



Deposition of:
Talbot County Council Meeting
September 22, 2020

In the Matter of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

September 22, 2020; 6:00 p.m.

Via Webex Events

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Corey W. Pack

Chuck F. Callahan

Frank Divilio

Pete Leshner

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2

3 MR. PACK: We have several matters to

4 cover tonight. So I'm going to ask that

5 everyone stand for an opening prayer followed

6 by the Pledge of Allegiance.

7 I would ask that the Council give a moment

8 of consideration for the passing of Justice

9 Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Justice Ginsburg was a

10 pioneer in the defense of women's rights. She

11 had six times appeared before the Supreme

12 Court, winning five of those six cases. She's

13 just a monumental woman. Small in stature, but

14 big in voice when it comes to defending the

15 rights of women here in America. She will be

16 missed as a member of the bench and she will be

17 missed as a member of the community at-large.

18 So give a moment of silence on the passing of

19 Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

20 (Moment of Silence, Prayer, and Pledge of

21 Allegiance)

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1 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Council.

2 Thank you very much, staff, for participating

3 in that.

4 As I said before, we have a packed agenda.

5 You should have your agenda in front of you.

6 You should have Council minutes from July the

7 21st meeting. I was not present at that

8 meeting. I did have an opportunity review it

9 the other day, I should say. Are there any

10 additions, deletions, or questions or

11 corrections to those minutes? Hearing none,

12 the chair would move that they be accepted with

13 unanimous consent.

14 You also have disbursements from September

15 the 15th and also September the 22nd. You

16 should have had an opportunity to speak with

17 Ms. Lane, our finance officer, about those

18 disbursements. Are there any additions,

19 deletions, or questions with those

20 disbursements? Hearing none, the chair would

21 move that they also be accepted with unanimous

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1 consent.

2 Okay. Item number five, I do not see --

3 oh, yes, I do see Sheriff Gamble is with us.

4 This is an update on Talbot Goes Purple. We

5 have Sheriff Joe Gamble with us. Also, Ms. --

6 there's Lucy. Lucie Hughes is also with us.

7 And let's see here. My board is moving around.

8 So Sheriff Gamble, can you hear me?

9 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Yes, sir, I can.

10 MR. PACK: Okay. We don't see you, but we

11 do hear you. I saw Lucie for a moment. Maybe

12 she'll pop back in. But Joe, why don't you go

13 ahead and take it away from here, Sheriff, and

14 tell us about your upcoming plans for I don't

15 know, what is this year, year five or year six

16 for Talbot Goes Purple here in the county.

17 SHERIFF GAMBLE: It's actually year four.

18 And Lucie is going to kick it off.

19 MR. PACK: Okay.

20 MS. HUGHES: I'm going to start us off and

21 then Joe is going to, we're going to kind of

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1 tag team it.

2 So first of all, thank you for inviting us

3 back to update you on Talbot Goes Purple. On

4 behalf of Tidewater Rotary, the Talbot County

5 Sheriff's Office, along with our partners,

6 Talbot County Public Schools, St. Peters and

7 Paul, Midshore Community Foundation, we want to

8 thank the County Council for your continued

9 support.

10 And this year, as Joe said, is number four

11 of standing up against drug abuse. I'm really

12 proud to say that this year we're joined by

13 Allegany, Caroline, Dorchester, Frederick,

14 Somerset, Queen Anne's, Washington, Wicomico,

15 Worcester, and the entire State of Delaware for

16 this effort.

17 While it looks a little different this

18 year for Talbot Goes Purple, we're still

19 committed now more than ever to sharing the

20 messages.

