

**COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
TALBOT COUNTY**

2011 Legislative Session, Legislative Day No.: March 22, 2011

Resolution No.: 180, AS AMENDED

Introduced by: Mr. Duncan

A RESOLUTION TO ENACT A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM IN THE VILLAGES OF ROYAL OAK, NEWCOMB, BELLEVUE, UNIONVILLE, TUNIS MILLS, AND COPPERVILLE UPON PROCESSING, REVIEW, OR APPROVAL OF ANY APPLICATION, THAT HAS NOT RECEIVED SKETCH PLAN APPROVAL IN ACCORD WITH § 190-193 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 22, 2011, TO SUBDIVIDE ON OR FROM PARCELS ZONED "VILLAGE CENTER", FOR A PERIOD OF NINE (9) MONTHS PENDING CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF SUCH LEGISLATION AS THE COUNTY COUNCIL MAY CONSIDER ADVISABLE TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

By the Council: March 22, 2011

Introduced, read the first time, and ordered posted, with Public Hearing scheduled on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

By order: Susan W. Moran *fin*
Susan W. Moran, Secretary

A RESOLUTION TO ENACT A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM IN THE VILLAGES OF ROYAL OAK, NEWCOMB, BELLEVUE, UNIONVILLE, TUNIS MILLS, AND COPPERVILLE UPON PROCESSING, REVIEW, OR APPROVAL OF ANY APPLICATION THAT HAS NOT RECEIVED SKETCH PLAN APPROVAL IN ACCORD WITH § 190-193 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 22, 2011, TO SUBDIVIDE ON OR FROM PARCELS ZONED “VILLAGE CENTER”, FOR A PERIOD OF NINE (9) MONTHS PENDING CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF SUCH LEGISLATION AS THE COUNTY COUNCIL MAY CONSIDER ADVISABLE TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

1 **WHEREAS**, the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan (the “Plan”) is the basis for land
2 use policy decisions in the County. The Plan calls for the County’s planning goals to be
3 implemented from time to time through zoning, subdivision, map amendments, and other County
4 ordinances and regulations; and,

5 **WHEREAS**, the Talbot County Comprehensive Water & Sewer Plan (the “CWSP”) is
6 the guiding document for extension of sewer service in the County. In coordination with the
7 Plan, it is intended to plan and map sewer service areas, extensions, and policies that, in
8 conjunction with County land use regulations will promote orderly land use and development
9 and will promote the public health, safety, and welfare; and,

10 **WHEREAS**, the Plan calls for master planning and small-area plans for the County’s
11 Village Centers. Under the Plan, new development and redevelopment in Village Centers is to
12 be compatible with the existing village character in land use, density, scale, set-backs, site
13 layout, and general design; and,

14 **WHEREAS**, the Plan states that villages should maintain their unique “sense of place” as
15 identified by their existing architectural character, scale, mix of uses and density of development,
16 and that, as infill and redevelopment occurs within the Village Centers, it should be required to
17 maintain these attributes; and,

18 **WHEREAS**, the Plan also notes that many of the existing Village Centers have problems
19 with failing septic systems because of the typically small size of Village Center lots, poor soil
20 conditions and a high groundwater table; and,

21 **WHEREAS**, the County extended sewer to the villages of Royal Oak, Newcomb,
22 Bellevue, Unionville, Tunis Mills, and Copperville, to solve serious pre-existing public health
23 problems caused by failing septic systems, small lots, poor soil drainage, and high groundwater
24 tables; and,

25 **WHEREAS**, master planning and small-area plans for Village Centers is intended and
26 expected to promote public health, safety, and welfare, and to promote orderly land use and
27 development consistent with the planning goals adopted in the Plan, and is expected to allow
28 review, revision, and coordination between zoning and subdivision ordinance amendments
29 adopted to implement the Plan’s goals and any required revision of the existing CWSP’s sewer

30 service areas, extensions, and policies to reflect the master planning and small-area plans
31 adopted by the County for the villages; and,

32 **WHEREAS**, the County has begun to implement but has not yet completed the master
33 planning and small-area plans for Village Centers, and has not developed, considered, or adopted
34 amendments to the County zoning and subdivision ordinance to implement such plans for
35 Village Centers; and,

36 **WHEREAS**, Article 25A § 5, Md. Ann. Code authorizes the County to enact such
37 legislation as it deems necessary to assure the good government of the County, and to protect the
38 health, comfort and convenience of the citizens of the County; and,

39 **WHEREAS**, Article 25A § 5 (X), Md. Ann. Code authorizes the County to enact a
40 zoning and subdivision ordinance, *viz.*, Chapter 190, Talbot County Code, and to develop and
41 adopt land-use and development ordinances to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of
42 the community; and,

43 **WHEREAS**, the County desires to conduct and to conclude the master planning and
44 small-area planning envisioned for Village Centers. The County desires to consider and, if
45 appropriate, adopt suitable zoning and subdivision amendments, ordinances, or maps concerning
46 Village Centers; and,

