TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council MINUTES June 9, 2020

Present – President Corey W. Pack, Vice President Chuck F. Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Lesher, Laura Price, County Manager R. Andrew Hollis and County Attorney Anthony Kupersmith.

I. Agenda – Mr. Pack requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

II. Minutes – Mr. Pack requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

III. Disbursements – Mr. Pack requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, June 2, 2020 and Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

IV. Update on CARES Individual and Business Assistance Programs – Angela Lane, Talbot County Finance Director; Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism – Prior to Ms. Lane’s update, Mr. Pack stated that Talbot County had received $6.4 million from the federal government through the State of Maryland. Mr. Callahan stated that $3.2 million was allocated to the State (Talbot County Health Department) for health-related expenses and $3.2 million to the County for County expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Lane briefed the Council on CARES Act funding available to assist individuals and businesses who have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; expenses must be incurred between March 16, 2020 and December 30, 2020. She stated that $1.2 million has been allocated to assist individuals with rent, mortgage payments, utilities or other emergency needs; applications can be obtained by calling the Department of Social Services at 410-820-4347 and leaving a message; at the Neighborhood Service Center; at St. Vincent DePaul Society; and on the Talbot County COVID-19 website. Ms. Lane stated that the $1.2 million allocated to assist businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic is available through grants of up to $10,000; the monies can be used to assist with a mortgage or rent, utilities, or new equipment which may be needed to combat the pandemic such as touchless point-of-sale systems, as well as supplies and equipment related to sanitizing their businesses. Ms. Lane stated that the application for business assistance is available online on the County’s Department of Economic Development website. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Lane.

V. Update and Request by Talbot County Airport Board – Micah Risher, Manager, Easton Airport - Mr. Risher requested Council’s approval to submit a reimbursement request to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for $1.6 million in monies expended over the past two years for Airport Capital Improvement Projects related to Avigation Easements, Wetland Mitigation and Forest Conservation Act expenses for runway safety improvements at Easton Airport. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved submission of the reimbursement request by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Lesher – Aye
Mr. Risher briefed the Council on the timeline for the Runway Safety Improvement Project and the amount of anticipated funding available from the FAA for the project; 2020 – 2022 (tree removal); 2022 (design for relocation of Runway 4-22); 2023-2026 (demolition of the Talbot County Business Center and the beginning of the relocation of the runway threshold). Mr. Risher stated that the FAA has indicated that the timeline will need to be revised due to the impact COVID-19 has had on revenues which fund airport improvement projects; revenues for such projects are derived from excise taxes paid by the flying public. Mr. Risher emphasized that the goal is to keep the Talbot County Business Center financially viable for as long as possible. He provided a graphic outlining how the FAA determines Part 77 (navigable space surrounding airports). Council discussion ensued with Mr. Risher regarding various facets of the Phase I tree removal process which is anticipated to begin in September 2020 and conclude by December 2020. Mr. Risher updated the Council on the impact of COVID-19 on Easton Airport, outlining the reduction in operations and loss of revenue. He stated that the Airport will receive $157,000 in CARES Act funding which will be used to support Airport operations, not capital expenses. He stated that the Airport terminal reopened on June 8th, and the various businesses operating out of the Airport which did not remain fully open are gradually reopening. He stated that during the time the terminal was closed the restrooms and hallway were renovated. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Risher regarding the various matters brought forward. This year’s Airport Day, previously scheduled for Saturday, September 26th has been cancelled due to COVID-19. Mr. Risher will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.