21 So I'm going to turn it over to Joe.

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<p>1 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you, Lucie.</p> <p>2 SHERIFF GAMBLE: During this time of</p> <p>3 COVID, Council, it's been difficult for all of</p> <p>4 us to get our messages out. But now more than</p> <p>5 ever, we really need to continue to share these</p> <p>6 messages.</p> <p>7 We all know that since the pandemic really</p> <p>8 got in full swing in March and April, that</p> <p>9 overdoses across the country, including here in</p> <p>10 Talbot County, have seen a sharp increase.</p> <p>11 Going early in the year, we were at zero deaths</p> <p>12 for the year into April. And then once the</p> <p>13 pandemic hit full force, our numbers have gone</p> <p>14 up at a higher rate than they normally would</p> <p>15 during that period. So it's really important</p> <p>16 we get our message out.</p> <p>17 Lucie.</p> <p>18 MS. HUGHES: As Joe said, it's been a</p> <p>19 challenge this year. It looks a little</p> <p>20 different. But we still move forward with it.</p> <p>21 We have 30 educational messages that we're</p>	<p>1 you get off in time to pop on and watch that.</p> <p>2 And the APG Star Democrat also approached</p> <p>3 us about doing a video podcast series called</p> <p>4 Stronger Together. We invited Caroline,</p> <p>5 Dorchester, Kent, and Queen Anne's to join us.</p> <p>6 And there are two episodes. The first one</p> <p>7 premiered on September 17th. The second one</p> <p>8 will premiere on the 24th. And they've both</p> <p>9 been focused on helping families provide</p> <p>10 prevention during COVID. The September 17th</p> <p>11 episode was viewed over 200 times.</p> <p>12 This week we kicked off the mobile</p> <p>13 prescription take-back and Narcan training in</p> <p>14 partnerships with our volunteer fire</p> <p>15 departments throughout the county. Shore</p> <p>16 Health has sponsored it. Preston Talbot Goes</p> <p>17 Purple truck pulled the Talbot Goes Purple DARE</p> <p>18 trailer. Events have been held in Cordova,</p> <p>19 St. Michael's, Queen Anne's, Trappe, Tilghman,</p> <p>20 and tomorrow we'll be in Oxford. And our last</p> <p>21 one will be in Easton on the 24th.</p>
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<p>1 pushing out. And thanks to (inaudible) MC,</p> <p>2 we've got those translated into Spanish this</p> <p>3 year. We share one of the messages each day on</p> <p>4 Facebook. If you will notice, there are</p> <p>5 educational banners spread across the county.</p> <p>6 (Inaudible) have aired them daily on the radio.</p> <p>7 The Star Democrat has shared messages, along</p> <p>8 with articles into 22 print editions for the --</p> <p>9 sorry.</p> <p>10 I'm talking really loud because I'm trying</p> <p>11 to talk over some of the (inaudible). Sorry.</p> <p>12 We also had some virtual events and we</p> <p>13 have virtual events to come. We did a virtual</p> <p>14 kick-off. We had 619 views for that. On</p> <p>15 September 8th, we screened the American Opioid</p> <p>16 Crisis Talbot Goes Purple. Many of you saw</p> <p>17 that last year in the Avalon. We had 763 views</p> <p>18 for that. And the film was also available for</p> <p>19 an entire week on MCTV.</p> <p>20 Tonight we're screening the Chris Herren</p> <p>21 film The First Day. So I encourage anybody if</p>	<p>1 And most important, we've really counted</p> <p>2 on the citizens of the county to help us get</p> <p>3 the messaging out. We've encouraged everyone</p> <p>4 to share our Facebook messages, watch the</p> <p>5 virtual events with your families and at</p> <p>6 businesses, turn your businesses purple. Once</p> <p>7 again, we've been really lucky and businesses</p> <p>8 supporting that. Display the purple lights,</p> <p>9 wear your purple gear, and encourage the</p> <p>10 community to take place in our drug take-back</p> <p>11 events and use our resources on the website to</p> <p>12 help start the conversation.</p> <p>13 Joe.</p> <p>14 SHERIFF GAMBLE: So one of the things that</p> <p>15 has been a mainstay with Purple is really</p> <p>16 trying to educate students. And we're trying</p> <p>17 to figure out how that would look with a lot of</p> <p>18 kids not being in the school and the pandemic.</p> <p>19 So we have a couple of projects we're</p> <p>20 doing with the kids. One is we're doing a</p> <p>21 voice recording with high school students.</p>

