

COUNTY COUNCIL

OF

TALBOT COUNTY

2020 Legislative Session, Legislative Day No.: September 22, 2020

Resolution No.: 295

Introduced by: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshner, Mr. Pack, Ms. Price

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN RESOLUTION 204, A RESOLUTION TO ADD A CAPITAL PROJECT TO UPGRADE THE TALBOT COUNTY BIO-SOLIDS FACILITY AT 9786 KLONDIKE ROAD, TAX MAP 18, PARCEL 57, TO ADD RECEIVING AND TREATMENT CAPABILITY FOR BROWN GREASE, EQUIPPED WITH ODOR CONTROL, PROPOSED FOR FY2014 WITH FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000,000, THROUGH RURAL UTILITY SERVICE PROGRAM, USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT (*Bio-Solids Facility, Klondike Road, Easton, Maryland*)

By the Council: September 22, 2020

Introduced, read the first time, and ordered posted, with Public Hearing scheduled on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 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, Secretary

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN RESOLUTION 204, A RESOLUTION TO ADD A CAPITAL PROJECT TO UPGRADE THE TALBOT COUNTY BIO-SOLIDS FACILITY AT 9786 KLONDIKE ROAD, TAX MAP 18, PARCEL 57, TO ADD RECEIVING AND TREATMENT CAPABILITY FOR BROWN GREASE, EQUIPPED WITH ODOR CONTROL, PROPOSED FOR FY2014 WITH FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000,000, THROUGH RURAL UTILITY SERVICE PROGRAM, USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT (*Bio-Solids Facility, Klondike Road, Easton, Maryland*)

WHEREAS, Environmental Article § 9-503. Md. Ann. Code, requires Talbot County (the “County”) to develop and maintain a Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan (the “Plan”) or “CWSP”); and,

WHEREAS, the County adopted Resolution 141 on August 28, 2007 to amend the Plan by adopting a Septage Management Plant (Bio-Solids Facility) to be made part of the CWSP as Chapter 3 – “*Septage Receiving, Treatment and Disposal Facility – Septage Management Plan*” (the “Septage Management Plan”); and,

WHEREAS, the County acquired the privately owned Septage and Brown Grease Receiving and Treatment Facility known as Waste Water Recycling in October 2007 with the total acquisition cost of \$2.65 million; and,

WHEREAS, the Waste Water Recycling facility was constructed of used equipment secured from chicken rendering plants with manually operated chemical feeding systems presenting operational and safety issues; and,

WHEREAS, the Waste Water Recycling facility had an inadequate volume of lime stabilization tanks consisting of 30,000 gallons, inadequate screening and processing for both brown grease and septage, along with no odor control systems; and,

WHEREAS, the Waste Water Recycling facility was identified by Talbot and Caroline Counties as the Septage Receiving and Treatment Facility for Talbot and Caroline Counties; and,

WHEREAS, the Waste Water Recycling facility provided a means of proper disposal of septage from approximately 8,000 septic tanks in Talbot County and approximately 6,000 to 8,000 septic tanks in Caroline County; and,

WHEREAS, the County ceased all brown grease receiving and treatment in November 2007 after receiving complaints from neighboring property owners about the odors from the accumulation of brown grease and then knifing the grease into the ground; and,

WHEREAS, the County adopted Resolution 204 on May 14, 2013 to amend the Plan by adopting a capital project for constructing improvements to the Bio-Solids Facility; and,

WHEREAS, the County Council passed Bill No. 1246 and Bill No. 1311, capital enabling legislation, establishing and then increasing the borrowing of funding through the Rural Utility

Service Program, USDA Rural Development to \$7.566 million on August 11, 2015, with the effective date of the legislation being October 11, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the County restarted the receiving and treatment of septage at the Bio-Solids Facility in November 2018; and

WHEREAS, the County started the new operations of receiving and treating brown grease in December 2018; and,