VI. Introduction of Legislation:

A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 190 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE (ZONING, SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT) TO IMPROVE AND CLARIFY THE PROCESSES FOR LICENSURE AND OVERSIGHT OF SHORT TERM RENTALS IN THE COUNTY; AND TO AMEND THE STANDARDS FOR SAFETY FOR LICENSURE was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Mary Kay Verdery, Planning Officer, stated that the legislation was drafted following work sessions between the Council and the Short Term Rental Review Board as well as input provided by citizens during public meetings held by the Short Term Rental Review Board. She outlined several provisions of the legislation, which had been previously introduced as Bill No. 1443, but allowed to expire due to COVID-19. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Lesher, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price as Bill No. 1446. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington St., Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 11 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES) TO ALLOW THE BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS TO ISSUE A LICENSE FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION OF BEER TO CLASS 5 BREWERIES AND ALLOW FOR LOCAL LICENSURE FOR CLASS 6 PUB-BREWERIES AND CLASS 7 MICRO-BREWERIES was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Anthony Kupersmith, County Attorney, briefed the Council on legislation adopted by the Maryland General Assembly which permits certain classes of breweries in the state to not only produce beer and to offer samples, but to also offer their produce for sale and consumption on site, within the limitations outlined in the legislation. Mr. Kupersmith stated that one of the requirements of the legislation enacted by the State is that the local jurisdiction must issue a license for on-site sales and consumption. Mr. Pack stated that the Council had issued a temporary permit to allow the Class 5 brewery which is the subject of the proposed legislation to continue to operate while the legislation is under consideration; the previous legislation on this matter, Bill No. 1444, had been allowed to expire due to lack of the ability to schedule a work session because of COVID-19. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Kupersmith. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Lesher, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price as Bill No. 1447. Council members concurred that a work session was no longer necessary. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at
VII. Public Hearing on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – COVID-19 Application for Talbot County – Prior to the public hearing, Jessica Morris, Assistant County Manager, stated that the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development will be opening another round of Community Development Block Grant programs in response to specific needs related to the coronavirus pandemic; counties which have a population of less than 200,000 are eligible. Ms. Morris stated that each of the municipalities in Talbot County had been contacted regarding their specific needs and outlined requests from the St. Michaels Community Center for expansion of their food support program; Talbot County Public Schools’ request to continue their summer snack and dinner program; and Upper Shore Aging’s Meals on Wheels program for senior citizens. Dr. Fredia Wadley, Talbot County Health Officer, provided statistical information on the senior and disabled population in Talbot County and briefed the Council on needs of that population, particularly during this time of social isolation. The public was afforded an opportunity to comment on the County’s intention to submit an application for COVID-19 funding. Ms. Morris stated that the grant application is due June 12, 2020; comments will be accepted until June 11, 2020.

VIII. Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) – COVID-19 APPLICATION FOR TALBOT COUNTY ON BEHALF OF ST. MICHAELS COMMUNITY CENTER, TALBOT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, TALBOT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND UPPER SHORE AGING, INC. was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The administrative resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Lesher, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Lesher, the administrative resolution was brought to second reader with the Council voting 5 – 0 as follows:

- Mr. Pack – Aye
- Mr. Divilio – Aye
- Mr. Callahan – Aye
- Ms. Price – Aye
- Mr. Lesher – Aye

Upon motion by Ms. Price, and unanimous consent of the Council, a full reading of the administrative resolution was waived. The Council approved the Administrative Resolution by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

- Mr. Pack – Aye
- Mr. Divilio – Aye
- Mr. Callahan – Aye
- Ms. Price – Aye
- Mr. Lesher – Aye

The Administrative Resolution is effective immediately.

IX. Outline of Procedures for Return to Bradley Meeting Room – Corey Pack, President, Talbot County Council – Mr. Pack stated that the Council has been working with County Manager, Andy Hollis and Facilities Manager, Brian Moore to move Council meetings back into the Bradley Meeting Room while observing social distancing. He stated that, following a walk-thru of the space earlier today, it was determined that the Council would hold off on moving back to the Bradley Meeting Room until July. County Manager, Andy Hollis, stated that social distancing is presenting a challenge in terms of the
Council being on the dais and staff will be looking at other venues which may offer better connectivity for the public, and will be making a recommendation to the Council in the near future. Mr. Pack outlined the challenges in conducting Council meetings in the Wye Oak Room at the Talbot County Community Center and reiterated that the Council continues to look for a location where members of the public can be in attendance while spaced out appropriately, and which has the technology necessary whereby citizens can view the proceedings in real time. Council discussion ensued.

