



Deposition of:
Talbot County Council Meeting
April 14, 2020

In the Matter of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

April 14, 2020; 6:00 p.m.

Wye Oak Room - Talbot County Community Center
Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Corey W. Pack
- Chuck F. Callahan
- Frank Divilio
- Pete Leshner
- Laura E. Price

Reported by
Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Thank you, everyone. Welcome</p> <p>4 to the Talbot County Council meeting. It is</p> <p>5 April the 14th. We're at our remote location</p> <p>6 here at the Community Center at the Wye Oak</p> <p>7 Room.</p> <p>8 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will</p> <p>9 be no public access to the Wye Oak Room.</p> <p>10 Citizens who wish to listen to the County</p> <p>11 Council meeting can do so by dialing</p> <p>12 (415)655-0002 and enter the access code, which</p> <p>13 is 475626605. So any persons who wish to</p> <p>14 participate -- or listen in, not participate,</p> <p>15 but listen into these County Council meetings</p> <p>16 and going forward while we're in this state of</p> <p>17 emergency can do so by dialing into that number</p> <p>18 and also entering the access code.</p> <p>19 These meetings are live streamed as well.</p> <p>20 You can access them via YouTube. You can</p> <p>21 access via</p>	<p>1 May the 5th, at two p.m. and at five p.m. It</p> <p>2 will be held here at the Wye Oak Room at the</p> <p>3 Talbot County Community Center.</p> <p>4 Again, the building is not accessible to</p> <p>5 the public due to the ongoing COVID-19</p> <p>6 epidemic.</p> <p>7 You are encouraged to submit in writing</p> <p>8 any comments to Bill 1445. I will read this</p> <p>9 again at the end of the meeting, but I want to</p> <p>10 make light of it now. You are encouraged to</p> <p>11 submit any comments on the budget, that's Bill</p> <p>12 1445, in writing and do so to</p> <p>13 publiccomment@talbotcountymd.gov. We must</p> <p>14 receive those comments in by May the 5th.</p> <p>15 Again, you want to send any comments on the</p> <p>16 budget.</p> <p>17 MS. LANE: May 4th.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Excuse me, May 4th. Any</p> <p>19 comments on the budget to</p> <p>20 publiccomment@talbotcountymd.gov. We must</p> <p>21 receive those by Monday, May the 4th, for those</p>
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<p>1 www.youtube.com/midshorecommunitytelevision.</p> <p>2 So the access is by live stream. It's</p> <p>3 www.youtube.com/midshorecommunitytelevision.</p> <p>4 I have one other announcement. The</p> <p>5 Lakeside development meeting is not part of</p> <p>6 this agenda. It was printed in error in the</p> <p>7 Star Democrat today. We have received some</p> <p>8 calls on it.</p> <p>9 That project has not been heard before the</p> <p>10 Public Works Advisory Board nor the Planning</p> <p>11 Commission. Council has not received a</p> <p>12 recommendation from either of those commissions</p> <p>13 on the Lakeside development. It is not a part</p> <p>14 of this agenda, nor will the Council hear it</p> <p>15 until those two bodies have heard and discussed</p> <p>16 it.</p> <p>17 Also, I'm going to give the following</p> <p>18 instructions to members listening, to citizens</p> <p>19 listening. The County Council will be holding</p> <p>20 two remote public hearings on the fiscal</p> <p>21 2020-2021 budget, that's Bill 1445, on Tuesday,</p>	<p>1 comments to be part of our official record.</p> <p>2 If you have any questions regarding that</p> <p>3 process, please contact the county manager's</p> <p>4 office at (410)770-8010 and you can comment or</p> <p>5 have your questions answered at that time.</p> <p>6 Those are my opening comments at this</p> <p>7 time. I'm going to turn it over to Council</p> <p>8 Member Leshner to lead us in a word of prayer.</p> <p>9 If all Council members wouldn't mind standing</p> <p>10 at this time.</p> <p>11 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Leshner, for that</p> <p>13 heartfelt prayer. And we also can join in with</p> <p>14 your sentiments as we go through these</p> <p>15 difficult times.</p> <p>16 Council, you do have before you an agenda</p> <p>17 that is printed. The chair would ask are there</p> <p>18 any additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>19 agenda at this time?</p> <p>20 MS. PRICE: Yes. Mr. Pack, I would like</p> <p>21 to have the Council consider removing the</p>

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<p>1 recommendations of the Property Tax Committee</p> <p>2 this evening.</p> <p>3 I know that it seems very incentive right</p> <p>4 now to talk about putting something on the</p> <p>5 ballot that would raise people's taxes in a</p> <p>6 time that's so difficult when so many have lost</p> <p>7 their jobs and small businesses are suffering.</p> <p>8 I would rather put it off until we</p> <p>9 introduce our budget tonight, which I think</p> <p>10 people will hopefully like some of the things</p> <p>11 that are in the budget, and let people focus on</p> <p>12 that. And it would give us a chance to get</p> <p>13 some feedback how people are feeling.</p> <p>14 And I also think that maybe three more</p> <p>15 weeks and we're going to know whether or not</p> <p>16 some of these orders of staying at home are</p> <p>17 going to be lifted and whether or not the</p> <p>18 economy is going to be able to start bouncing</p> <p>19 back in a few weeks or if this is going to be a</p> <p>20 long-term affair.</p> <p>21 For me, that will very much determine what</p>	<p>1 because then we run the risk of not having</p> <p>2 enough time to get the question vetted by the</p> <p>3 Office of Law.</p> <p>4 Not only that, the referendum committee</p> <p>5 was going to try to do their due diligence to</p> <p>6 go out and educate the consumer and the</p> <p>7 citizens on the ballot question once it was</p> <p>8 drafted.</p> <p>9 I know right now it's difficult for us to</p> <p>10 do a lot of things because of the stay-at-home</p> <p>11 order. You can reach out to some people via</p> <p>12 Facebook or conference calls or Zoom or any</p> <p>13 other platforms that are out there for you to</p> <p>14 use.</p> <p>15 Certainly wasn't the way we intended this</p> <p>16 to happen. We were looking at more of a town</p> <p>17 hall type of a setting where Sheriff Gamble</p> <p>18 could go in front of a certain group and</p> <p>19 Mr. Stamp can go in front of a certain group</p> <p>20 and Superintendent Kelly Griffith can go in</p> <p>21 front of a certain group and discuss the ballot</p>
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<p>1 I'm willing to ask the people to vote for on</p> <p>2 the ballot. And we're trying to decide</p> <p>3 whether -- which of the options is best. And</p> <p>4 I, for one, just really have no idea which</p> <p>5 option is best and I don't feel prepared to be</p> <p>6 able to discuss that this evening.</p> <p>7 And I believe we have time. We have until</p> <p>8 the end of May.</p> <p>9 So my proposal is to do this at the first</p> <p>10 Council meeting in May, to have this</p> <p>11 discussion. And I feel like we're going to</p> <p>12 have a lot more information. So I would ask</p> <p>13 Council to consider delaying that conversation.</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: Okay. So there's a motion to</p> <p>15 remove item number five from the agenda.</p> <p>16 Again, the Tax Referendum Committee has</p> <p>17 done their work on this. I know it is somewhat</p> <p>18 time sensitive as far as questions that have to</p> <p>19 go back up to the State that will appear on the</p> <p>20 ballot. So we have to be sensitive to that as</p> <p>21 well. We can't delay and delay and delay</p>	<p>1 question more personally, more one to one.</p> <p>2 MS. PRICE: And I think we still have May</p> <p>3 and June and part of July to do that. So they</p> <p>4 said that as long as we can do this by</p> <p>5 May 26th. My proposal is May 12th to</p> <p>6 introduce, which gives us time to hold public</p> <p>7 hearings.</p> <p>8 And as far as getting education out,</p> <p>9 nobody is going to be listening to that right</p> <p>10 now. I think to try to go out and educate on a</p> <p>11 ballot question to raise taxes right now,</p> <p>12 nobody is going to be listening because just</p> <p>13 right now they're inside. They're struggling</p> <p>14 to feed their families and hope that they can</p> <p>15 get a job or collect unemployment.</p> <p>16 So I don't think we'll be losing any time</p> <p>17 by delaying this just a few weeks when people</p> <p>18 maybe would feel better and more open to be</p> <p>19 educated about it.</p> <p>20 I think we've done a lot in the</p> <p>21 conversations amongst us. I think the</p>

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1 awareness is getting out there. But to go and
 2 kind of hit people over the heads with it now,
 3 it feels it's a little incentive.
 4 MR. PACK: I don't think you're hitting
 5 people over the head with it.
 6 I think what the committee was asking us
 7 to do today was to kind of pull from their
 8 recommendations what this Council wanted to
 9 bring back over to the --
 10 MS. PRICE: I wouldn't vote for anything
 11 this evening. So I just want more information,
 12 which is exactly why we are introducing the
 13 budget the way we are. Just doing something
 14 flat and making those decisions in several
 15 months.
 16 So I don't think we're losing anything by
 17 waiting until the first meeting in May.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: I can support Ms. Price's
 19 request here.
 20 We've heard the governor say that he's
 21 freezing spending.

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1 Looking at property tax increases or doing
 2 anything like this is not something that I
 3 would even want to focus on at this time.
 4 I think more -- and I'm always willing to
 5 say that I complain about how slow government
 6 moves. But I think in this situation, three
 7 weeks is going to tell us a lot of information
 8 and will really show us just how depressed the
 9 economy is here in Talbot County and what we
 10 may need to do or what areas or pockets we need
 11 to focus on to help out.
 12 So at this time, I'm in favor of pushing
 13 that down one more month just to see where we
 14 are.
 15 So if you've made a motion, I'll second
 16 it.
 17 MS. PRICE: I didn't. But yes, I'm making
 18 a motion.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 20 MR. PACK: Any further discussion on the
 21 removal of item number five from the agenda?

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1 MR. LESHAR: Have we researched this? Are
 2 we confident that if we push this back a full
 3 four weeks to May 12th, that we still have a
 4 reasonable timetable to get this out to the
 5 State and back, that it will get through all
 6 the process that we need in order to make it in
 7 timely fashion onto the November ballot?
 8 MS. PRICE: I believe Jessica told me
 9 introducing by May 26th.
 10 MR. PACK: I don't know how to answer that
 11 question.
 12 I mean if we push it back. I don't have a
 13 calendar in front of me.
 14 When does the question need to go up to?
 15 Annapolis, Ms. O'Donnell? You're not familiar?
 16 MS. O'DONNELL: I'm sorry. I was looking
 17 to Ms. Lane to see if she recalled that answer.
 18 I do not recall that answer.
 19 MS. LANE: We believe right now it is
 20 May 26th.
 21 SECRETARY: For introduction.

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1 MS. LANE: For introduction, right.
 2 SECRETARY: And then it has to be up at
 3 the State I believe by July 30th or 31st.
 4 MS. PRICE: So we have plenty of time.
 5 MS. O'DONNELL: Obviously between May 12th
 6 and May 26th, there would be a question of how
 7 much time the committee would have to discuss
 8 that issue before introduction.
 9 MR. PACK: Right.
 10 MS. LANE: I don't believe it needs to
 11 come back to the committee at that point. I
 12 believe the committee would come back together
 13 as a group once a ballot question is determined
 14 by the Council. And then we would assist the
 15 Council at their direction on any educational
 16 type campaigns.
 17 MR. PACK: That's what I thought, it had
 18 to go back to the committee so the committee
 19 could figure out how they were going to go out
 20 and now publicize that question and educate --
 21 MS. PRICE: That's just marketing. That

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1 has nothing to do with getting the language to
 2 the State.
 3 MR. PACK: No, no. That's the committee's
 4 work.
 5 And being in the times that we're in right
 6 now, they're going to have to have more
 7 creative means of doing that. As I said
 8 before, either Facebook or Zoom. So you're
 9 putting more pressure on the committee to do
 10 their work.
 11 MS. PRICE: Let us hope that by May, we're
 12 not going to be under stay-of-home orders and
 13 they can do it the way that we intended them to
 14 do it.
 15 But right now, they're not going to be
 16 reaching out to anybody.
 17 Again, I would be very upset if we had
 18 done something tonight and the committee
 19 started going out and calling people and
 20 marketing this in this time. It's so incentive
 21 to do that. It's just a waste of time to be

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1 marketing in the next four weeks.
 2 So it doesn't lose us any time by
 3 introducing on the 12th instead of tonight.
 4 MR. PACK: Does that answer your question,
 5 Mr. Lesher? I believe we have time if we take
 6 this up in May.
 7 MR. LESHHER: Look, all five of us back
 8 before the election supported this in concept.
 9 We have to be able to have the support of all
 10 of us I think to move this forward.
 11 And if we don't have that yet tonight, I
 12 think we should amend the agenda and address
 13 this when we do have that support.
 14 MR. PACK: Okay.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: I would agree, Mr. Leshher.
 16 MR. PACK: So we have a motion and a
 17 second on amending. We're removing item number
 18 five from the agenda, bringing it back on what
 19 date?
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: The 12th.
 21 MR. PACK: Twelfth, May 12th. Okay.