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1 They're aired daily on WCEI and WINKS at
 2 Forever Media. So every day -- kids --
 3 developing their own education messages and
 4 we're sending them to the radio station.
 5 They're taping them and then they're going
 6 to -- out every day -- the high school kids are
 7 participating there.
 8 And then Rodney Spring of Spring
 9 Associates, who has been just a tremendous
 10 supporter of Talbot Goes Purple, is supporting
 11 a public service announcement contest for
 12 students that will run September 1st through
 13 October 30th. And the winners will be aired
 14 over -- they'll -- basically, a substance abuse
 15 message, awareness message, educational
 16 message. And then we'll run those over the
 17 holidays. And Rodney -- who has been
 18 gracious -- funding to give prizes to those
 19 kids.
 20 So we're working on our virtual clubs.
 21 The clubs in our schools obviously aren't

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1 meeting. So we're working on virtual clubs and
 2 we'll be doing that throughout the whole year.
 3 Lucie.
 4 MR. PACK: Great.
 5 MS. HUGHES: On behalf of the Talbot
 6 County Sheriff's Department, Tidewater Rotary,
 7 we just, once again, want to really thank you
 8 all for your support. None of this would be
 9 possible without your support and the support
 10 of our community. (Inaudible) Star Democrat,
 11 Easton Utilities, (inaudible) the
 12 Multi-Cultural Recourse Center for translating
 13 the messages, and to all of the sponsors.
 14 And a special thank you goes to our
 15 partners. We couldn't do this without
 16 (inaudible) foundation, the Talbot County
 17 Public Schools, and St. Peters and Paul.
 18 Joe.
 19 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thanks so much, guys. We
 20 really appreciate it. We'll take any questions
 21 that you have.

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1 I don't know if you can hear us anymore.
 2 MR. PACK: Thank you. Your feed was kind
 3 of breaking in and out, Sheriff. So hopefully
 4 all of that information, Lucie, is on the
 5 website that the sheriff is speaking about. So
 6 anyone who did not pick that up can go onto the
 7 Talbot Goes Purple website and get those dates
 8 and learn more about those virtual clubs, which
 9 I think is a great idea as we deal with the
 10 COVID pandemic.
 11 So fourth annual year of Talbot Goes
 12 Purple here in Talbot County. I believe we
 13 were the first county to kick this off. And
 14 it's now become a statewide substance abuse
 15 deterrent program.
 16 And so I just want to thank you guys for
 17 all that you're doing to keep this alive and
 18 running and helping to save lives in Talbot
 19 County. Appreciate it.
 20 MS. HUGHES: Thank you.
 21 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you.

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1 MR. PACK: Thank you, guys.
 2 MR. LESHAR: Mr. Pack, if I can add to
 3 that, I want to really congratulate the Talbot
 4 Goes Purple team for figuring out how to move
 5 the messages into different platforms to make
 6 sure that that word gets out this year.
 7 I think you've been really effective in
 8 social media and other channels in making that
 9 happen.
 10 And I wish you all the best and
 11 congratulations on what I perceive is a really
 12 effective campaign.
 13 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you, Pete.
 14 MS. HUGHES: Thanks, Pete.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack, this is Frank
 16 Divilio. I would also just like to go on the
 17 record and thank both of you and all of the
 18 organizations, Spring & Associates, Tidewater
 19 Rotary, the radio station. That's fantastic
 20 that they're getting -- that the kids are
 21 creating their own message to put out for their

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1 peers. That's fantastic.
 2 Right now with people being locked in
 3 homes as they have been for quarantine for the
 4 last few months, we know that there are
 5 problems and we know that there's stressors.
 6 And risks are right there in the medicine
 7 cabinet and it's easy to start.
 8 So I thank you both for putting out the
 9 message that keeps our kids safe, reduces
 10 crime, and protects the county. So thank you
 11 both for all of your work.
 12 MS. HUGHES: Thank you, Frank.
 13 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thanks, Frank.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: And I'd like to add to
 15 that, too. Lucie and Joe, I mean spectacular.
 16 You're the best.
 17 You've really -- this year has been tough
 18 on everybody. And Lucie, I mean you've done
 19 such a phenomenal job. And I want to commend
 20 you and Joe for all you're doing.
 21 And Joe, I've been riding, I've been

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1 throughout the county. And I've seen your
 2 deputy setting up his little display and stuff.
 3 He was in Cordova today. And there were
 4 several people around there showing it.
 5 So it means a lot. And I want to commend
 6 you guys for doing that stuff because that's a
 7 big deal to small little towns to know that
 8 we're there for them.
 9 MS. PRICE: Just to add that having law
 10 enforcement showing the incredible side of what
 11 you all do and how much you truly care for the
 12 community is so important. And we really do
 13 appreciate your message.
 14 And to think that this started with little
 15 old Talbot County and now nearly every county
 16 in the state and I think even nearby states,
 17 it's really catching on fire. You've just
 18 really started something, gotten the ball
 19 rolling. It's amazing.
 20 Thank you so much.
 21 SHERIFF GAMBLE: (Inaudible).

