrator Ralph D. Taylor and Executive Aide Lory Ebron. Topics discussed: (1) Personnel (2) Proclamation Request. Actions taken during closed session: (1) Approval of Proclamation.

Minutes from the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on June 22, 2021 were approved later in the meeting.

Mr. Danny Thompson, Economic Development, came forward to request approval to irrevocably transfer Somerset County's tax-exempt non-housing bond allocation totaling \$423,638 as set forth in the 2021 allocation of the Maryland State Ceiling.

Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to authorize signature on the letter to transfer Somerset County's tax-exempt housing bond allocation for \$423,638. Commissioner Randy Laird seconded the motion. President Commissioner Mathies and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Next, Mr. Gary Pusey, Mr. Casey Goldsborough and Ms. Mary Phillips, Department of Technical and Community Services (DTCS) came forward to discuss the Nuisance Ordinance amendment. A public hearing was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. With the Board having questions resulting from the public hearing, staff was asked to follow up on and research the items in question. Mr. Pusey advised they would be ready to present follow up in response to the Board's request in one - two weeks. There were no additional questions at this time. Since the public hearing, additional written comment was also received from Whitie and Joy Wilder (2 written statements received), Sterling Clough, Joseph Foley and Harry Jackson. Mr. Pusey, Ms. Phillips and Mr. Goldsborough left the meeting at this time.

As the meeting was running ahead of schedule, Mr. Taylor continued with correspondence and discussion items.

Mr. Taylor shared the announcement from Governor Hogan's office advising of \$13.5 Million in Maryland Waterway Improvement Fund Awards. Mr. Taylor recognized how good this program has been to the county. Somerset County will receive the following:

City of Crisfield	\$ 90,000
Crisfield Depot Piers and Walkways	
Dames Quarter	\$150,000
Boat Ramp Bulkhead and Pier Improvements	
Janes Island State Park	\$100,000
Boat Ramp and Transient Slip Repairs	
Smith Island	\$75,000
Tylerton County Dock and Harbor Improvements	
Somers Cove Marina	\$2,000,000
Bulkhead Replacement and Marina Site Improvements	
St. Peters Creek Marina	\$50,000
Bulkhead and Finger Pier Replacement	

Next, Mr. Taylor presented a boat slip sub-lease request from Mr. Severn Mister, Jr., to sublease Slip #13 at St. Peter's Creek Marina to Everett Lee Bozman, Jr.

Commissioner Willing made a motion to approve the sub-lease request for Slip 13 at St. Peter's Creek to Everett Bozman, Jr. Commissioner Simpkins seconded the motion. President

Commissioner Mathies and Commissioner Randy Laird voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

Mr. Taylor advised that members to serve on the Redistricting Committee are still needed for Districts 1 and 4.

Vice President Charles Laird asked if there was anyone present wishing to speak.

Reverend Charles Bagley, 30006 Fairmount Road, Westover, and Pastor of the Real Deal Christian Ministries, Pocomoke, Maryland came forward. He first asked if there was a change in leadership with Vice President Charles Laird chairing the meeting. Vice President Charles Laird explained that President Mathies had some schooling issues, and didn't want to disrupt the meeting should he need to leave. Reverend Bagley stated he was here, serving as a religious volunteer/Chaplin at the Detention Center, to share his concerns regarding the housing population at the Detention Center. He mentioned society's view about leaving a pet or child in a hot car, comparing that to the way inmates in the Detention Center are housed. He asks the Board to consider how they are housed, noting he has been speaking with the Warden. He discussed the construction of the cells (concrete and steel), noting he is at the Detention Center for Sunday services. He worked in corrections for 30 years, as a Correctional Maintenance Officer, and questioned if Federal Government Funding, due to the pandemic, recently awarded can be used towards public safety and correctional services. He noted that often, problems are not always addressed until something tragic happens, and said it has been a while for any upgrades at the Detention Center. Possible safe and secure remedies have been suggested to the Warden. Noting the 7 pods/sections in the jail, he distributed information on Portacool Jetstream Portable Evaporative Coolers that could be placed in each pod, running off of 115 volts (advising there are no electrical outlets in the cells). He also recommended performing a test to replace the wired glass with stainless steel wire mesh, that will allow air flow into the cells. He noted that if nothing is done, eventually, as it gets hotter, the Detention Center will need to keep inmates out of their cells, in more of a dormitory setting, which is possibly a more dangerous situation. He closed in saying that he was before the Board to see if there was any money to support his recommendations, noting he is there every Sunday dealing with the situation. When the cell door is closed it's like being in a bank vault, and after a while all the air is gone.

Mr. Harry Jackson, 28100 Coves Way (Coulbourn's Cove) came forward. He advised he developed the letter sent, stating "don't bring the problem, bring me the solution". Regarding the nuisance grass, they are just finding out second hand what's going on. He stated they are a small

sub-division (20 lots with 9 having houses on them), and the lots in question have garbage grass, not hay. He noted farmers that grow beans and corn in 2 other developments nearby, and that the community is moving forward with developing a Home Owners Association, noting that there are covenants found, but that will take time. He is here today about the hay theory, saying he has a lot next to him with garbage grass, noting a farmer will keep area's more maintained. He was one of the first homeowners there, over 16 years ago. He stated that Mr. Pugh does not want to be there himself, saying the hay is not good quality grass.

Vice President Charles Laird stated the Board will be making their decision once they receive the information from the Ag Department as previously stated in the meeting, noting they will take Mr. Jackson's comments into consideration. Mr. Jackson closed his comments by complimenting the work (snow removal, mowing, pot hole repairs, etc.) that the Roads Department does in their community.

Next, Sheriff Ronnie Howard came forward to discuss a possible vehicle price overage in his departmental budget. He advised he asked Hertrich about a Dodge Durango, and with the current shortage, they can't have the vehicle in until next summer. He also looked at Ford Explorers, but they aren't available until March. He also advised that a broker has found a new Durango, that would cost \$40,000 (includes shipping). The allotted budget is \$36,000, but the vehicle is available immediately. Sherriff Howard stated he can hold off as long as he can, but wanted to make the Board aware. Vice President Charles Laird asked Sheriff Howard if he can wait 4 months to see if things are better, to which the Board was in consensus. Sherriff Howard stated he will keep the Board posted.

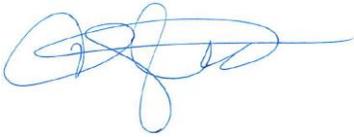
Meeting minutes presented from the Commissioner and Closed Session meetings held on June 22, 2021 were approved upon a motion made by Commissioner Randy Laird and seconded by Commissioner Simpkins. President Commissioner Mathies and Commissioner Willing voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

With no further business, at 2:27 p.m., the Board was advised of the need to enter into Closed Session. Therefore, upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner 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.

Commissioner Randy Laird and President Commissioner Mathies voted in favor; therefore, the motion carried.

The Commissioner and Closed Session meetings were adjourned at 3:10 p.m., upon a motion made by Commissioner Simpkins and seconded by Commissioner Willing. Commissioner Simpkins 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