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1 Madam Secretary, there you are. I'm used
 2 to you being on my right. On removing item
 3 number five from the agenda, could you please
 4 call the roll.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 6 MR. PACK: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 8 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 11 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 12 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 14 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 15 MS. PRICE: We are not in the right order;
 16 are we?
 17 MR. PACK: Okay. Are there any other
 18 additions, deletions, or corrections to the
 19 agenda at this time? Hearing none, the agenda
 20 is accepted with unanimous consent.
 21 Moving now onto item number three. We

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1 have minutes from February 25th, March the
 2 10th, March the 16th, March the 26th, that was
 3 a work session, and also March the 31st was
 4 also a work session. So you have the minutes
 5 from those meetings, various meetings and work
 6 sessions.
 7 Are there any additions or deletions or
 8 corrections to those minutes? Hearing none,
 9 the chair moves that they be accepted with
 10 unanimous consent.
 11 Moving on, you have disbursements from
 12 March the 17th, March the 24th, March the 31st,
 13 April the 7th, and April the 14th. We've all
 14 had a chance to go through those disbursements,
 15 speak to Ms. Lane, our fiscal officer. Are
 16 there any additions, deletions, or corrections
 17 to those disbursements? Hearing none, the
 18 chair moves that they be accepted with
 19 unanimous consent.
 20 Jumping down to introduction of
 21 administrative resolution, we have item number

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1 six on the agenda. Madam Secretary, would you
 2 please read the title of that resolution.
 3 SECRETARY: An administrative resolution
 4 of Talbot County, Maryland, in support of a
 5 conditional loan from the Maryland Department
 6 of Commerce from the Maryland Economic
 7 Development Assistance Fund to Aphenia Pharma
 8 Solutions - Maryland, LLC and to confirm a
 9 local contribution by Talbot County toward the
 10 project.
 11 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 12 Do we have Ms. . .
 13 MS. MORRIS: Ms. Vanhooser is here.
 14 MR. PACK: There she is.
 15 MS. MORRIS: Just trying to figure out
 16 where to sit. You want to sit where Angela is?
 17 MS. O'DONNELL: No. She can stay here.
 18 Cassandra.
 19 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you.
 20 MR. PACK: I'm sorry. We're having some
 21 difficulty with my mike.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Andy, here.
 2 MR. PACK: Ms. Vanhooser, good to see you.
 3 I don't know whether they can pick me up
 4 by another mike. Thank you.
 5 Hello. Good seeing you.
 6 MS. VANHOOSER: Hello. Good to see you,
 7 too.
 8 MR. PACK: The floor is yours regarding
 9 the resolution. If you can just enlighten
 10 Council a little bit more about what this is
 11 about and we can go forward.
 12 MS. VANHOOSER: Yes, sir. I'd be happy
 13 to.
 14 As I said, it's good to see you. I've
 15 been hearing a lot of all of you lately on
 16 conference calls and what have you. So it's
 17 good to be with you again.
 18 MS. PRICE: Cassandra, hold on one second.
 19 They told us that we have to be right on top of
 20 the mike so they can hear us at home. So you
 21 have to spit on it.

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1 MS. VANHOOSER: Yes, ma'am.
 2 MS. PRICE: Thank you.
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: I'll try not to actually
 4 spit.
 5 So we're here tonight to discuss a
 6 conditional loan grant for Easton's-based
 7 Aphenia Pharma Solutions. This company is a
 8 bright spot in our business community right now
 9 because they are in expansion mode.
 10 They're a contract pharmaceutical
 11 packaging and manufacturing company located on
 12 Industrial Park Drive. They have the liquid
 13 and topical division here in Easton, and they
 14 have another division of the company in
 15 Cookeville, Tennessee.
 16 The incentive that we're talking about
 17 here or the grant loan that we're talking about
 18 would go to fund an expansion project that will
 19 include a \$27 million capital expenditure and
 20 add approximately 100 employees here in Easton.
 21 So we think that this is a great

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1 investment in our community. We have a small
 2 incentive fund in our Economic Development
 3 Department that we set aside about \$20,000 each
 4 year. And so we've been working on that fund
 5 for a number of years.
 6 We have the money in our budget, and we're
 7 recommending that you approve this resolution
 8 to give this loan grant to Aphenia Pharma.
 9 MR. PACK: And they've been a great
 10 partner in the community for some time now. So
 11 I hope we can do that this evening.
 12 Any questions or comment of Ms. Vanhooser
 13 on the Aphenia grant loan?
 14 Being that this is an administrative
 15 resolution, it is eligible for vote this
 16 evening if Council will entertain the chair to
 17 move this to vote this evening.
 18 MS. PRICE: I will so move.
 19 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Leshner.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it.
 21 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any

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1 further discussion on moving the matter to vote
 2 this evening?
 3 MS. PRICE: Do we have to introduce it
 4 first?
 5 MR. PACK: She already read it.
 6 MS. PRICE: Oh, I mean we don't have to
 7 like raise hands or anything?
 8 MR. PACK: Actually, I'm sorry, you're
 9 right. I do apologize, Ms. Lane. I'm one step
 10 ahead of myself.
 11 MS. PRICE: I'm Ms. Lane again?
 12 MR. PACK: Since we are on mike, I'm going
 13 to take back your motion just one second and
 14 ask for a roll call on introduction of the
 15 administrative resolution. I do apologize.
 16 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 18 MR. PACK: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 3 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 5 MR. LESHES: Aye.
 6 MR. PACK: The matter has now been
 7 properly introduced.
 8 It is eligible for vote this evening. We
 9 did have a motion by Mr. Leshes to do that,
 10 seconded by Mr. Callahan to do that.
 11 Any further discussion on moving this to
 12 vote this evening?
 13 MR. LESHES: I just want to echo
 14 Ms. Vanhooser's comments on what a bright spot
 15 this has been on the business community within
 16 Easton and within Talbot County, how they've
 17 been -- they've come to us. They're adding
 18 jobs, and they're good jobs.
 19 This is really something that we should be
 20 encouraging, and I am thankful that we have the
 21 tools in our tool chest to be able to provide

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1 this incentive for them. I'm proud to be
 2 sponsoring this and to be voting for it.
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you, Mr. Leshes.
 4 MR. PACK: Okay. I'm going to call the
 5 vote on moving it to vote this evening. Then
 6 Madam Secretary will call the roll on the
 7 actual vote. So this is just a vote to move to
 8 vote this evening.
 9 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 11 MR. PACK: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 17 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshes.
 19 MR. LESHES: Aye.
 20 MR. PACK: The matter is now before us for
 21 final vote. Is there any further discussion or

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1 comment to Ms. Vanhooser on the resolution?
 2 MR. DIVILIO: I'd just like to echo those
 3 words. I'm very excited for these positions to
 4 get filled here. These are good-paying jobs.
 5 This is great for the economy here. This is
 6 exactly the type of business that we'd like to
 7 have expand here. And I'm glad that they found
 8 us and I'm glad that we're able to help them.
 9 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 10 It's important to note that they are
 11 hiring now. So we hear a lot about layoffs
 12 right now, but Aphena Pharma is hiring.
 13 MR. PACK: Okay. That's great.
 14 Any further comment?
 15 MS. PRICE: Thank you for being such an
 16 incredible liaison and keeping businesses like
 17 that healthy in this county. We really
 18 appreciate you and appreciate them as well.
 19 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you.
 20 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you.
 21 MR. PACK: Madam Secretary, on the

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1 resolution before Council for final vote, would
 2 you please call your roll.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 4 MR. PACK: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 10 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 12 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 13 MR. PACK: I think we have a letter
 14 somewhere around here for you. Thank you very
 15 much.
 16 MS. VANHOOSER: Great. Thank you so much.
 17 MR. PACK: Okay. Now, moving on, you have
 18 a numbered resolution before you, which is item
 19 number seven on the agenda.
 20 Madam Secretary, would you please read the
 21 title of this resolution.

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1 SECRETARY: A resolution to amend Talbot
 2 County Resolution 235 and the Talbot County
 3 comprehensive water and sewer plan to authorize
 4 a single sewer connection and a single
 5 equivalent dwelling unit of wastewater
 6 treatment capacity to each buildable lot of
 7 land created pursuant to a pending major lot
 8 line revision plat titled major line revision
 9 of the lands of McMiles, LLC in the first
 10 election district, Talbot County, Maryland.
 11 Tax map 24, grid 24, parcel 118, lots 43
 12 through 49. Prepared by Lane Engineering, LLC
 13 and dated November 19, 2019.
 14 MR. PACK: Okay. There you are,
 15 Mr. Clarke. You snuck in on me.
 16 We have Mr. Clarke here with us, county
 17 engineer.
 18 Ray, would you just elaborate a little bit
 19 further about this project.
 20 MR. CLARKE: Sure thing. The applicant
 21 went before I guess the Planning Commission, or

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1 I'm sorry, the Planning Office to find out if
 2 they could subdivide two parcels that they own
 3 back in I guess November 15, 2016.
 4 Resolution 235 was adopted by the County
 5 Council and then subsequently was approved by
 6 the Maryland Department of the Environment.
 7 In the approval by the Maryland Department
 8 of the Environment, or MDE, they approved it
 9 for 351 EDUs, or 351 houses. And they made it
 10 kind of clear in their letter back to us that
 11 ultimately their approval was both for the
 12 mapped area as well as the number of EDUs.
 13 So the resolution you have tonight is
 14 really to I guess increase the number of lots.
 15 And part of Resolution 235, there was a table.
 16 And in that table that listed the two parcels,
 17 the property owner now is seeking to go ahead
 18 and take those two lots that he owns and make
 19 basically a five-lot subdivision. There's two
 20 existing lots with three additional lots that
 21 would be created.

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1 To do that, we would need to amend the
 2 comp water and sewer plan to reflect those
 3 three additional lots.
 4 MR. PACK: Okay. Any questions of
 5 Mr. Clarke? Okay.
 6 By introduction tonight, Council, this
 7 will go back over to the Planning Commission,
 8 first of all, and also the Comprehensive Water
 9 and Sewer Commission to look at whether or
 10 not -- I'm sorry. The Public Works Advisory
 11 Board. I got that wrong. And they would send
 12 us a recommendation back whether or not to
 13 adjust the comprehensive water and sewer plan
 14 or not if they find it consistent with the Comp
 15 Plan.
 16 So by introducing it tonight, we'll only
 17 need one member to do so. It would send it
 18 over to those committees to look at, and they
 19 would give us their recommendation back on
 20 whether or not it is consistent or not.
 21 Any further comment or question? Okay.

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1 Madam Secretary, for introduction, could
 2 you please call your roll to introduce.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 4 MR. PACK: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 10 MS. PRICE: No.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 12 MR. LESHER: Nay.
 13 MR. PACK: Okay. The matter is
 14 introduced. This will be known as Resolution
 15 283. It will be scheduled for a public hearing
 16 on May the 26th at 6:30. And I'm hoping that
 17 both the Planning Commission and the Public
 18 Works Advisory Board can get this in before
 19 that date so we'll have that recommendation
 20 back.
 21 Thank you, Mr. Clarke. Okay.

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1 Moving on, we now are going to move on to
 2 item number eight, which is introduction of
 3 legislation. And this will be an act to
 4 establish the 2020-2021 annual budget and
 5 appropriation ordinance.
 6 And we're going to turn matters over to
 7 Ms. Lane, our fiscal officer.
 8 MS. LANE: Good evening, Council. This is
 9 the proposed fiscal 2020-2021 general fund
 10 budget. We're proposing a budget of
 11 \$96,550,000. The current fiscal 2020 budget is
 12 \$92,328,200.
 13 This budget, while it is increasing, it is
 14 \$4.2 million more than the current year budget,
 15 or 4.57 percent more, it is significantly lower
 16 than the amount of requests. The County
 17 Council received requests for operating and
 18 capital outlay of over \$105 million. That
 19 number is \$12.8 million more than the current
 20 fiscal 2019 budget. This budget is increasing
 21 by just over \$4 million.