47 **WHEREAS**, the County requires time to ensure that appropriate study, suitable
48 proposals, and desired public input is obtained before considering amendments to the County
49 zoning and subdivision ordinance and/or zoning maps; and,

50 **WHEREAS**, in these villages at this time the, processing, consideration, review, or
51 approval of subdivision applications on land zoned "Village Center" would frustrate the
52 County's ability to conclude the master planning and small-area plan, and to revise the County
53 zoning and subdivision ordinance and other regulations consistent with those plans, and would
54 be adverse to the orderly implementation of the planning goals of the Comprehensive Plan and
55 land use and development in the County; and,

56 **WHEREAS**, to protect and promote the public interest, the County Council is proposing
57 a temporary moratorium for nine (9) months upon processing, consideration, review, or approval
58 of any application for any subdivision on any land in the villages of Royal Oak, Newcomb,
59 Bellevue, Unionville, Tunis Mills, and Copperville that is zoned "Village Center".

60 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the County Council of Talbot County, that:

61 SECTION 1. A temporary moratorium is hereby adopted on subdivision applications in
62 the villages of Royal Oak, Newcomb, Bellevue, Unionville, Tunis Mills, and Copperville to
63 temporarily suspend processing, consideration, review, or approval of any application that has
64 not received sketch plan approval in accord with § 190-193 of the *Talbot County Code* on or
65 before March 22, 2011, to subdivide on or from parcels zoned "Village Center." This temporary
66 moratorium is enacted for a period of nine (9) months from the date of adoption of this

67 Resolution pending consideration and adoption of such legislation as the County Council may
68 consider advisable to promote the public health, safety, and welfare.

69 SECTION 2. During the moratorium, County staff shall continue to accept all
70 subdivision applications and place them in queue, but the County Planning Office, the Planning
71 Commission, and the Board of Appeals shall temporarily suspend and shall not process,
72 consider, review, or approve any application, permit, or other approval for any application filed
73 after March 22, 2011, to subdivide on or from parcels zoned "Village Center" in the villages of
74 Royal Oak, Newcomb, Bellevue, Unionville, Tunis Mills, and Copperville.

75 SECTION 3. The temporary suspension adopted by this Resolution shall apply only to
76 applications for subdivisions filed on or after March 22, 2011, and shall continue during the
77 pendency of this temporary moratorium.

78 SECTION 4. This moratorium is adopted to allow sufficient time for the County to
79 accomplish the following:

80 (a) Conduct and conclude the master planning and small-area planning envisioned for
81 these Village Centers consistent with the Comprehensive Plan

82 (b) Consistent with the master planning and small-area planning for these Village
83 Centers, consider any revisions to the zoning and subdivision ordinance, zoning
84 maps, and other laws or regulations, as necessary, to implement master planning
85 and small-area plans for Village Centers;

86 (c) Consistent with the master planning and available small-area plans, and consistent
87 with implementation of those plans by zoning, subdivision, zoning map, or other
88 legislation for Village Centers, consider any revisions to the comprehensive sewer
89 plan, sewer service area maps, or sewer service allocation policy concerning these
90 Village Centers to make the comprehensive sewer plan consistent with the
91 comprehensive land-use plan, and to insure these policies are clear and consistent
92 with the original grant and purpose for extension of sewer;

93 (d) Obtain public comment and input, as necessary;

94 (e) Obtain expert advice and assistance and additional studies or reports, as
95 necessary;

96 (f) Consider all such other matters as the County Council, Planning and Zoning
97 Commission, Public Works Advisory Board, and County staff deem appropriate;

98 (g) Consistent with the foregoing, adopt appropriate master planning and small-area
99 plans, zoning text and map amendments, comprehensive sewer plan amendments,
100 or sewer service area map or allocation policy amendments, as may be necessary
101 to protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare.

102 SECTION 5. The County Council reserves the right to terminate or modify this temporary
103 moratorium, including the right to extend it for such additional period or periods on such terms
104 and conditions as it deems necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of
105 the County.

106 SECTION 6. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that if any provision of this Resolution, or the
107 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of
108 competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other application of
109 this Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and for
110 this purpose the provisions of this Resolution are declared severable.

111 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Resolution shall take effect
112 immediately upon the date of its passage.

PUBLIC HEARING

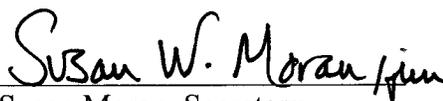
Having been posted and Notice, Time and Place of Hearing, and Title of Resolution No. 180 having been published, a public hearing was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland.

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the second time:

Enacted: May 24, 2011 *AS AMENDED*

By Order:


Susan Moran, Secretary

Bartlett	-	aye
Hollis	-	aye (via absentee ballot)
Pack	-	aye
Price	-	aye
Duncan	-	aye