WHEREAS, the County experienced a significant shortfall of revenue due to the continued receipt and treatment of brown grease at the Hurlock Wastewater Treatment Plant, a lagoon system that had been cited by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in the past for violations; and,

WHEREAS, the County continues to experience a significant shortfall of revenue that prevents the facility that serves Talbot and Caroline Counties from covering all the expenses; and,

WHEREAS, the Bio-Solids Facility receives septage from septic tanks and brown grease from restaurants, then screens the wastewater prior to being stabilized with lime for killing pathogens, and then holds the wastewater for twenty-four (24) hours prior to being spray irrigated on crops for nutrient uptake; and,

WHEREAS, the Bio-Solids Facility also provides spray irrigation for the highest nutrient uptake crops during the growing season and has 2.0 million gallons of treated water storage to avoid spray irrigating when vegetation cannot grow during the winter months; and

WHEREAS, the Bio-Solids Facility assists wastewater treatment plants in that septage from septic tank effluent pump systems connected to wastewater treatment plants and septic tanks installed as part of an on-site sewage disposal system have a permitted facility to receive and treat this waste stream; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of Environment Article § 9-506(a)(1), Md. Ann. Code, the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Talbot County Planning Commission and the Talbot County Public Works Advisory Board for review for consistency with planning programs for the area. Before the County Council may adopt this proposed amendment, the Talbot County Planning Commission must first certify that this amendment is consistent with the 2016 Talbot County Comprehensive Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND, that Talbot County Resolution 204 and Talbot County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan shall be and are hereby amended as follows:

SECTION ONE: The above recitals are hereby incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION TWO: The County seeks financial assistance in the form of grants and low-interest loans to continue the operations of the Bio-Solids Facility which provides an environmentally sustainable solution for entities producing septage and brown grease.

SECTION THREE: The closing of the Bio-Solids Facility would impact over 8,000 septic systems in Talbot County and 6,000 to 8,000 septic systems in Caroline County, thus impacting the public health and safety of these property owners.

SECTION FOUR: The closing of the Bio-Solids Facility would also have an impact on rural property owners that need septic pump-out services, with many of these property owners having low to moderate family incomes.

SECTION FIVE: The operation of the Bio-Solids Facility consists of processing liquid wastewater that is then spray irrigated on approximately eighty (80) acres of land through mobile farm spigots and fixed spray nozzles with the nutrients being taken up by corn or other approved crops identified in the Nutrient Management Plan. Due to the growing of crops, the Bio-Solids Facility is located outside a Priority Funding Area, but serves properties in Priority Funding Areas that have septic tanks or in-ground grease traps.

SECTION SIX: After initiating operations of the Bio-Solids Facility, the County realized that a new Gravity Sludge Thickener/Digester, along with the addition of aerators in the 2.0 million gallon storage lagoon, would enhance the overall operations and reduce odors. The addition of the gravity sludge thickener and digester should improve the quality of the sludge currently being disposed of at the regional landfill (Mid-Shore I) and allow the County to apply the sludge to land. The proposed improvements would also assist with future aquaculture operations by processing additional waste from these operations at the Bio-Solids Facility. In addition, the effluent from the improved Bio-Solids Facility should have lower total nitrogen and total phosphorus concentrations. The estimated cost for adding the gravity sludge thickener and either a thermophilic or aerobic digester to the lagoon aerators is approximately \$1.5 million dollars.

SECTION SEVEN: The County seeks to refinance the existing loans through USDA Rural Development via a low-interest rate over a thirty (30) year term.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon the date of its passage.

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and Notice, Time and Place of Hearing, and Title of Resolution No. 295 having been published, a public hearing was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 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: **November 10, 2020**

By Order: *Susan W. Moran*
Susan W. Moran, Secretary

Pack - Aye
Divilio - Aye
Callahan - Aye
Price - Aye (via absentee ballot)
Leshner - Aye

Effective Date: **November 10, 2020**