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1 This is a very unique budget. I think
 2 it's representative of the current situation
 3 that we're all in right now with an unknown
 4 pandemic and the unknown economic consequences
 5 of this pandemic long term.
 6 So the fiscal 21 budget provides level
 7 funding for all county departments and agencies
 8 except for State-mandated increases for the
 9 Talbot County Public Schools and the county
 10 debt service. The county debt service is
 11 actually on the public schools facilities. It
 12 is increasing because we will have a full year
 13 of debt service on the Easton Elementary School
 14 project in fiscal 2021.
 15 This budget is funded in part with
 16 revenues of \$6.7 million from prior year fund
 17 balance.
 18 As I just mentioned, because of economic
 19 uncertainties, this budget includes an
 20 unprecedented reserve for contingencies of
 21 \$2.4 million. Normally we have a reserve for

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1 contingencies of around \$600,000. That has
 2 been our norm for many, many years. We have --
 3 I have never seen a contingency reserve of
 4 \$2.4 million in contingency in all the years
 5 I've been with the county.
 6 We also have done something very unique
 7 this year. And all proposed equipment
 8 purchases of \$1.6 million are in the County
 9 Administration Department budget. They're not
 10 in the individual departments. So any capital
 11 outlay requests will have to be fueled through
 12 the County Administration Department and
 13 probably the County Council to have any
 14 authority to make those purchases during the
 15 fiscal year. So that's \$1.6 million in that
 16 pot of money.
 17 So those two pots of money are \$4 million
 18 that are basically being set aside for Council
 19 oversight during the year. Contingency funds
 20 cannot be spent except with Council approval.
 21 And capital outlay I imagine we will get some

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1 processes in place of certain items that would
 2 come to Council's attention, maybe some minor
 3 ones that the county manager will be able to
 4 approve and then inform you of those decisions.
 5 But basically \$4 million is being set aside
 6 where departments and agencies won't have
 7 access to it. They'll only be able to be spent
 8 with Council approval.

9 The other budget highlights is Talbot
 10 County Public Schools is funded at the
 11 State-mandated Maintenance of Effort level.
 12 And this does provide an additional
 13 \$1.51 million of operating funds for the Talbot
 14 County Public Schools. And it also provides
 15 \$4.4 million in debt service. The \$4.4 million
 16 is the full amount of debt service for public
 17 school facilities. And as I mentioned before,
 18 the debt service is increasing by the \$600,000
 19 for the Easton Elementary School.

20 There are no change in the number of
 21 full-time positions in this budget. But I do

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1 want to acknowledge that the Council has
 2 already started in fiscal 20 of not necessarily
 3 filling positions. As they become vacant, they
 4 have been coming to Council for specific
 5 approval. So we are already starting to hold
 6 back positions and wait until we're sure we
 7 have available funding before any positions are
 8 filled. There are no salary increases for
 9 county employees. And in addition, there are
 10 no increases in real property or income tax
 11 rates in the proposed fiscal 2021 budget.

12 This is an overview of our revenue
 13 streams. Property taxes, even though our rate
 14 will remain the same, they will go up based on
 15 increases in assessed value of our base. So
 16 we're projecting a 1.86 percent increase in
 17 property tax revenues.

18 Income tax revenues are budgeted to go up
 19 slightly. But what is interesting is while
 20 they're budgeted to go up slightly, they're
 21 significantly less than what we are expecting

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1 to receive in the current fiscal year and what
 2 we received in fiscal 19. Income tax revenues
 3 in the proposed fiscal 21 budget is
 4 \$26.9 million. I'm projecting to receive
 5 \$35 million in fiscal 20. And in fiscal 19, we
 6 received I believe almost \$29 million in income
 7 tax revenues. Actually we received
 8 \$29.5 million in fiscal 19 of income tax
 9 revenues.

10 So this number of 26.9 is a noticeable
 11 decrease from fiscal 19 and fiscal 20 expected
 12 revenues, even though it is a slight increase
 13 from our budget.

14 In addition, we have local income tax
 15 of -- sorry. Other local taxes are expected to
 16 decrease. This is a category, I will be
 17 honest, I'm concerned about. This is primarily
 18 recordation and transfer tax. And depending on
 19 how long we stay in this stay-at-home type
 20 situation, we could see dramatic decreases in
 21 those revenue streams going forward.

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1 But we really won't know until we get into
 2 fiscal 21 what will happen with those revenue
 3 streams. So we are projecting a slight
 4 decrease there.

5 State and federal grants, we have a slight
 6 increase and a few other increases. The
 7 biggest increase is the number on the bottom,
 8 the use of prior year fund balance. That's
 9 going up 70 percent from \$3.9 million to
 10 \$6.7 million. But again, because we have no
 11 increases in income tax rates or real property
 12 tax rates, we did not put an education
 13 supplement in. So we had to fully fund the
 14 increase to the Board of Education and debt
 15 service, as well as what we would normally fund
 16 with prior year fund balances. So that's
 17 really why that number is increasing.

18 And this is just a chart that graphically
 19 shows where our revenue streams come from.
 20 Almost half of our revenue streams come from
 21 property taxes, which we pretty much are

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1 guaranteed to receive. Unfortunately, 40
 2 percent of our budget comes from income tax and
 3 other local taxes. That's just over 40 percent
 4 of our budget. It totals \$37.3 million. And
 5 those are vulnerable taxes in economic
 6 uncertain times.

7 So we are I believe being cautious, but we
 8 will really not know until we're into fiscal
 9 2021 what is really the trend with those
 10 numbers. And we'll be, quite frankly, pretty
 11 far into fiscal 2021 before we'll know what
 12 those trend numbers are.

13 But right now, I'm cautiously optimistic
 14 that particularly income tax will come in at
 15 budgeted levels. A significant portion of what
 16 we will receive in fiscal 21 will be our
 17 payments for calendar year 19 taxes, which
 18 those should have been filed before any of this
 19 economic uncertainty came about. So those
 20 should not be impacted.

21 And when you look at the expenditure side,

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1 I broke this out a little bit differently this
 2 year than prior years. The bulk of our budget
 3 obviously is public schools. That, including
 4 debt service, is going up almost four percent.

5 The next largest group is all other county
 6 operations, which is actually going down
 7 slightly, which reflects level funding.

8 I have broken out capital outlay, which in
 9 fiscal 20 was budgeted in the departments.
 10 I've pulled that out for this slide so you can
 11 see the increase there. It is going up
 12 significantly, again, in part because under
 13 normal circumstances we would be doing a fair
 14 amount of capital outlay purchases in the
 15 current year with unexpended funds or savings
 16 that we anticipate. I was concerned about
 17 doing that this year. So we've pushed that
 18 into fiscal 21. So that number is larger than
 19 what it has been in the past.

20 But again, going back to the first slide I
 21 believe, we had almost \$4 million of requests

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1 for capital outlay. We've only funded
 2 \$1.6 million.

3 And transfers for other funds is going up,
 4 but the real reason for that going up is we
 5 have \$85,000 being transferred to capital
 6 projects fund. We did not have any transfer to
 7 capital projects fund in fiscal 20.

8 And here is a graphic showing that half
 9 our budget goes to county operations and the
 10 other half goes to the public school system.

11 No surprise, but we do have the two slices
 12 at the top that show capital outlay of 1.7
 13 percent and a contingency of 2.5 percent. And
 14 those are all going to be really discretionary
 15 funds in this budget for the Council to use as
 16 the year progresses.

17 And this slide I think is probably our
 18 most important slide of the evening. This
 19 shows our discretionary fund balance. In
 20 addition to this, we have our rainy day fund,
 21 which is also included in the general fund fund

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1 balance. Our rainy day fund is just over
 2 \$13 million.

3 But in addition to that, we have our
 4 discretionary fund balance. And if you look
 5 back at the first line on the screen, back at
 6 the end of fiscal 2009 we had a \$21 million
 7 fund balance in the discretionary portion of
 8 our fund balance.

9 Over the next two years, which was our
 10 last difficult economic downturn, we spent
 11 \$17.1 million to balance our budget and get
 12 through those two fiscal years. We also did a
 13 number of other things to reduce costs. We did
 14 furloughs, we laid off staff, we eliminated
 15 programs. But even with doing that, we needed
 16 the \$17 million to balance our budget in those
 17 two years.

18 If you look at the bottom of the screen,
 19 going forward, what I'm projecting to have
 20 available for fiscal 22 and beyond is
 21 \$18.6 million. I think we are really well

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1 positioned to be able to weather whatever comes
 2 out from this pandemic and how long the economy
 3 will take to rebound. I think the county is
 4 really well positioned. I think we're very
 5 fortunate to be in this place. We have a
 6 discretionary fund balance plus our rainy day
 7 fund balance available to get us through the
 8 next few fiscal years. And I can't express how
 9 important that is.

10 This slide I just want to go through very
 11 quickly and just highlight the items that are
 12 not included in this proposed budget. Some of
 13 these weren't even things that we considered
 14 during the budget process. Others were things
 15 that the Council did specifically decide not to
 16 put into the proposed budget.

17 Again, this budget has no increase in
 18 property or income tax rates. Those rates will
 19 stay the same for fiscal 2021. There are no
 20 additional full-time positions approved in this
 21 budget. There are no salary increases for

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1 county staff in this budget. Vacant positions
 2 are not being filled unless specifically
 3 approved by the County Council. There is no
 4 25-year retirement for law enforcement
 5 personnel.

6 There are no additional EMS stations. We
 7 have needs for a new station in the northern
 8 part of the county to address response time.
 9 We have a need to relocate an EMS station in
 10 the Bay Hundred area to address response times.
 11 Those are not included.

12 The new facility for the Sheriff's Office
 13 is not in this budget. The county storage
 14 currently at the Talbot County Business Center,
 15 solution for that is not included. A new
 16 facility for the Health Department is not
 17 included.

18 Department equipment requests. While we
 19 have earmarked \$1.6 million in the county
 20 administration budget, no department has those
 21 funds in their budget. The request was

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1 \$4 million, and we've earmarked \$1.6 million.
 2 We may or may not spend that money on
 3 equipment.

4 This budget, even though Talbot County
 5 Public Schools will receive 1.5 million above
 6 their current year appropriation, it is not the
 7 full request that they had asked. So they're
 8 not fully funding their request.

9 This does not really factor in any
 10 increase of minimum wage going towards \$15 an
 11 hour. Since we have level funded all our
 12 departments, any department that uses part-time
 13 people, they don't have additional funds in
 14 that line item to absorb the increase in
 15 minimum wage. So they'll have to look at
 16 staffing levels.

17 And it does not include the replacement of
 18 the 40-year-old irrigation at Hog Neck Golf
 19 Course.

20 And to wrap up, public hearings will be
 21 held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, beginning at

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1 two p.m. and at five p.m. in the Wye Oak Room
 2 at the Community Center. But again, because of
 3 current restrictions, there may or may not be
 4 public access to those meetings. So the public
 5 is strongly encouraged to submit written
 6 comments by Monday, May 4th, to the
 7 publiccomment@talbotcountymd.gov e-mail
 8 address.

9 And for more information on the proposed
 10 budget, they will be posted on the website over
 11 the next several days. And certainly by the
 12 end of the week, there will be the ordinance,
 13 this PowerPoint presentation, as well as some
 14 other documents available on the website.

15 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you very much,
 16 Ms. Lane.

17 MS. LANE: Thank you.

18 MR. PACK: Any questions of Ms. Lane on
 19 her presentation?

20 Always she does a stellar job of laying
 21 out the budget presentation for Council and for

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1 the public to make sure that we all can
 2 understand it.
 3 The one thing that we want to highlight
 4 yet again is the last slide to the citizens to
 5 make sure that they get those written comments
 6 to us back by that Monday, May the 4th, date.
 7 And again, they want to submit those to
 8 publiccomment@talbotcountymaryland.gov so that
 9 we'll have those comments prior to our May 5th
 10 budget hearing.
 11 So any questions of Ms. Lane on the budget
 12 presentation? Stellar job. Comments?
 13 MS. PRICE: Comments. So the schools are
 14 going -- you know, not fully funded. However,
 15 they're the only department, if you consider
 16 them a department, that is getting an increase.
 17 And it's really difficult when that increase is
 18 really because of an escalator due to a very
 19 strange formula in the State.
 20 There is a waiver process. And the waiver
 21 has to be submitted for Maintenance of Effort

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1 by April 20th.
 2 However, I do want to let you all know
 3 that MACo is working on an extension because
 4 April, 30th of April is never a good time to
 5 figure out a waiver, but especially now.
 6 Nobody really knows what the budget is going to
 7 be.
 8 So currently most counties are planning to
 9 fund at Maintenance of Effort. But three
 10 months from now, six months from now, nine
 11 months from now, if things really go down the
 12 tubes. So MACo is working on at least getting
 13 an extension to that.
 14 And one of the things that I thought about
 15 was there are always 12 counties who get stuck
 16 kind of on this two and a half percent or up to
 17 two and a half percent escalator ride.
 18 And just for the same reason that I stated
 19 at the beginning to amend the agenda on the
 20 ballot question, there's so many people who are
 21 losing their jobs, struggling with their small