X. County Manager’s Report:

A. Request from Department of Public Works – Requested Council approval for an emergency repair of the pump at the Royal Oak pump station by Hills Electric Service in the sum of $15,000; said cost will be borne by the Royal Oak Sanitary District and the Unionville/Copperville/Tunis Mills Sanitary District. Mr. Hollis stated that due to the nature of the emergency, he had given prior approval for the County Engineer to move forward with the repair. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Lesher, the Council approved the cost of emergency repair by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

   Mr. Pack – Aye
   Mr. Divilio – Aye
   Mr. Callahan – Aye
   Ms. Price – Aye
   Mr. Lesher - Aye

B. Request from Department of Public Works – Requested Council approval to have Hills Electric Service repair one of the pumps at the Region II (St. Michaels) Wastewater Treatment Plant, install a new pump and a new check valve at a cost of $41,408.30 at the facility to ensure that three pumps are functioning at all times in order to avoid loss of wastewater during a heavy rain event. Upon motion by Mr. Lesher, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the work by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

   Mr. Pack – Aye
   Mr. Divilio – Aye
   Mr. Callahan – Aye
   Ms. Price – Aye
   Mr. Lesher - Aye

C. Request from Department of Public Works – Requested Council approval to pay Shannahan Well Company the sum of $17,653.15 for emergency repairs to the Region V (Tilghman) Wastewater Treatment Plant water well and water system which is used to assist with disinfection of wastewater prior to its discharge into the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Clarke stated that without the repair, the County would have been in violation of its permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment. Upon motion by Mr. Lesher, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the payment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

   Mr. Pack – Aye
   Mr. Divilio – Aye
   Mr. Callahan – Aye
   Ms. Price – Aye
   Mr. Lesher - Aye
D. **Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Housing Bonds Allocation** – Requested Council approval to transfer Talbot County’s 2020 housing bond allocation in the sum of $1,358,574 to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, said bonds will be used by the State for its various mortgage programs. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Lesher, the Council approved the transfer by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

- Mr. Pack – Aye
- Mr. Divilio – Aye
- Mr. Callahan – Aye
- Ms. Price – Aye
- Mr. Lesher - Aye

E. **Talbot County Golf Board** – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Benny Mangor to a three-year term on the Talbot County Golf Board; said term will expire on June 1, 2023. Upon motion by Mr. Callahan, seconded by Mr. Duncan, the Council approved the appointment by voting 5-0 as follows:

- Mr. Pack – Aye
- Mr. Divilio – Aye
- Mr. Callahan – Aye
- Ms. Price – Aye
- Mr. Lesher – Aye

F. **Talbot Family Network Board of Directors** – Requested Council’s approval for the appointment of Anthony Smith, Chief, St. Michaels Police Department, to a three-year term on the Talbot Family Network Board of Directors; and requested the reappointment of Cindy Green, Estela Ramirez, Jazmine Paxon, Jeanine Beasley, Marlene Thomas and Pamela Chollet to three-year terms on the Talbot Family Network Board of Directors; said terms will expire on June 30, 2023. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the appointment and the reappointments by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

- Mr. Pack – Aye
- Mr. Divilio – Aye
- Mr. Callahan – Aye
- Ms. Price – Aye
- Mr. Lesher – Aye

G. **Talbot County Government Offices** - Mr. Hollis stated that all County departments which had had staff working remotely or had reduced staffing in their departments since mid-March will be returning to their respective offices on Monday, June 15, 2020. Members of the public will again be able to physically come into County offices as of Wednesday, June 17, 2020. He stated that he had drafted a plan for reopening to the public and that Mr. Pack, the Health Officer, and the Director of Emergency Services had reviewed and approved the plan and same was included in the Emergency Declaration. Mr. Hollis stated that the County will be issuing a press release and posting signs advising of the full reopening. He stated that the County is doing its best to make sure employees and the public can safely return to County office buildings and outlined implementation of various procedures for doing so. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Hollis who reiterated that County offices had always been open to provide services to County citizens.
XI. **Public Comments:** Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on matters of interest to them.