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1 MS. HUGHES: Thank you.
 2 MR. PACK: Okay. Sheriff, you be safe out
 3 there. Are you still traveling back from
 4 western Maryland?
 5 SHERIFF GAMBLE: I am, I'm still here.
 6 I'm going to head back soon, but I'm still
 7 here. That's what the fuzzy feed is.
 8 MR. PACK: Okay. Up there in the sticks,
 9 as they say. Well, have a safe trip back home.
 10 And Lucie, thank you very much for all
 11 that you're doing. We appreciate it.
 12 Thank you, guys.
 13 MS. HUGHES: Thank you. See you, guys.
 14 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you.
 15 MR. PACK: Council next on your agenda,
 16 we're going to get an update on the school
 17 opening, which we are excited about. And do
 18 not see Dr. Griffith.
 19 Is she with us? Kelly? Our
 20 superintendent.
 21 Susan, I don't see her. Do you have her

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1 online anywhere?
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. President, she was on
 3 here a little while ago with Preston. So we
 4 might want to kind of just give her a little
 5 bit of time to get on.
 6 MR. DURHAM: She's trying get back on.
 7 MR. PACK: She lost connection.
 8 MR. DURHAM: Mr. Shafer is on, though.
 9 MR. PACK: I do see Kevin there. Let's
 10 give superintendent another moment. Want her
 11 to go and do her presentation for school
 12 opening. And if she doesn't pick up in a
 13 moment or so, we'll jump over to Kevin and then
 14 bounce back to her.
 15 Kevin, you are still there, correct?
 16 MR. SHAFER: I'm still here.
 17 MR. PACK: Okay. I just wanted to make
 18 sure you are on the batter's deck.
 19 MR. SHAFER: I'm ready when you are.
 20 MR. PACK: Okay, sir. Okay. And I'm sure
 21 she'll probably want to hear your presentation,

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1 too, Kevin. So I don't want to get too far
 2 into it. Okay.
 3 MR. HOLLIS: Mr. President, you do have
 4 Ms. Greenaway on as well. If you'd like to --
 5 MR. PACK: I do see that she's on deck as
 6 well. If superintendent doesn't pick up, why
 7 don't we go to -- Council, why don't we just
 8 make a quick switch here because I don't want
 9 to belabor things too long here this evening.
 10 We do have with us Kristen Greenaway.
 11 She's the president of Chesapeake Bay Maritime
 12 Museum for an update on the Chesapeake Bay
 13 Museum.
 14 Kristen, why don't we go to you now. Then
 15 we'll go back to superintendent when she comes
 16 back online.
 17 MS. GREENAWAY: That sounds good. I'm
 18 just going to share my screen.
 19 MR. PACK: Okay.
 20 MS. GREENAWAY: Is that up for everybody?
 21 MR. PACK: Yes. I can see it.

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1 MS. GREENAWAY: All right. Great.
 2 First, I want to thank you for your time,
 3 everyone, on the Council giving me this
 4 opportunity. (Inaudible) I think about three
 5 years ago or so to update you on what's
 6 happening at the museum.
 7 Before I get to the main part of the
 8 presentation, a quick update that reopened to
 9 the public on June 29th, after closing on March
 10 14th, having celebrated for two entire weeks
 11 the end of our fiscal year and the most
 12 successful program ever and financial year to
 13 date with 84,000 visitors.
 14 And we're currently trending around
 15 60 percent non-festival visitation from last
 16 year. And of course, we will not be holding
 17 any festivals this year.
 18 And so earlier this year we commissioned
 19 Rockport Analytics in Annapolis to conduct a
 20 new economic opportunity impact study for the
 21 museum. And I'd like to take this time to run