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1 business. And it seems very unfair that
 2 there's one protected group of people that
 3 won't be touched by this.
 4 And I think we can fully expect that we
 5 may end up not filling positions or having to
 6 do furloughs throughout the year, some days
 7 that are not paid if this continues.
 8 So one of the things that I would like to
 9 consider since we don't exactly know the date
 10 on how they're going to respond is to at least
 11 send a request, because it can't hurt, to waive
 12 us from the two and a half percent escalator.
 13 We have chosen not to raise any taxes.
 14 And normally on the escalator are any additions
 15 to the school funding, we put an education
 16 supplement.
 17 We do have a healthy reserve fund to pay
 18 our bills should our revenues not come in.
 19 However, I would like to at least make the
 20 request of the State, along with maybe several
 21 other counties who are on this escalator at two

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1 and a half percent, to truly flat fund.
 2 It's what we did for every other
 3 department. And since we just don't know and
 4 there's a deadline right now of April 20th. We
 5 hope to get it extended. But I would like
 6 Council to consider at least sending a letter.
 7 They will probably turn us down. But to see a
 8 group.
 9 And they're not more important than our
 10 public safety people. The retirement program,
 11 all of that. Teachers are incredibly
 12 important, but we have other departments,
 13 especially public safety, that we're not going
 14 to be able to do what we need to do.
 15 And if we could get some waiver of the
 16 escalator, that could be a million and a half
 17 dollars that we could then try to distribute
 18 more evenly across the entire county budget.
 19 Maybe some of it goes to the schools and some
 20 of it goes to public safety.
 21 So it's something that I would like you

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1 all to consider at least having a letter
 2 drafted and sent up. The worst that can happen
 3 is they say no. If they say yes, we can still
 4 make a decision later whether or not to accept
 5 the waiver.
 6 But I think that it's something that MACo
 7 is working on. And they're also trying to
 8 maybe change some of the provisions of what
 9 they usually look for in any waiver process.
 10 Normally it has to do with your tax rates and
 11 your wealth formulas. But I think that the
 12 State is going to be, or the MSDE or whoever it
 13 is, be more open to these potentially huge
 14 downfalls, and not just for Talbot County but
 15 for the State as a whole.
 16 They've obviously done a hiring freeze.
 17 Other counties --
 18 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, I'm going to do as a
 19 point of order.
 20 MS. PRICE: Sorry.
 21 MR. PACK: Not that your comments aren't

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1 well taken. But what is before Council right
 2 now is the introduction of this legislation.
 3 MS. PRICE: Sorry.
 4 MR. PACK: So as a point of order, I'm
 5 going to ask that you hold off on that.
 6 We have before us --
 7 MS. PRICE: So since it's not on the
 8 agenda, can we come back to the discussion of a
 9 waiver letter?
 10 MR. PACK: Sure. I mean you can have that
 11 discussion, but I just want to finish up this
 12 matter that's before us now --
 13 MS. PRICE: I didn't add that to the
 14 agenda. I just want to make sure that we can
 15 do that after we introduce the budget, if
 16 that's okay.
 17 MR. PACK: Any comment of Ms. Lane on the
 18 budget presentation that we just heard? Any
 19 comment or question of her? Yes.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Lane, I just want to
 21 thank you for putting everything together, your

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1 staff. I know it was really a very, very
 2 unusual year for you and all of us. Hopefully
 3 this won't happen again. But you've done a
 4 great job with Council.
 5 And we're going to have to make some tough
 6 decisions going forward on some of the
 7 contingency money. But I think you've done a
 8 great job balancing out what we need to do in
 9 looking past what the next year is going to be
 10 for us. So I really appreciate it.
 11 MS. LANE: Thank you.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: I'd like to just follow up
 13 and also thank you.
 14 This is a unique budget for unique times.
 15 And I'm glad that you are able to find a way to
 16 craft this budget in the way we did.
 17 It's very uncertain times. And we need to
 18 be able to have the cash on hand to do what we
 19 need to do. But also be able to make those
 20 decisions as we go down the road.
 21 So I'm glad that we set this budget up the

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1 way we did. We kept things flat on the
 2 economy. With individuals losing careers,
 3 businesses just on the brink trying to get
 4 through, this is a time when I look out to help
 5 the community. And I want to be there to
 6 support them and make sure that the Council is
 7 in a position to help them. And I think that
 8 we are with this budget.
 9 So thank you very much.
 10 MS. PRICE: Go ahead.
 11 MR. LESHER: I just want to say I'll echo
 12 the thanks.
 13 And my biggest concern with this budget is
 14 one of the items that we've omitted from it,
 15 which we've moved over to the contingency. And
 16 that has to do with the funding for the staff
 17 itself. There is no step increase for any of
 18 our staff here.
 19 Our staff are not on furlough. They are
 20 not on home work. They are essential workers
 21 and they are doing tough duty while virtually

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1 everybody else is at home. And I think that we
 2 need to be sure to circle back as early as
 3 possible in the budget year and reconsider
 4 that.

5 We don't know what those circumstances
 6 will be at this point in time, but it's
 7 something that we do need to remember to go
 8 back and revisit.

9 I just am not -- I'm not very comfortable
 10 with the concept of balancing this budget on
 11 the backs of our employees. And we do have an
 12 excellent workforce that we need to retain.
 13 And we have some open positions in places, like
 14 our Sheriff's Department, that we're just not
 15 competitive in filling now. That's something
 16 that will need attention during the course of
 17 this coming fiscal year.

18 MR. PACK: Absolutely.

19 MS. PRICE: My actual comment is that this
 20 is not the way we normally do a budget. And I
 21 think Angela presented it very well, as always.

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1 Normally we wrestle for about eight weeks
 2 going through everything line by line and
 3 making these decisions. We basically deferred
 4 all of that. That \$4 million that's in the
 5 administration budget for capital outlay and
 6 the \$2.4 million in contingency is for the
 7 requests, the things like what Mr. Leshner just
 8 said, salary increases and filling positions,
 9 because we're just not able to make those
 10 decisions right now. We could budget for it.
 11 And then when the budget doesn't come in, then
 12 what do we do. So at least right now, we have
 13 vacancies where you're not actually having to
 14 possibly furlough somebody.

15 So you'll see this as an ongoing budget
 16 throughout the year little by little. This is
 17 not normally how we do it, but I appreciate
 18 that we have done it this way. Let's hope that
 19 we can at least maintain the flat budget and
 20 that we don't have to go any deeper.

21 But thankfully we've always had good

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1 Councils that have been conservative and have
 2 been able to build that discretionary fund back
 3 up to get us through the next couple of years
 4 should we need to.

5 MR. PACK: Okay. With that being said,
 6 Madam Secretary, will ask that you call the
 7 roll to introduce the legislation, if you
 8 would, introduction.

9 SECRETARY: I actually haven't read the
 10 title.

11 MR. PACK: You have not. I thought you
 12 did. Why don't you read that title for us,
 13 then.

14 SECRETARY: An act to establish the
 15 2020-2021 annual budget and appropriation
 16 ordinance.

17 MR. PACK: I think I read it before.
 18 That's why I heard it.

19 So we do have a reading of the title of
 20 the ordinance. I will now call for a roll for
 21 introduction of the ordinance by Madam

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1 Secretary.

2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.

3 MR. PACK: Aye.

4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

9 MS. PRICE: Aye.

10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

11 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

12 MR. PACK: Okay. That matter is now
 13 introduced. It will receive Bill Number 1445.

14 And as we've said numerous times already,
 15 we'll have a public hearing on May the 5th.
 16 That first public hearing will get underway at
 17 two p.m. Then we'll hold a second public
 18 hearing at five p.m.

19 Again, please submit those in writing. We
 20 gave the address out numerous times. We'll
 21 give it out one more time before we wrap things

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1 up today.
 2 Ms. Lane, thank you very much.
 3 MS. LANE: Thank you.
 4 MR. PACK: We appreciate you and your hard
 5 work of your staff.
 6 MS. PRICE: So the question that I was
 7 addressing before she runs away?
 8 MR. PACK: Before she runs away?
 9 MS. PRICE: About the letter to the State.
 10 MR. PACK: I have some reservations about
 11 that. I mean a letter of that magnitude may
 12 cause some people in the community that might
 13 want to give voice to it.
 14 I'll leave it up to you all what you want
 15 to do. But you're asking for a waiver of
 16 the. . .
 17 MS. PRICE: Escalator.
 18 MR. PACK: Escalator.
 19 MS. PRICE: Just the escalator piece of
 20 it. Again --
 21 MR. PACK: Which again --

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1 MS. O'DONNELL: For a point of order, I
 2 think that you would have to now try to amend
 3 the agenda.
 4 MR. PACK: Again.
 5 MS. O'DONNELL: To add that to the agenda
 6 before the item is discussed.
 7 MR. PACK: Right.
 8 MS. PRICE: So being that currently the
 9 date for the letter is April 20th. They have
 10 not changed that deadline yet. That's -- I
 11 apologize for not thinking of that earlier.
 12 But could we amend the agenda to at least
 13 discuss whether or not we should consider
 14 sending a letter just in case this deadline
 15 doesn't get changed because it is only a week
 16 away?
 17 MR. PACK: That's your motion. I need a
 18 second to have the discussion.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: May I have one second,
 20 please.
 21 MS. PRICE: Again, it doesn't mean we'll

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1 do it. It's just to have it ready to go.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: I received an e-mail earlier
 3 from Dr. Griffith about some waivers that she
 4 was applying for. I wanted to check on the
 5 dates that she was submitting that.
 6 She did that April 14th, today.
 7 MR. PACK: Okay. The chair, hearing no
 8 second on the motion regarding the waiver
 9 letter, the motion would fail at this time.
 10 Moving on, thank you very much, Ms. Lane,
 11 again, for all that you're doing. We certainly
 12 appreciate it. We'll see you on May 5th, if
 13 not sooner.
 14 MS. LANE: Yes.
 15 MR. PACK: We have several matters that
 16 are on the agenda that have been postponed.
 17 And I'll just read this for the audience.
 18 Public hearings on Resolution 281 and
 19 Resolution 282 are postponed pursuant to Talbot
 20 County's March 17th emergency declaration and
 21 March 31st amended declaration. Those two

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1 matters, that would be the Lakeside development
 2 as well as the comprehensive water and sewer
 3 plan, those have been pushed back to go back to
 4 the Public Works Advisory Board and the
 5 Planning Commission.
 6 Hopefully Mr. Clarke can get both of those
 7 groups together, or at least get his group
 8 together. And we can get those back on the
 9 agenda by the end of April. If not, by the
 10 first May meeting.
 11 So we're going to pull those off. They're
 12 not critical matters in the discussion I had
 13 with county manager. So we'll wait for those
 14 matters to go before both those committees and
 15 then they'll come back to us and then we'll put
 16 them back on the agenda. Okay. All right.
 17 Mr. Hollis, I believe that's all the
 18 Council has. I turn the portion of the agenda
 19 back over to you.
 20 MR. HOLLIS: Mr. Edwards is here regarding
 21 the recommendation to award Bid 20-02,

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1 furnishing and delivery with possible
 2 application of CRS-2L emulsified asphalt with
 3 polymer and/or CS-2 emulsified asphalt. There
 4 were two separate work items.
 5 We're requesting your approval to award to
 6 Slurry Pavers, Incorporated, the low bid on
 7 work item one and add alternate one, furnishing
 8 and delivery of the emulsified asphalt in the
 9 amount of \$1.65 per gallon and \$1.96 per gallon
 10 for the add alternate one.
 11 MR. PACK: Okay. Mr. Edwards, good to see
 12 you. You have any comment or any addition on
 13 the recommendation?
 14 MR. EDWARDS: No. It was pretty
 15 straightforward bid, two bids, and they come in
 16 the lowest. We've used them for years several
 17 times.
 18 MR. PACK: Okay.
 19 MR. HOLLIS: Mr. Pack, do you want me to
 20 do work item two and you can vote together or
 21 do you want them separately?

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1 MR. EDWARDS: This is your portion of the
 2 agenda, Mr. Hollis. Any way you want to handle
 3 it, I'm open to it.
 4 MR. HOLLIS: So I think since we're going
 5 with the low bid, we'll do them together if
 6 it's okay with Council.
 7 The other is for work item two for
 8 Hammaker East Limited, and it is in the value
 9 of \$1.60 per gallon and \$2 per gallon for the
 10 add alternate.
 11 MR. PACK: Okay. Any questions of Council
 12 on either one of those?
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Edwards, just I thought
 14 at one time I heard that we were moving away
 15 from slurry paving. Is that just the name of
 16 the company?
 17 MR. EDWARDS: That's the name of the
 18 company, yeah. This is all liquid asphalt with
 19 polymer.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you.
 21 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah.

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1 MR. PACK: Let me first take a motion on
 2 Bid 20-02. Is there a motion to proceed on
 3 20-02?
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: So moved.
 5 MR. PACK: Moved by -- I'm sorry, who is
 6 that? Mr. Callahan.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 8 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Divilio. Any
 9 further discussion?
 10 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, on 20-02,
 11 please call the roll.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 13 MR. PACK: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 19 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 21 MR. LESHER: Aye.