XII. **Council Comments:**

**Mr. Divilio:**
Mr. Divilio stated that he had learned a lot over the past week by speaking with many different people. He stated that he had attended a very peaceful, civil rally on Saturday, the civility that he is thankful for in Talbot County. He stated that the Council had received a lot of correspondence regarding the Talbot Boys statue: to tear it down, remove it, fix it, complete it, add names, add a statue to it, and has been given a lot of recommendations for correcting, or changing, history. He stated that he had done a lot of research, looked at different monuments and encouraged those who had not done so to consider going to Chestertown to view their memorials which, in his opinion, is a fair representation of both sides of the Civil War. He stated that he had grown up in Talbot County and that he was very fortunate that everyone treated him well. However, he stated that when he ran for office, he came across people who despised him without knowing who he was, but in his opinion, that does not even relate at all to what an African American has to go through and he recognizes that. He stated that several of the Council members plan to address the Talbot Boys statue, no one is sitting back on the issue. Mr. Divilio concluded his comments by stating that, in his opinion, it is definitely time for a change, and at this time in his life he is excited for it.

**Mr. Lesher:**
Mr. Lesher stated that, on Saturday, he had attended the large gathering at the Courthouse protesting police abuse and the killings of African Americans across the country by those sworn to protect us. He stated that the County Council and the Town of Easton had approved a public assembly permit for the event which was, as Mr. Divilio had stated, a peaceful and civil event, and was, in his opinion, a diverse and non-violent demonstration as well. He commended the organizers of the event and complimented the Easton Police Department and the Talbot County Sheriff for their preparation and communication to keep the peace during the event, and his colleagues and several staff members for handing out water at that event as well as the one the next day in St. Michaels. Mr. Lesher stated that he had been questioned about the wisdom of the Council’s decision to grant the permit and was not at all surprised that fears of violence and outside infiltrators were not substantiated. He stated that he found the long moment of silence for such a large group on bended knee particularly moving and spoke volumes about the community. He stated that the Council has heard a call to revisit the appropriateness of Talbot Boys monument on the Courthouse grounds through emails, social media and in the newspaper, with most of the correspondence calling for removal of the statue. Mr. Lesher stated that the statue was not erected immediately after the Civil War, but a half century later, in his opinion, at the height of racial discrimination in America and that the sponsors of the statue...
specifically excluded the memorialization of Union soldiers from Talbot County, some of whom were black, so that people would know who was in charge in Talbot County, including those who fought against their native Maryland and against the United States. Mr. Lesher stated that the Council has been told that the statue puts a knot in the stomach of some of our neighbors as they walk by this symbol of racism into the halls of justice and that however the discussion is revisited today, we cannot ignore the issue, and, in his opinion, the time has come to remove it.

Ms. Price - Ms. Price expressed her appreciation to the citizens of Easton and Talbot County for their positive, peaceful responses over the last several weeks. She stated that we have witnessed a tragedy and it is a tragedy when anyone’s life is senselessly taken. She stated that she is thankful for the unique community in which we live and that we can exist beyond the hatred that many other towns and cities have demonstrated. She expressed the Council’s appreciation to law enforcement and medical teams for staying on the job and putting the needs of others above themselves, and for their empathy and positive support during this time, in her opinion, of unbelievable challenges. She stated that local law enforcement has, in her opinion, blazed a path as to how other law enforcement can and should handle themselves and their attention to diversity and inclusiveness are to be commended. Ms. Price commended County staff and Talbot County Health Officer, Dr. Fredia Wadley for their tireless commitment to the operation of the county during these unprecedented times and the senseless taking of a life. She stated that we grieve for those who lost their lives needlessly, those who have experienced the stress and uncertainty of losing their livelihood, and those who continue to struggle, while also being thankful for the response of our citizens to this, in her opinion, perfect storm of events, and pray that the tide may be moving in the right direction. She stated that our duty as elected officials is to focus on the needs and well-being of the families in Talbot County and to position the County to best weather and conquer these seemingly insurmountable challenges. She stated that County citizens had placed their faith in the Council members to lead, which, in her opinion, they have done, and will do, without prejudice. Ms. Price concluded her comments by stating that this is not the time to grandstand for personal gain or to give in to emotion or undue pressure, but to put the well-being of our neighbors first and foremost.