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1 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Hollis.
 2 MR. HOLLIS: Next, Council, staying with
 3 Mr. Edwards is request to award a contract for
 4 tarring and chipping of approximately 26.56
 5 miles of county roads. That would go to
 6 American Paving Fabrics, Incorporated in the
 7 amount of 57 cents per square yard plus \$1 per
 8 square yard for any patching.
 9 And this would be, these prices are coming
 10 from a contract already in Somerset County that
 11 they had bid out competitively.
 12 We have, the Roads Department has \$225,000
 13 available in their fiscal year 20 asphalt line
 14 item for this work.
 15 This is proposed in particular because of
 16 COVID-19 and the inability of our department to
 17 get out there and do all the work ourselves.
 18 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, that's correct.
 19 Right now, we're milling each sections of
 20 road, mostly Cordova areas, our worst area
 21 right now where we're at.

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1 And what we're finding is we're trying to
 2 get rid of the crown in the road. And when you
 3 mill that out, some places we're hitting dirt
 4 at a half inch. So why, we don't really know.
 5 It's just kind of weird.
 6 Some of these roads we're going to have to
 7 do patching and then two layers. But because
 8 of staffing, we can't mill it and repair it and
 9 tar and chip it all at the same time.
 10 We've done this. This would be our third
 11 year that they've helped us do it, and they're
 12 the only company that's capable of doing it.
 13 But we'll be there with them and we'll be doing
 14 the work with them.
 15 MR. PACK: Great. And open this up. I'm
 16 looking for a bid number on this. I don't see
 17 one, Mr. Hollis. Is there a bid number?
 18 MR. HOLLIS: This isn't, Mr. Pack. This
 19 was not a planned project. It's simply because
 20 of COVID-19 and the inability of our department
 21 to do the work themselves.

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1 MR. PACK: Got you. So chair would
 2 entertain a motion. This is a request for
 3 contract for tar and chipping of approximately
 4 26.56 miles?
 5 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, sir. That could be cut
 6 in half, but yes.
 7 MR. PACK: Is there a motion?
 8 You got a question or a motion?
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: I just have one question.
 10 MR. PACK: Go ahead.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: So when you're stripping
 12 it, you're only stripping a half inch and there
 13 are some spots where you're getting dirt?
 14 MR. EDWARDS: We find that every year.
 15 What happens is most of our roads, most of
 16 our county roads are old farm lanes back 60,
 17 80, even 100 years. So whether it's in the
 18 left of the road or the middle of the road,
 19 when you get out of that base, it just kept
 20 getting wider each year. So there's no subbase
 21 there. So it pushes and ruts. When it ruts,

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1 it just shoves the solid material to the right
 2 or left and you get a very thin layer. Usually
 3 where it ruts is where we are finding it.
 4 So we patch it, and then we wedge it with
 5 asphalt and then we go over it with tar and
 6 chip.
 7 And just to be clear, we're using our
 8 liquid asphalt budget. So only a portion of
 9 this goes towards the actual contractor.
 10 Because the rest of it will go towards the
 11 liquid asphalt, which we've already got a lower
 12 bid on approved from last year. So we're not
 13 just giving them that kind of money.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: So we're hiring out
 15 26 miles?
 16 MR. EDWARDS: We're hiring out their
 17 equipment and their crew to work with us and
 18 use our stone and our tar. So we may get
 19 26 miles, we may get ten. Depends on how bad
 20 they are. If they're down to dirt, we have to
 21 do patching and two layers.

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1 MR. HOLLIS: But the answer is yes.
 2 This isn't what we normally do. We are
 3 bringing this company in to work with your
 4 department to get the job done during this
 5 fiscal year.
 6 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, that's correct.
 7 MR. PACK: Okay.
 8 MR. DIVILIO: Not because of furloughs or
 9 layoffs?
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. I'm assuming that's
 11 why we're doing it.
 12 MR. EDWARDS: That's why we're doing it,
 13 yes. That's why we're requesting it now.
 14 Normally we do it in the fall of the year
 15 and we do more roads. We do 30 to 40 miles.
 16 But because we're not there with a full crew,
 17 it cost a lot more money.
 18 MR. HOLLIS: So Mr. Edwards, along with
 19 many other departments, is rotating his crew.
 20 So they aren't all working at once. They're
 21 working biweekly.

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1 MR. EDWARDS: This week we have nine,
 2 counting myself. We're busy.
 3 MR. PACK: Okay. Any further questions on
 4 it?
 5 We don't have a bid number, but we do have
 6 it in your Granicus to look over.
 7 MR. HOLLIS: But it is competitively
 8 priced based on the work by another county, who
 9 did competitively bid it.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I just have one more.
 11 MR. PACK: Go ahead.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry.
 13 MR. PACK: That's all right.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: So the reason is we only
 15 can have roughly ten on site. So if we have
 16 people out, you don't want any more than ten on
 17 the site so we can do the work?
 18 MR. EDWARDS: If I had my way, they'd all
 19 be back.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 21 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you, Mr. Edwards. I

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1 appreciate that.
 2 MR. EDWARDS: Safety.
 3 MS. PRICE: But you can't work two
 4 different sites at the same time? I mean --
 5 MR. EDWARDS: Well, our problem is you
 6 can't move them around. You can't get the
 7 crews.
 8 So we took a tape measure and measured
 9 head to head in a one-ton. And we can actually
 10 put two people in a one-ton that normally
 11 carries four or five people.
 12 MS. PRICE: No, no. I meant a separate
 13 project.
 14 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. But I got to have
 15 vehicles to move them to get to that project.
 16 MR. PACK: We don't want county staff
 17 shuttling to --
 18 MR. EDWARDS: We don't have enough
 19 vehicles to get more than one or two projects
 20 going at a time.
 21 So for instance, when we mow grass,

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1 normally we take one truck and five people, one
 2 foreman and four mowers. Now we have to take
 3 two trucks and seven people. And there's one
 4 pickup just moves them from mower to mower,
 5 mower to mower one at a time.
 6 MS. PRICE: So it's just a vehicle that
 7 you need to move people, not a truck or a piece
 8 of equipment?
 9 MR. EDWARDS: No. Most of our people are
 10 in a vehicle by themselves or a piece of
 11 equipment by themselves, all but the one-tons.
 12 And that's because we have the distance in them
 13 to be safe.
 14 I'm not making that clear?
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm not clear.
 16 MR. PACK: You're not clear on what?
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm just trying to
 18 understand.
 19 So you have the manpower to do it?
 20 MR. EDWARDS: That's not what I said.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: I know that. But I'm just

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1 saying. But we have the manpower to do it if
 2 you were up and running?
 3 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. If we were up and
 4 running, we would have the manpower to do it.
 5 But we have done this. This is the third
 6 year in a row that we have used this company
 7 with a bid to do this work.
 8 But normally we get twice as much work
 9 because we're able to do more in front of them
 10 and put down more tar and chip. So we're
 11 spraying with our truck as well as they're
 12 spraying with theirs. So we're basically
 13 running two crews.
 14 So we mill, patch, wedge, and level. And
 15 sometimes 30, 40, 50 miles. And then we go
 16 close them all up in the fall when the traffic
 17 doesn't eat it up and doesn't blow the stone
 18 off and it's not too hot for the tar.
 19 The reason we're trying to get this done
 20 now is not to spend the money, it's to fix the
 21 roads we're milling and to beat the

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1 temperatures before they start getting up into
 2 the 80s and 90s and get these roads treated
 3 that we're milling now.
 4 MS. PRICE: So right now, the staff that
 5 you have is working one week on and one week
 6 off?
 7 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, ma'am. Except for
 8 myself and Lois in the office and all of that.
 9 MS. PRICE: And I assume they're getting
 10 paid their full salaries?
 11 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, sir.
 12 MR. HOLLIS: Absolutely, as we are with
 13 any department employee that's at home during
 14 this time.
 15 MS. PRICE: So there's got to be a way to
 16 utilize -- I mean I know you're still a little
 17 bit understaffed. I recognize that.
 18 But there ought to be a way that we can
 19 use those other staff to do something rather
 20 than them just being at home, some other --
 21 MR. PACK: I'm going to call a point of

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1 order again.
 2 What's before Council right now is this
 3 bid on American Paving, whether or not we're
 4 going to move forward on this or not, not the
 5 gross department manpower or the way
 6 Mr. Edwards is operating that.
 7 We can certainly have a conversation with
 8 him and county manager offline.
 9 So for point of order, what is before
 10 Council right now is the request to go with
 11 American Paver and Fabric for road construction
 12 on county roads. Mr. Edwards says this has
 13 been competitively bid. You have the pricing
 14 in front of you. I think the total work is
 15 around \$225,000. So --
 16 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Edwards, so normally, so
 17 for the last three years?
 18 MR. EDWARDS: This would be the third
 19 year.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: This is the third year. And
 21 normally you have your crews running in

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1 combination with them and we get a lot more
 2 roads?
 3 MR. EDWARDS: Absolutely.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: A lot more miles done at a
 5 time?
 6 MR. EDWARDS: Absolutely.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Right now you're not able to
 8 use your crews out there. You're still
 9 maintaining your same status quo of bringing
 10 these guys in to do what they do and you're
 11 going to use your guys as you can?
 12 MR. EDWARDS: And we'll still be out there
 13 with them, but we just don't have enough to run
 14 another whole crew.
 15 MS. PRICE: So we're going to get a lot
 16 less miles.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Strictly because of the
 18 governor's -- yeah. So it's going to shorten.
 19 Thank you.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: That's what I was trying to
 21 understand what you were doing.

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1 MR. EDWARDS: Did you understand it now?
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I mean to your
 3 point, I mean I know you have something on the
 4 floor here, but I needed to understand what he
 5 was doing, and I didn't understand it.
 6 MR. PACK: Okay.
 7 MS. PRICE: Well, I wonder if this makes
 8 this one of those possible reimbursable
 9 expenses due to COVID. We're not able to
 10 utilize them because of the social distancing.
 11 And so we're having to spend additional money
 12 or get a lot less miles for the dollar, right?
 13 You might not get 26 miles. You said you might
 14 only get ten.
 15 I just wonder if that's something to keep
 16 track of so that when there is federal money
 17 that's coming down to the states and counties
 18 for COVID-related expenses. So I would ask
 19 that you keep track of anything like this where
 20 you could put a dollar amount on it.
 21 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, ma'am. We're

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<p>1 definitely doing that and we'll have records of</p> <p>2 everything we're doing.</p> <p>3 But just for the record, it may only be</p> <p>4 that depends on the deterioration of the road.</p> <p>5 You can go a mile and it's great. And then all</p> <p>6 of a sudden, you got three or 4,000 feet that's</p> <p>7 terrible.</p> <p>8 MS. PRICE: Right.</p> <p>9 MR. EDWARDS: And that's what's happening.</p> <p>10 MS. PRICE: But you're only working with</p> <p>11 half a crew, which means the expense is going</p> <p>12 to be ultimately greater for what we end up</p> <p>13 getting done.</p> <p>14 So I would just say -- and again, that</p> <p>15 would go for any department, anything that</p> <p>16 we're having to incur. And I think most</p> <p>17 departments are aware.</p> <p>18 This just strikes me as one that possibly</p> <p>19 we could submit a little something for.</p> <p>20 MR. HOLLIS: So just for Council's</p> <p>21 information, each department has been tasked</p>	<p>1 Secretary, please call the roll.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>9 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>12 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you, Mr. Edwards.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Thank you, Warren. Appreciate</p> <p>14 it.</p> <p>15 MR. HOLLIS: Council, next Mr. Clarke is</p> <p>16 stepping in for a recommendation to award Bid</p> <p>17 19-17, request for proposals, Talbot County,</p> <p>18 Maryland, region five, Tilghman, Villages of</p> <p>19 Fairbank and Bar Neck septic elimination,</p> <p>20 engineering services, preliminary engineering</p> <p>21 report, and environmental report.</p>
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<p>1 with keeping strict logs of any COVID-19</p> <p>2 related expense because we anticipate putting</p> <p>3 in for reimbursement for those that qualify.</p> <p>4 And we don't even have that information</p> <p>5 yet.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: I think I'm going to call a</p> <p>7 motion on this.</p> <p>8 MR. DIVILIO: Motion to approve.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Second by Mr. Callahan. Any</p> <p>12 further discussion?</p> <p>13 I would just say Mr. Hollis did send out</p> <p>14 to Council his minimization of county</p> <p>15 departments. If you have not received that,</p> <p>16 please contact him to get that. He did go</p> <p>17 through how those departments will be handled</p> <p>18 while we're going through this COVID-19</p> <p>19 epidemic. So if you have questions about that,</p> <p>20 he did lay that out.</p> <p>21 We have a second and a motion. Madam</p>	<p>1 He and his department are recommending</p> <p>2 that it be awarded to Rauch Engineering,</p> <p>3 Incorporated in the amount of \$29,780,</p> <p>4 contingent upon review and approval by USDA.</p> <p>5 This work will be charged to the sanitary</p> <p>6 district and be partially reimbursed from an</p> <p>7 approved grant from the USDA in the amount of</p> <p>8 \$12,000.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,</p> <p>10 Mr. Hollis.</p> <p>11 Mr. Clarke, the floors is yours. Any</p> <p>12 further comment on the bid process?</p> <p>13 MR. CLARKE: Just to let you know, once we</p> <p>14 wrap up the preliminary engineering report,</p> <p>15 we'll then work to submit that to Rural</p> <p>16 Development for a grant loan package to extend</p> <p>17 sewer out to the Bar Neck and Fairbank</p> <p>18 villages.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: Okay. Great.</p> <p>20 MS. PRICE: So we'll take note that there</p> <p>21 was -- you did a ranking order, but it was</p>

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1 definitely not the low bid.
 2 MR. CLARKE: No.
 3 MS. PRICE: There was another one that was
 4 about \$10,000 less.
 5 So what else went into it? What was that
 6 other company lacking that's worth an extra
 7 \$10,000?
 8 MR. CLARKE: We actually looked at I think
 9 with Rauch, they have -- just they know the
 10 area a lot better. And I think at this point,
 11 from the other firm that I guess was the low
 12 bidder, which I believe was McCrone, we hadn't
 13 had a lot of work with McCrone. So we
 14 technically haven't done a lot of work with
 15 them engineering wise with the sanitary district.
 16 With Rauch, Incorporated, we have worked
 17 with him pretty extensively with the sewer work
 18 down in St. Michael's. At the same time, we've
 19 been doing some work with them with the smart
 20 site plan. So we felt like they were actually
 21 the best qualified firm based on the --

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1 MS. PRICE: Right. But now we especially
 2 have to be watching our pennies. And who
 3 knows, we might be getting requests from people
 4 trying to pay their bills in the sanity
 5 districts. And whether they look for some
 6 reduction in those billings or they're just
 7 simply not able to pay those bills.
 8 And Council will have to decide at some
 9 point if we are going to give any type of
 10 relief to people who are unable to pay their
 11 bills.
 12 So while it's really nice to say I'm
 13 comfortable with this person, when you have
 14 that big of a price difference, you need to --
 15 and in the times that we are dealing with right
 16 now.
 17 Remember, this bill goes back to the
 18 people in the sanity district. And if they're
 19 unable to pay it or we would like to give them
 20 some type of relief when they don't have a job,
 21 then how are they going to pay their bills?

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1 \$10,000, how does that break out per
 2 household, I'm not sure.
 3 MR. CLARKE: Well, I think really quickly,
 4 I mean let's say associated with Rauch,
 5 Incorporated, they're at 29,780.
 6 We have a \$12,000 grant that remains.
 7 There's an expense of \$17,780 that will be
 8 applied to the users.
 9 Those users, roughly I think there's 110
 10 users, but assuming 100, that would break out
 11 to basically being about \$177.80 per user that
 12 it ultimately will be wrapped up into the loan
 13 package, which would then be over a 30-year
 14 period. And a loan rate that we can give right
 15 now with Rural Development is 1.5 percent.
 16 MS. PRICE: The 12,000 would be the grant
 17 amount regardless of the contract amount.
 18 MR. CLARKE: That's correct.
 19 MS. PRICE: So you're talking 17,000. But
 20 if the other one was a \$20,000 bid, \$12,000
 21 grant, then you'd only be talking about \$8,000,

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1 instead of 17.
 2 So I mean, again, it makes a difference.
 3 MR. CLARKE: It does, it does. But I
 4 would say I personally have not worked with
 5 McCrone. I have worked with Rauch. And so I
 6 would say we're probably -- my druthers, I
 7 would say I would go with Rauch before I would
 8 go with McCrone at this point.
 9 MS. PRICE: It's 50 percent more, though.
 10 MR. CLARKE: I understand.
 11 MS. PRICE: It's not ten percent. It's 50
 12 percent more.
 13 MR. CLARKE: But I would say --
 14 MR. PACK: I think to Mr. Clarke's credit,
 15 we've been down this road before when it comes
 16 to these ranking systems that the State is
 17 requiring all counties to do. They have to
 18 rank them out based on a number of variables.
 19 The ranking is in front of you.
 20 It looked to be very close between Rauch
 21 and it looks like Century, one point off.

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1 Although Century was about looks like \$7,000
 2 additional.
 3 But this ranking formula that the State is
 4 now requiring us to do kind of dictates today
 5 for us as far as --
 6 MS. PRICE: It doesn't dictate who we
 7 choose. Not on this one. On the other --
 8 MR. PACK: -- as far as from what
 9 Mr. Clarke was saying previously, as far as
 10 those applications with the State. There is
 11 some consideration that the State has on the
 12 rankings that we're doing --
 13 MS. PRICE: I don't think that's the case
 14 in this. The State -- doesn't matter to the
 15 State which one of these we chose, right?
 16 MR. CLARKE: Well, actually technically
 17 because of the way the RFP was written, we were
 18 recommending under the RFP we did a review
 19 committee. If we were to go and we would have
 20 to actually rebid. We'd have to come back to
 21 the County Council and basically ask the

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1 Council to reject all bids and then rebid it
 2 and establish the parameters would be based
 3 upon low bid.
 4 MS. PRICE: We couldn't award it to
 5 McCrone tonight?
 6 MR. PACK: That's not the recommendation
 7 that you're getting from --
 8 MS. PRICE: I'm looking at the points, and
 9 I'm going 425.2 versus 425.05. You're talking
 10 about .1, 15/100s of a point. You're not even
 11 talking about -- they were so close. They both
 12 had 425 points. There's virtually no
 13 difference.
 14 I understand that you're familiar with
 15 Rauch and more comfortable, but we're talking
 16 about a 50 percent price difference for 15/100s
 17 of a points.
 18 MR. CLARKE: I mean --
 19 MR. PACK: I'm going to the call the
 20 matter. I understand your point, Ms. Price.
 21 I'm going to call the matter on Bid 19-17

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1 for a motion.
 2 MS. O'DONNELL: Mr. Pack, before you call
 3 the matter, I think it's important to clarify
 4 the record related to potentially in the future
 5 any bid protests. In order to clarify that as
 6 a part of this process, the bid included a
 7 technical review committee. And the technical
 8 review committee existed of one, two, three,
 9 four, five individuals. Mr. Clarke was one of
 10 those individuals.
 11 That technical evaluation scoring was more
 12 than our familiarity with Rauch. That
 13 technical evaluation scoring was related to all
 14 parts of their bid being in compliance with the
 15 bid as submitted.
 16 In order for these documents to be
 17 reimbursed by the State, we have to follow a
 18 competitive bidding process. So this will be
 19 submitted to Rural Department.
 20 The process to get to the scoring
 21 difference, it's important to note that the

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1 technical evaluation scoring indicated Rauch
 2 received, for all the technical points that
 3 they submitted, is the basis for the analysis.
 4 Then the technical rank is added to the
 5 scoring, which indeed results in a very close
 6 tie, close, between number one and two.
 7 But the analysis is a combination of the
 8 technical evaluation scoring and the price to
 9 get to the ultimate number.
 10 And so much more goes into it than the
 11 very brief analysis that Mr. Clarke was trying
 12 to do for expediency here. So for the record,
 13 I just want to make sure that that is included,
 14 that there is more that goes into the decision
 15 than has been said today.
 16 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,
 17 Ms. O'Donnell. And I absolutely agree with
 18 you.
 19 The decision is just not the fact that we
 20 know him and we like him. It's based on the
 21 technical evaluation scoring that you alluded

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<p>1 to. That does go back up to the State for 2 review. 3 I'm calling the matter on 19-17 as 4 presented for Bid Number, I'm sorry, 19-17. Is 5 there a motion? 6 MR. DIVILIO: So moved. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Second. 8 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Divilio. Seconded 9 by Mr. Callahan. Any further discussion? 10 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call 11 your roll. 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 13 MR. PACK: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 19 MS. PRICE: No. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p>	<p>1 We had an outside consultant, Bolton, make 2 the -- go with us through this process as well. 3 It wasn't just done in-house. And their fee is 4 32,500, which we'd also like approval to pay 5 out of the Tischler study fees that we did not 6 spend this year. Thank you. 7 MR. PACK: We'll take that item up as 8 well. 9 Ms. Lane, I will turn it over to you. 10 I'll have my comments after you. 11 MS. LANE: I believe Mr. Hollis really 12 outlined the whole process. We actually 13 started this process in August of 2019 once the 14 county was made aware that our current 457 plan 15 and 401(a) plan provider were charging fees 16 that were out of line with what the market 17 should be. So that was the impetus for 18 starting this process. 19 The county does have a fiduciary 20 responsibility to our employees to not have our 21 employees overcharged for fees. And once we</p>
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<p>1 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Clarke. 2 Appreciate that. 3 Moving on, Mr. Hollis. 4 MR. HOLLIS: Is Ms. Lane here? 5 SECRETARY: Yeah. 6 MR. HOLLIS: Council, next is a request 7 for approval of Bid 19-19, request for proposals 8 of qualified institutional retirement plan 9 providers to administer and communicate the 10 county's 457(b) and 401(a) plans for Talbot 11 County. 12 Requesting your approval to award that bid 13 to Empower. 14 A total of five companies submitted bids. 15 Three finalists were interviewed extensively, 16 with Empower being the selected provider. 17 Number of reasons, which Ms. Lane can go into. 18 Excellent website and application, extended 19 call center hours, ability to provide 20 investment advice, reduced participant fees, 21 and strong employee engagement programs.</p>	<p>1 were made aware of it, we really had no choice 2 but to find another provider. 3 I will say we did allow our current 4 provider to bid. They were not as strong as 5 the three candidates that we did interview. 6 And it was a number of county staff 7 members were involved in the interview process 8 with the three firms, as well as Council 9 members, and Bolton also was involved in the 10 interview process. So it was a cross section 11 of people who were involved in the interview 12 process for the three companies that we did 13 interview. 14 And it was the opinion of everybody that 15 Empower was the strongest company for these 16 plans. They did have an excellent website and 17 they do have a phone app. The extended call 18 service hours was really important because the 19 other firms didn't include any Saturday hours. 20 And that's often, weekends is when people are 21 reviewing financial documents. So that was</p>

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1 important.

2 And they can give advice, rather than just

3 guidance. A number of the firms could only

4 make suggestions that well, you could do this

5 or you could do this. And Empower has staff

6 members who are financial advisers. So they

7 are able to give advice to employees, which we

8 felt was really a positive for our employees

9 going forward.

10 So again, this is our recommendation that

11 we do move our deferred compensation plans to

12 Empower. The timing, we may not be able to do

13 it for July 1st. So we may work with them and

14 see if we can't do it for maybe a September 1st

15 transfer at this point. But we would like

16 Council approval to start the process to move

17 our deferred compensation plans to Empower from

18 Mass Mutual.

19 MR. PACK: I will say, sitting on this

20 selection committee, the Empower group, they

21 were -- I was very impressed with the way they

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1 came out and presented themselves as a team,

2 the way their platform looked or their layout

3 looked as far as going into their site and

4 helping out our workers.

5 That one piece that Ms. Lane alluded to,

6 having that financial adviser. So if you want

7 to make a change as you move through your

8 career. You might want to be more aggressive

9 in your deferred comp plan at the beginning.

10 Midway through your career, you might want to

11 pull back a bit. Having that adviser, and I've

12 worked with advisers before, that can kind of

13 guide you through that and kind of give you

14 suggestions, is very important. Not everybody

15 understands stocks and how to make those kind

16 of financial choices. So having that adviser

17 was very important. Some of the groups didn't

18 have that, as Ms. Lane alluded to. So they

19 did.

20 I cannot underscore the Bolton team as

21 well. I can't recall their names right now,

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1 the young lady that was there. They both did

2 an excellent job walking us through this,

3 vetting out these different financial and

4 investment institutions. They did a lot of the

5 legwork and made sure that we understood what

6 each group was bringing to us.

7 So again, Bolton did an excellent job at

8 what we asked them to do as well, and I want to

9 send my thanks to that team that worked with

10 us.

11 So those are my comments.

12 I know Ms. Price sat in on some of those

13 meetings as well. I don't know whether or not

14 she was as impressed as I was with them.

15 MS. PRICE: Oh, definitely. I mean I

16 think there were two companies that definitely

17 rose to the top. But this one definitely was

18 the cream on top or the cherry on top.

19 And being one who has decided to use the

20 457(b) plan, and the website of our current

21 company, I mean it's just non-existent. I mean

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1 you can go click on a PDF document to see your

2 last month's thing. But there's nothing

3 interactive whatsoever.