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan stated that, in his opinion, there probably isn’t a person on the planet who looked at the TV screen and did not feel horrified – he sure did. He stated that he did not know what to make of it other than just a senseless person who was supposed to be helping the public and has some real problems. He stated that he was horrified by the people just standing beside him and thought about his experience in the fire department for 36 years, helping people and saving people and could not imagine being in that moment and not trying to get that officer off of Mr. Floyd. He stated that what struck him about the situation is that when you train to protect a person or to save a person, you do not see color, you see action to help somebody. He stated that, in his opinion, we are definitely at a moment where there needs to be a huge amount of training, and a process for training, because his mind works to save that person, not to brutalize the person, treat the person in a bad manner, or kill them. Mr. Callahan stated that, in his opinion, we live in a phenomenal community and his heritage is in this community. He stated that there are not many people that he has not worked with, worked for, or helped
and that now it is the time to perhaps go to another level and the next step. Mr. Callahan stated that the statue has been a source of talk for many years, and perhaps there are some options that we can explore, and he would like to have some time to think about them as he wants to do the right thing for Talbot County. He stated that he was at the rally at the Courthouse. was looking at and listening to people, and commended Sheriff Gamble, the Sheriff’s deputies, Mayor Willey, and Chief Spencer for doing a great job in letting people express their views. He stated that he did have a problem with those who brought signs and just left them on the ground; in his opinion, it causes disruption and shows more respect if you take it with you when you leave. Mr. Callahan stated that the event was very peaceful, everyone in attendance was on the same wavelength, and he was glad he went and experienced it – everyone gathered together and thinking about people who have been in a bad situation and have been mistreated. He stated that in his opinion, we need to think through this as a Council. Mr. Callahan commended Mr. Pack for creating new opportunities for the Council to look at the matter from a different perspective and expressed his appreciation to the callers for voicing their opinions. He stated that he did not take it personally, he never has and never will, and that’s why we live in a society where one can say what’s on their mind and move on. Mr. Callahan concluded his comments by expressing his appreciation to those are emailing him, that he will do his best to acknowledge them, and encouraged anyone who has ideas to let him know.

Mr. Pack -

Mr. Pack stated that normally he does not prepare formal written comments for Council comment but at this time he feels a deep need to do so. He stated that this has weighed on him these past several days as he has watched the news and watched the image of Mr. Floyd’s final moments upon this earth. He stated that several Council members attended Saturday’s demonstration. We heard, we saw it for ourselves, the peaceful demonstration of these young people. And I will tip my hat to the young people who organized this for the manner in which they conducted themselves. There was no damage of public property. Sure, they may have left a few signs behind around the Courthouse lawn, but that was not of great concern to me. We got those picked up by the end of the day. Mr. Pack then read the following statement into the record:

It's hard for me to imagine that any reasonable person could have viewed the arrest of George Floyd and not be appalled by the actions of the Minneapolis Police Department. For nearly nine minutes, one assailant placed his knee at the base of Mr. Floyd's neck, who was non-responsive, while another knelt on his back and ribcage. And if that weren't enough force to restrain Mr. Floyd, a third assailant knelt on the back of his legs. While these three crushed Mr. Floyd into the city street, a fourth, compliant, stood over them and looked up and down the street as if he were waiting on an approaching bus. Watching this behavior from people who are supposed to serve and protect the public is so frustrating and upsetting to me. I have asked who is at the gate to allow individuals who have so little regard for human dignity to become sworn officers? I cannot help screaming there must have been other incidents, there must have been other citizen complaints, there must have been red flags to alert the command staff that they had a loose cannon in their hands. But often when we see these type of abuse of powers, it is systemic of a deeper problem in the hiring and psychological evaluation of perspective employees. Police
training tactics focus more on how to inflict bodily harm and restrain an individual and less emphasis on how to deescalate and evaluate the situation from a mental health or public safety approach and not as a paramilitary action. I've often said that there are bad police officers, just as there are bad auto mechanics. After 25 years in public safety, I have worked with many good and decent officers, dedicated men and women who work with the community and not against it, officers who work ten hour shifts and then go out and coach football until sunset, officers who would load a group of kids in a bus and take them to an amusement park or to a baseball game. Yes, just like there are good HVAC technicians, there are good police officers. But unlike an auto mechanic or a technician, officers have a sworn duty to protect all the people, regardless of race or gender. When I, when we, see the death of George Floyd, it brings back images of Eric Garner and Tamir Rice and Brianna Taylor, to name just a few, black men and women who were killed by police officers. The name of the city may change, but the characters do not; white, male police officers assaulting and killing unarmed black citizens. This nation has recently experienced two public health emergencies as we continue to deal with the opioid and coronavirus epidemics. But police brutality against the African American community has been a public health crisis for decades. There has not been a national movement to address the problem. The federal government has allocated millions of taxpayer dollars, and rightly so, to stop the death toll attributed to opioid abuse and the deadly COVID-19. But there must be an equal urgency to address police brutality as a national health crisis. Several states, including Maryland, have recently passed justice reinvestment legislation to defund correctional institutions and reinvest those dollars into socioeconomic programs to help train citizens for employment in the community and not behind prison bars. An equal commitment from legislators must be undertaken to stop the spread of black deaths at the hands of people who are sworn to protect them. I have been asked recently about Talbot County's commitment to racial diversity and whether a task force needs to be created. Let me say first I am proud of the County's record on fair and equitable hiring and the promotion of minority candidates. County staff, under the direction of the County Manager, has engaged in cultural competency training in 2014 with the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center. In FY17 and FY18, the County funded the Cultural Competency Strategic Plan, facilitated by Dr. Stuart Bounds. Before the COVID-19 shutdown, the County participated in the Courageous Conversation Beyond Diversity training sponsored by the Talbot Family Network in partnership with the Talbot County Public Schools. The Talbot County Sheriff's Department also joined in the cultural competency training. And the deputies also participated in the Conversation on Race. Over the last five years, Sheriff Gamble has hired 21 new employees of which ten were minorities: five African Americans, one Hispanic, and four females. And, to his credit, Sheriff Gamble hired the first Spanish-speaking deputy in the history of the department. While I am proud of the steps that we have taken to bring diversity training to our staff and our hiring of qualified minority candidates, there is still work to be done. And the last thing that I want to do is rest on our laurels. We can do better, and we must be better, as the citizens we serve expect and deserve nothing less than our best. The
public demonstration in Easton on Saturday was amazing to witness, the movement of the young citizens peacefully assembling and calling out the names of George Floyd and the others who have died at the hands of police officers. It was Dr. Martin Luther King who said that “a riot is the voice of the unheard.” While what we saw on Saturday certainly was not a riot, it was hard not to hear the voices and to ask yourself, what can I do to be an agent of change in my community? And I certainly hope that each of the participants of the demonstration on Saturday will engage in some way to move the needle to create and implement actionable items that will improve the health and well-being of the people around them. As I thought about the voices and cries for change, I too had to ask myself, how can I help to ensure that diversity stays an important part of the County’s policies and regulations? With that thought in mind, I am asking the Talbot County Council to consider the following requests to enhance diversity of County government and respond to the voices of the people. First, I am requesting that the County Manager produce a report within 30 days to the County Council describing what diversity training, seminars, or work groups County staff has attended in the last two fiscal years and what additional action items are being implemented to maintain a positive and diverse workforce. Second, I am requesting that the County Council work to create a Diversity Statement to be included in the County’s Employee Handbook. Such a statement should outline the County’s commitment to create and maintain a diverse workforce, a place where diverse ideas and thoughts are a welcome part of the work environment. Third, my third request was originally to ask this body, the County Council, to consider placing a question on the 2020 presidential election ballot which would ask the citizens of Talbot County to decide if the Talbot Boys statue should be removed. It is no secret that this Council, as well as prior Councils, has been asked to relocate the Talbot Boys statue. The idea of a ballot question was to put the decision back to the people, from which it came more than 100 years ago. Yet after consulting with the Office of Law, it was discovered that in order for such a question to be placed on a State election ballot, it would require a vote of the General Assembly and all ballot questions must be submitted to the State Election Board no later than July 31st. As it appears that these two factors will not permit the question to be placed on the 2020 presidential election ballot, it is, therefore, my request that this Council consider a resolution to prohibit all statues depicting persons, signs, or symbols of military action on the Courthouse grounds. The resolution would not prohibit monuments listing the names of Talbot County veterans of war. The fourth request is for the Council to consider a ballot question to change from an unlimited term of office to a term-limit Council. Term limits would be one way to ensure new people and new ideas come onto the Council on a more regular basis. It is recommended that two consecutive terms to be set as the new limit and that exiting Council members would be required to wait one term before being eligible to take a seat on the Council. My last request of this Council is to consider sending a letter to our federal representatives seeking their support of the Justice and Policing Act of 2020. This federal act is a comprehensive approach to hold police agencies accountable, change the culture of law enforcement, and build trust between law enforcement and our communities. These recommendations are made to
this Council in the hope that Talbot County will always be a place where people of different races, religions, and cultures are welcome to live, to work, and to participate freely. Thank you, Council, for hearing me out.

XIII. The Council will reconvene on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in Open Session and immediately adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of legal, personnel and real estate matters as listed on the statement for closing the meeting, and for the regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The transcript of the June 9, 2020 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XIV. Summary of Closed Session held on June 9, 2020:

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:

   Time of closed session: 5:20 p.m. to 5:55 p.m.
   Place of closed session: Wye Oak Room, Talbot County Community Center
   Purpose of the closed session: To consider various matters as set forth in the statement for closing the meeting

2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:

   Names of members voting aye: Pack, Callahan, Price, Divilio, Lesher
   Members opposed: None
   Abstaining: None
   Absent: None

3. Statutory authority to close session and listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic description</th>
<th>Statutory authority</th>
<th>Persons present</th>
<th>Action taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discuss appointments to various County boards and committees</td>
<td>GP § 3-305 (b) (1)</td>
<td>Corey Pack, Chuck Callahan, Laura Price, Frank Divilio, Pete Lesher, Andy Hollis, Anthony Kupersmith, Jessica Morris</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discuss negotiations for proposed acquisition of property for a public purpose in Royal Oak area</td>
<td>GP § 3-305 (b) (3)</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>Approval given to accept counter-offer and proceed with acquisition of property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal advice regarding alcohol service at restaurants and outdoor</td>
<td>GP § 3-305 (b) (7)</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>No action</td>
</tr>
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seating in the County and municipalities

| To receive legal advice on a ballot question related to monuments | GP § 3-305 (b) (7) | Same as above | No action |
| For update on legal enforcement regarding Chesapeake Bay Balloon Festival | GP § 3-305 (b) (7) | Same as above, plus Mary Kay Verdery | No action |

CASH STATEMENT 6/02/2020

BALANCE 5/26/2020 4,496,585.48

TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 5/15/2020 (643,476.12)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 5/15/2020 (17,771.87)
PENSION DED PPE 5/15/2020 (38,246.11)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 5/15/2020 PLAN 401(A) (7,116.40)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 5/26/2020 (48,428.58)
ELECTION BOARD PPE 5/12/2020 (1,185.17)
USDA/RD BIOSOLIDS QTRLY BOND PMT (13,086.00)
USDA/RD BIOSOLIDS QTRLY BOND PMT (6,626.00)

DEPOSITS 4,189,147.40
CHECKS (755,125.38)
VOIDED CHECK(S) # 341249 3,554.83

BALANCE 6/02/2020 7,158,226.08

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate Date</th>
<th>Maturity Date</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL 0.34%</td>
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TOTAL INVESTED 25,624,514.33

PETTY CASH 15,570.00
BALANCE

GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS 32,798,310.41
CASH STATEMENT 6/09/2020

BALANCE 6/02/2020 7,158,226.08

TOTAL ADP MONTHLY PAYROLL PPE 5/31/2020 (10,676.74)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 5/31/2020 (990.00)
PENSION DED PPE 5/31/2020 (736.49)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 6/1/2020 (42,359.21)
JUNE 2020 RETIREE HEALTH INS PLAN #727 (30,631.53)
BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY 2020 (3,504,644.00)
WF/GF EQUIP LEASE PMT (128.00)
BANK CHARGES (538.69)
4/2020 INTEREST ON ACCOUNTS 4/2020 627.66

DEPOSITS 7,310,454.09
CHECKS (1,345,936.82)

BALANCE 6/09/2020 9,532,666.35

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

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TOTAL INVESTED 25,628,664.54

PETTY CASH 15,570.00

BALANCE

GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS 35,176,900.89