4 It's going to be so helpful.

5 You can't download anything into financial

6 software.

7 So it is -- it's more than just a website

8 obviously. But in this case, when people are

9 looking at their finances and having the tools

10 that to see where you are along the path to

11 retirement and how close you are, I think makes

12 it more attainable to say oh, I'm at

13 76 percent, I'm getting close to be able to do

14 that is going to be very helpful.

15 And obviously being able to get an

16 adviser. There's probably going to be a lot of

17 people who want that advice right off the bat,

18 and then hopefully that will level out because

19 I think it's still only one person.

20 But it was very impressive, and I'm

21 looking forward to that.

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1 I do have just one question, not about the
 2 company or anything. But if it's not -- for
 3 when it's getting rolled out, people, of
 4 course, will have to make those decisions of
 5 what funds to put it in. Will there be some
 6 lead time before it gets rolled out for the
 7 employees who aren't using this particular
 8 program?
 9 MS. LANE: There will be lead time, but
 10 our recommendation was that everyone would go
 11 into -- I'm not sure what you even call them.
 12 MS. PRICE: A general fund type thing?
 13 MS. LANE: No. It would go into a
 14 targeted date fund. So if your retirement date
 15 is 2030, you would go into a fund that has that
 16 balance of stocks.
 17 And then we would encourage people to go
 18 from there to make their own allocations. But
 19 at least that would put them in a vehicle that
 20 should maximize their investment earnings over
 21 the period they have between whenever the

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1 rollover happens and their retirement date if
 2 they don't do anything.
 3 MS. PRICE: If they want to make that
 4 selection prior to the rollover date, can they?
 5 MS. LANE: Yes, yes. We'll definitely
 6 have time.
 7 MS. PRICE: Because I didn't know if there
 8 was any penalty to move from one fund to
 9 another.
 10 MS. LANE: No, no penalty per se.
 11 Obviously if you bought into one fund and the
 12 market is up or down, you could lose or gain
 13 some money based on where the market is the day
 14 you --
 15 MS. PRICE: The employees will have access
 16 to what the funds are and can make that
 17 selection before --
 18 MS. LANE: That will all be rolled out
 19 ahead of time, yes.
 20 MS. PRICE: Great. Thank you.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: I sat in on, I don't know, I

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1 think maybe one of the last meetings. I was
 2 very impressed with Bolton. That was the only
 3 group that I met.
 4 One of the most important things about
 5 taking care of your employees is making sure
 6 that you've got good benefits. The last plan
 7 was terrible. I'm glad that you guys took this
 8 initiative to find something better.
 9 You've got a great plan here with two of
 10 the top fund managers in the country or in the
 11 world. So I think this is an excellent way to
 12 take care of the employees while reducing an
 13 expense that they were paying that wasn't fair
 14 to them. So I'm happy to make this move.
 15 MR. PACK: Okay.
 16 MS. PRICE: Would you like a motion?
 17 MR. PACK: On two things, Ms. Price. I'm
 18 going to ask that we make the motion to move
 19 our deferred compensation plan over to Empower,
 20 but at the same time --
 21 MS. PRICE: Pay the fee.

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1 MR. PACK: -- pay the 32,5 over to Bolton
 2 that they richly deserve.
 3 MS. PRICE: I'd be happy to make that
 4 motion.
 5 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 7 MR. PACK: Any questions about that?
 8 If not, Madam Secretary, please call your
 9 roll.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 11 MR. PACK: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 17 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 19 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 20 MS. LANE: Thank you.
 21 MR. PACK: Thank you.

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1 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you, Council.
 2 We're requesting Council approval to send
 3 a letter of support to the Maryland Historical
 4 Trust for Historic Easton's grant application
 5 to restore Asbury United Methodist Church in
 6 Easton.
 7 No county funds required.
 8 MR. PACK: You have that in your Granicus,
 9 Council. It's \$100,000 grant for improvement
 10 to the Asbury United Methodist Church.
 11 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack.
 12 MR. PACK: Yes, sir.
 13 MR. LESHER: As before with this, since
 14 I'm a member, the governor's appointed me to
 15 the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, to vote
 16 on this would essentially be sending a letter
 17 to myself.
 18 I'll recuse myself here so that I'm
 19 entitled vote on it when it gets up to the
 20 MHAA.
 21 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,

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1 Mr. Leshner, for pointing that out to us again.
 2 Mr. Leshner is recusing himself.
 3 Any further discussion? Anyone else
 4 recusing themselves?
 5 Hearing none, the chair would entertain a
 6 motion at this time.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
 8 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Divilio.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.
 10 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any
 11 further discussion?
 12 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 13 your roll.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 15 MR. PACK: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 21 MS. PRICE: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 2 MR. LESHER: I abstain.
 3 MR. HOLLIS: Requesting Council approval
 4 to send a letter of support to the National
 5 Fish and Wildlife Foundation for Horn Point
 6 Laboratory's grant application entitled
 7 greening the gray, oyster veneers, a model
 8 approach to greening gray infrastructure.
 9 Project is proposed for breakwaters in
 10 several locations, including along the Bill
 11 Burton Fishing Pier State Park in Talbot
 12 County.
 13 No county funds are required.
 14 MR. PACK: Chair would entertain a motion.
 15 MR. LESHER: I'll move to approve.
 16 MR. PACK: By Mr. Leshner.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.
 18 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any
 19 further discussion?
 20 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 21 your roll.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 2 MR. PACK: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 8 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 10 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 11 MR. HOLLIS: Council, what I would
 12 consider one of the most important items
 13 tonight. We're requesting your approval to
 14 send a letter to the United States Coast Guard
 15 in strong opposition to the proposed closure of
 16 the US Coast Guard Station in Oxford.
 17 I believe most of you have been contacted
 18 by different citizens about how important this
 19 is.
 20 MR. PACK: We've been contacted by
 21 Delegate Mautz as well on this, at least I was.

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1 Chair would entertain a motion.
 2 MR. LESHHER: I will move to send a letter.
 3 MS. PRICE: Second.
 4 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Leshher, seconded
 5 by Ms. Price. Any further discussion?
 6 MS. PRICE: Question.
 7 MR. PACK: Yes.
 8 MS. PRICE: As much as we're sending
 9 letters and other people are sending letters,
 10 is this a done deal or do we think that this is
 11 going to have much of an impact or we just have
 12 no idea?
 13 MR. PACK: My conversation with Delegate
 14 Mautz was very brief. I know, as you read,
 15 what I read in the paper was the consolidation
 16 to the Annapolis Coast Guard Station.
 17 Whether it's a done deal or not, who
 18 knows.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: They haven't sold the
 20 building.
 21 MS. PRICE: And technically this is the

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1 comment period, right?
 2 MR. PACK: It is. I think that Oxford
 3 also sent a letter, if I remember reading.
 4 MR. HOLLIS: Correct. And Mr. Stamp has
 5 sent a letter as well.
 6 MR. PACK: Okay.
 7 SECRETARY: The deadline is tonight,
 8 11:59.
 9 MR. PACK: We got to get this out right
 10 away.
 11 MS. PRICE: Chop, chop.
 12 MR. HOLLIS: And Ms. Vanhooser is here if
 13 you have any -- Cassandra, did you want to say
 14 anything additional?
 15 Council is in full support of the letter
 16 of opposition.
 17 MS. VANHOOSER: We're absolutely in
 18 support.
 19 MS. PRICE: The question was do you know
 20 if we have a chance of them actually retaining
 21 it there?

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1 MS. VANHOOSER: I've talked to our federal
 2 delegation representatives today. They have
 3 teed up a letter. So I would say nothing is a
 4 done deal as long as the comment period is
 5 open. So I would send the letter, if you
 6 would, please.
 7 MS. PRICE: Yes, of course.
 8 MR. PACK: We have a motion by Mr. Leshher,
 9 second by Ms. Price. Any further discussion on
 10 the letter?
 11 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 12 your roll.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 14 MR. PACK: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 20 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.

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1 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 2 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you.
 3 MR. HOLLIS: And Council, just a few quick
 4 appointments, please.
 5 Commission on the Aging, asking for the
 6 reappointment of Kate Stinton with the Talbot
 7 County Health Department and Jennifer Marshy
 8 from Home Instead and the new appointment of
 9 Rachel Smith to fill a seat vacated.
 10 MR. PACK: Is there a motion?
 11 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
 12 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.
 14 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any
 15 further discussion?
 16 MR. DIVILIO: This is -- I sit on that.
 17 It's two people that we are just reappointing
 18 to it and one who works for Londonderry, which
 19 is where the seat is being vacated by. So it's
 20 another Londonderry employee.
 21 So it's a smooth transition. They have

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<p>1 attended the meeting, she's attended the</p> <p>2 meetings for the last two. It would be a good</p> <p>3 fit.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Great. Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Great.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: Hearing nothing further, Madam</p> <p>7 Secretary, please call your roll on the</p> <p>8 appointments.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>12 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>16 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>19 MR. HOLLIS: And finally, Council, the</p> <p>20 Public Works Advisory Board. You have a vacant</p> <p>21 seat for district four, the Cordova district.</p>	<p>1 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you very much.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you very much,</p> <p>3 Mr. Hollis.</p> <p>4 Regarding public comment, due to the</p> <p>5 COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no public</p> <p>6 access to the Wye Oak Room. Citizens who wish</p> <p>7 to provide public comment should submit their</p> <p>8 comments in writing to the</p> <p>9 publiccomment@talbotcountymd.gov. Those should</p> <p>10 be sent in -- those should have been sent in no</p> <p>11 later than the 14th, which is today's date, by</p> <p>12 12 noon.</p> <p>13 I'm now looking at Madam Secretary. Do we</p> <p>14 have any public comment?</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: No, we do not.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: No. Okay. So there is no</p> <p>17 public comment that we received to date.</p> <p>18 Again, I will now turn it over for Council</p> <p>19 comment. And I'll start to my left, Ms. Price.</p> <p>20 Any Council comment?</p> <p>21 MS. PRICE: I think we probably all have</p>
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<p>1 We're asking for your approval to appoint Dan</p> <p>2 Billingsley of Queen Anne.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Okay. Is there a motion?</p> <p>4 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Seconded.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Divilio, seconded</p> <p>7 by Mr. Callahan. Any further discussion on Dan</p> <p>8 Billingsley to be appointed to the Public Works</p> <p>9 Advisory Board?</p> <p>10 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call</p> <p>11 your roll.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p>	<p>1 the same thoughts on our minds. And we're</p> <p>2 really concerned obviously for the health</p> <p>3 crisis but also very much the economic impact</p> <p>4 of what that does to people's mental states and</p> <p>5 the stress level, and the illness and things</p> <p>6 like that can bring as well.</p> <p>7 And we're all doing the best that we can.</p> <p>8 Let us hope that with all this additional</p> <p>9 testing that's coming out and maybe even being</p> <p>10 able to find out the antibody test, the blood</p> <p>11 test that's coming out, some places of the</p> <p>12 country will know because some places 30</p> <p>13 percent of people have already had it and never</p> <p>14 knew it. And that would be good news to know</p> <p>15 that it's not as -- it's deadly for some</p> <p>16 people, but for many of us who -- it's not.</p> <p>17 So the sooner that we can start to turn</p> <p>18 the dimmer switch back on, I think the better</p> <p>19 for everybody in any capacity. Certainly for</p> <p>20 the county budget, but for everybody's budget.</p> <p>21 So hang in there just a little bit longer,</p>

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<p>1 and let us hope that we have good news by the</p> <p>2 end of the month or the beginning of May.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Ms. Price.</p> <p>4 Mr. Leshner, moving right along.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHER: I have nothing further.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>7 Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>8 MR. DIVILIO: Just briefly. So the</p> <p>9 Neighborhood Service Center celebrated 50th</p> <p>10 anniversary. There was going to be a big party</p> <p>11 and event, fundraiser at The Milestone.</p> <p>12 The deposit was already put down. And</p> <p>13 unfortunately, because of COVID-19, it had to</p> <p>14 be canceled, which is even more difficult with</p> <p>15 them when you think about fundraising and it</p> <p>16 pushes things out in the fall when they can't</p> <p>17 fundraise because of -- what was it?</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Their blackout period.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: The United Way?</p> <p>20 MR. DIVILIO: United Way.</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: United Way blackout period.</p>	<p>1 around and make it a nice event. That was</p> <p>2 something that unfortunately didn't work out</p> <p>3 for the Neighborhood Service Center.</p> <p>4 The more I get involved with that group,</p> <p>5 the more amazed I am at how generous everybody</p> <p>6 is there. Marilyn, all the way down, just</p> <p>7 great big hearts who are fantastic for the</p> <p>8 community. Really supporting those who are in</p> <p>9 the most need.</p> <p>10 So I really want to thank both of those</p> <p>11 groups.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Good. Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. We're in some tough</p> <p>14 times right now, like Ms. Price said, with the</p> <p>15 citizens, working, government.</p> <p>16 I really would like to do a shout-out to</p> <p>17 staff, Andy, your staff, the departments. What</p> <p>18 you do every day is a big deal. Every time I</p> <p>19 call you, I'm sure you take a big breath. But</p> <p>20 all kidding aside, you do a great job.</p> <p>21 Corey, you do a great job.</p>
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<p>1 MR. DIVILIO: So The Milestone turned</p> <p>2 around and said instead of losing your deposit,</p> <p>3 how about we make a donation of 500 Easter</p> <p>4 baskets that they put together for kids to pass</p> <p>5 out at the Easton High School.</p> <p>6 And it was amazing. They set 50 aside to</p> <p>7 take over to the Neighborhood Service Center,</p> <p>8 and we ran out. And Mr. Pack was there. And</p> <p>9 so they went ahead and passed those out. They</p> <p>10 went back to The Milestone and packed 50 more</p> <p>11 to take them over to the Multicultural</p> <p>12 Resource Center.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Yeah.</p> <p>14 MR. DIVILIO: That's right. So we went</p> <p>15 through, checked, made sure everybody was from</p> <p>16 Talbot County. There were a lot of families</p> <p>17 there, a lot of kids.</p> <p>18 We had the Easter Bunny was out there</p> <p>19 waving. Some pictures were taken. It was very</p> <p>20 heartwarming.</p> <p>21 It was great of The Milestone to turn it</p>	<p>1 MR. PACK: Thank you.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: We have all been on these</p> <p>3 calls. And the participation of the community,</p> <p>4 of the business, Cassandra being on the</p> <p>5 business end of it, trying to keep everybody,</p> <p>6 the communication to everybody and help them</p> <p>7 understand where we're at, the statistics for</p> <p>8 Talbot County.</p> <p>9 And I really am very proud that we're sort</p> <p>10 of holding our own here. Everybody sort of is</p> <p>11 being a little bit holding their breath when it</p> <p>12 comes to how many people are going to get it.</p> <p>13 But we just have to have the faith that</p> <p>14 everything is going to be good and have a</p> <p>15 positive attitude with what is happening.</p> <p>16 So I just really wanted to make sure,</p> <p>17 Andy, that you're doing a great job. And I</p> <p>18 really do appreciate your whole staff and</p> <p>19 Jessica and Mary and Susan, everybody that's</p> <p>20 got a hand in this. It's really affected all</p> <p>21 of us.</p>

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1 I'm very fortunate that I'm working.
 2 There's a few people that are working. But
 3 trust me, we're in the danger zone, too,
 4 meeting people, even though people are home
 5 safe. And we're trying to work and we're
 6 trying to make a living and trying to get out
 7 there with people, it's dangerous on our part,
 8 dangerous for our workers.
 9 So there's a lot of pressure on all the
 10 business group and all the bosses out there
 11 that run all these companies and stuff. So
 12 it's tough on them, too.
 13 And what Mr. Divilio said about handing
 14 out the baskets and stuff. So I want to give
 15 you kudos, too, Corey, that Robby Faulkner and
 16 Molly called me and said they were really
 17 impressed with you coming out and helping them
 18 and really being a part of all that. So they
 19 were really happy with all you guys being
 20 there. So he specifically called me and said
 21 where was I at.

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1 MR. PACK: So he was calling you out.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly. He called me out
 3 and praised you guys.
 4 But anyway, more than anything I just want
 5 the citizens to realize that we're there for
 6 them and really trying to protect them. And
 7 some of the decision making that we have to
 8 make is in their benefit. And hopefully, like
 9 Ms. Price said, hopefully in a few weeks that
 10 things are gradually going to get better and
 11 people can get back to work. That's what I
 12 want.
 13 Thank you.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: So I wanted to go on and I
 15 forgot to thank or congratulate Tony Kupersmith
 16 on the birth of their new child. So
 17 congratulations to them, and they will
 18 certainly be missed for a short of period. And
 19 we hope they get back quickly and hope
 20 everybody is happy and healthy.
 21 MR. PACK: Thank you. Yes, I'm going to

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1 add to that as well. Send congratulations out
 2 to Tony and his lovely wife on baby number two.
 3 I told him I'm still waiting for the cigar. So
 4 hopefully he'll bring those back when he gets
 5 back to the office.
 6 Today marked day 33 of the virtual EOC
 7 down on Port Street. Maryland saw 302 deaths
 8 to date, some 9,400 positive individuals here
 9 in the State of Maryland that have been
 10 affected by this disease. But also 44,000
 11 persons have showed negative for this disease.
 12 So we should take some solace in that.
 13 Also, here in Talbot County, we're still
 14 holding at 13 positive tests. We've been
 15 holding at that number for the past week. It's
 16 nothing to jump up and down about. But when
 17 you're talking about trying to flatten that
 18 curve and trying to put into place those social
 19 distancing practices, washing your hands,
 20 covering your mouth, wearing your mask, wearing
 21 your gloves, those kind of things and trying to

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1 basically take people into a new behavior set,
 2 if you would, it does take time. But the
 3 numbers are showing that at least here, I think
 4 we're starting to flatten out a bit.
 5 Thank God we've only had one death of a
 6 person infected by COVID-19. We certainly send
 7 our prayers and our blessings out to that
 8 family as they move forward in their life.
 9 But we have to keep on with these
 10 practices. We have to keep on making sure that
 11 we are aware of our spacing. And that's why
 12 we're set up the way we are here this evening
 13 and we will be for the near coming future to
 14 make sure that we are projecting a good message
 15 to the citizens.
 16 Dr. Wadley spoke this morning at the
 17 business noon phone call about working with the
 18 private sector, the Walmarts, the Giant Food,
 19 the Lowe's, and those type of big box stores
 20 that we have in our community that are deemed
 21 essential. But to make sure that they are also

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1 incorporating into their business model these
 2 same type of health behavioral models that we
 3 want to see. Making sure that someone is at
 4 the door to monitor guests coming into the
 5 store, making sure that the carts are being
 6 wiped down, that the conveyer belts are being
 7 wiped down.
 8 I think all, if not most, stores right now
 9 have the plastic shields up. I haven't been in
 10 every store in the county. But those that I
 11 have been in, I have seen the plastic dividers
 12 between the cashier and that customer leaving
 13 the store.
 14 So she's working with those business
 15 entities to make sure that they are putting
 16 those safety plans in place.
 17 But the one thing we heard about on the
 18 call today was to make sure also that the
 19 enforcement plans are also being in place. So
 20 not just for the workforce, but also for the
 21 consumer that's inside the store. So you won't

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1 get people clustering around one particular
 2 aisle. You might want to spread them out even
 3 more.
 4 I know some stores have one way aisles up
 5 and one way aisles coming down. So make sure
 6 people are following that direction. Turn them
 7 back around if you have to and send them back
 8 up the aisle.
 9 So we want to see that the stores also
 10 start balancing now the safety plans that most
 11 have in place, but also now let's start looking
 12 at the enforcement just to make sure we are
 13 keeping people safe, the workers that are in
 14 the stores and also the visitors and customers
 15 who are coming into the store. And I think
 16 that's the big next step as we move forward.
 17 Again, still holding tight at 13. My hat
 18 goes off to Clay and his staff down at the
 19 Emergency Services Center. Geneva is doing a
 20 wonderful job down there. Dr. Wadley, if she's
 21 not there every day, she's on the phone with

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1 them every day practically making sure that she
 2 gives us the latest information that she has
 3 from around the State.
 4 So we have to remain diligent in our
 5 pursuit of safety as well.
 6 Chuck, I want to send kudos back over to
 7 you for working with Clay and his department
 8 and Cassandra as they try to put some safety
 9 practices in place for the construction
 10 industry. That industry is still working.
 11 They're still out in the field working and
 12 building homes and doing home repairs. But we
 13 also want to make sure that they're being safe
 14 as well.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 16 MR. PACK: They're monitoring their
 17 distance, not having four or five guys in a
 18 truck. And that's what we were alluding to
 19 earlier today with Warren.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.
 21 MR. PACK: We want to see our Roads

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1 Department out there working, cutting grass,
 2 making repairs to the roadways. But we don't
 3 want to see four or five guys jammed in a
 4 truck. And I think as long as we can do so
 5 safely, and Mr. Hollis, to his credit, has made
 6 sure that those standards are being held by the
 7 department heads, as long as we can work, we
 8 want to work. But we want to do so safely.
 9 Thank you for helping out with those
 10 suggestions.
 11 So we're not out of the woods yet by a
 12 long, long shot. I think we've done some good
 13 work here in Talbot County. The team has been
 14 put together that are meeting on these phone
 15 calls and meeting in these subgroups, from the
 16 feeding group to the sheltering group to the
 17 construction group. I think those groups are
 18 really doing an excellent job in making sure
 19 that, number one, people are being taken care
 20 of in the feeding operations.
 21 What happened the other day with the

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1 Easter egg baskets was just wonderful to see,
 2 wonderful to see. The way people just came out
 3 and started working together. The library was
 4 there handing out books. Trevor Newcomb was
 5 there from your board. He's still your board
 6 chair I believe?
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Yup.
 8 MR. PACK: Board chair was there as well
 9 working very hard.
 10 My job was easy because I was just handing
 11 the basket to Frank and to Trevor. They were
 12 the ones running back and forth with Marilyn
 13 interacting with people. So again, it was just
 14 wonderful to be a part of that.
 15 But at the same time, at the same time,
 16 when you see these long lines at your feeding
 17 stations, it just shows you the magnitude of
 18 the need. And you can be filled up with the
 19 sense of community pride of what's going on,
 20 what's happening. But at the same time, when
 21 you see those lines, those long lines of cars.

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1 You saw it, Frank, the way people just lined up
 2 down Mecklenburg Avenue and going around the
 3 corner. The need is still there and still very
 4 great.
 5 So thanks to everyone out there who is
 6 working hard, thanks for our first responders,
 7 thanks for our teachers, and thanks very much
 8 to our nurses and our doctors, let's not forget
 9 them, on the front line in this epidemic. We
 10 want to certainly send our thoughts and prayers
 11 out to them and make sure that they are being
 12 safe as they help keep us safe.
 13 So with that being said, I will end on
 14 just a couple quick comments back to the
 15 public.
 16 Again, anyone wishing to give comment to
 17 the budget can do so in writing. We certainly
 18 ask that you do that in writing. You want to
 19 send that to
 20 publiccomment@talbotcountymaryland.gov. We
 21 would like to have those comments in no later

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1 than Monday, May the 4th.
 2 The budget is on the county website.
 3 Ms. Lane gave that address to you earlier. You
 4 can always contact the county manager's office
 5 for that information, but we do encourage
 6 people to go onto the county website, go
 7 through the county budget, as well as her
 8 presentation that she gave tonight. It will be
 9 there, if not there already, for persons to
 10 look through and draft their comments and send
 11 them over to us for our consideration.
 12 MS. PRICE: Mr. Pack.
 13 MR. PACK: Yes.
 14 MS. PRICE: On the web address, it's
 15 talbotcountymd.gov.
 16 MR. PACK: I didn't say MD?
 17 MS. PRICE: You said Talbot County,
 18 Maryland.
 19 MR. PACK: Oh, just MD. Okay.
 20 MS. PRICE: It's just talbotcountymd.
 21 MR. PACK: Just the MD, not the Maryland.

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1 Okay. Let me say that again then.
 2 Publiccomment@talbotcountymd.gov, not Maryland.
 3 So with that being said, the County
 4 Council's next meeting will be held on Tuesday,
 5 May the 28th. It will begin at six p.m. It
 6 will be held back here at the Wye Oak Room at
 7 the Community Center.
 8 The Council will be convening in open
 9 session at 4:30 and immediately adjourning into
 10 closed session to discuss real estate, legal,
 11 and personnel matters, as listed on the
 12 statement for closing that meeting.
 13 Therefore, Council, if there's no further
 14 business of the Council, we have come to the
 15 end of our agenda. We are adjourned.
 16 MR. HOLLIS: So Mr. Pack, it's actually
 17 April 28th.
 18 MR. PACK: What did I say?
 19 MR. HOLLIS: May.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 21 MR. HOLLIS: Unless that's direction of

1 Council.
 2 MR. PACK: April the 28th. I stand
 3 corrected. Thank you.
 4 We are adjourned. Thank you.
 5 (Meeting concluded at: 7:56 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF MARYLAND
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel,
 4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
 5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
 6 at the time and place herein set according to law,
 7 was interrogated by counsel.
 8
 9 I further certify that the examination was
 10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 13 in a true and accurate manner.
 14
 15 I further certify that the stipulations
 16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 17 presence.
 18
 19 I further certify that I am not of counsel
 20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 interested in the outcome of this action.
 AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 21st
 day of April, 2020, at Easton, MD.


 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public
 My commission expires September 16, 2021

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