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1 through a few key findings from that.
 2 And first, the results from the data are
 3 very clear that the museum is a driver to the
 4 local economy and we aim to serve as a leader
 5 in the Eastern Shore's economic recovery at
 6 this time.
 7 So as highlighted here, I've just got a
 8 few slides I'm going to run through. Last
 9 year, as I mentioned, we welcomed more than
 10 84,000 visitors from across the mid-Atlantic
 11 region. Slightly less than a third of these
 12 attendees, it's about 27,000 people, were
 13 residents visiting from within 50 miles, while
 14 the remaining 68 percent, that's nearly 58,000
 15 people, were from outside of the area or stayed
 16 overnight and paid lodging.
 17 So among these visitors, 17 percent of
 18 them were main purpose visitors who named the
 19 museum as the primary reason for their trip to
 20 the area. And these are the people that have
 21 helped the economic impact on the area.

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1 And that includes 21,000 main purpose
 2 visitors from Maryland and nearly 20,000 main
 3 purpose visitors arriving to St. Michael's from
 4 outside the area.
 5 This next slide, visitors. I think this
 6 is probably one of the biggest numbers here,
 7 visitors traveling specifically to visit the
 8 museum from more than 50 miles away generated
 9 \$11.6 million in visitor spending in Talbot
 10 County.
 11 And the museum's visitor and business
 12 operations spending supported more than 250
 13 direct jobs. My apology. 250 direct jobs in
 14 Talbot County.
 15 And the museum's visitor spending and
 16 expenses for operations in Talbot County
 17 contributed to \$2.3 million in total impact for
 18 the county's economy.
 19 And (inaudible) right here without plans
 20 for expansion at the museum with new buildings,
 21 which is coming up, we start later this year

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1 and into next year, that will bring in
 2 \$4.2 million value added for Talbot County and
 3 (inaudible) to contribute \$3 million in Talbot
 4 County wages.
 5 This next slide, you can see that the
 6 majority of the impact, I mentioned 11.6 for
 7 Talbot County, 11 million of that 11.6 million
 8 is spent in St. Michael's on travel-related
 9 goods and services, like hotels, marinas,
 10 restaurants, and local shopping. (Inaudible)
 11 museum really is the backbone to the local
 12 economy. And we also, as shown here, we
 13 contribute 180 full-time and part-time jobs in
 14 St. Michael's.
 15 This next slide gives you an impression of
 16 the impact on Maryland overall. \$6.5 million
 17 in net economic impact the museum has on the
 18 State of Maryland. It's really a figure that
 19 has grown tremendously over the last five years
 20 since we commissioned our previous (inaudible)
 21 study.

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1 And then I know I appreciate there's a lot
 2 of information on this slide, but I'll give you
 3 some of the key points here. Supported wages
 4 in Talbot County total more than \$8.9 million.
 5 And without the museum, Talbot County's 37,181
 6 households would each have to pay an additional
 7 \$46 in State and local taxes. So we may be a
 8 not-for-profit, we don't pay taxes ourselves,
 9 but the trickle down affect and impact on the
 10 county, St. Michael's, and the State of
 11 Maryland, you can see is a million dollars
 12 annual tax revenue for the State in that
 13 regard.
 14 And 44 cents of every dollar spent by
 15 visitors goes towards the wages of
 16 St. Michael's workers in the town's
 17 restaurants, lodging, and retail
 18 establishments.
 19 What I found is that these results we did
 20 not have five years ago. State and local taxes
 21 collected from museum-supported spending were

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1 enough to educate 130 Talbot County Public
 2 Schools students for one school year. And
 3 also, that the spending generated through the
 4 museum through State and local taxes support an
 5 annual starting salary of 38 Talbot County
 6 Public Schools teachers.
 7 Additionally, the \$5 million contract that
 8 the museum received two years ago to build the
 9 State of Maryland created three additional
 10 jobs.
 11 So in summary, and I can take any
 12 questions, the museum's visitors generate a
 13 significant amount of tourism dollars in tax
 14 revenue for county, St. Michael's, and the
 15 State. And we're doing our very, very best to
 16 keep it that way during these hard times.
 17 And it's crucial that we all work
 18 together, follow the appropriate ordinances,
 19 county, St. Michael's, to keep the spread of
 20 this virus contained so we can keep the local
 21 economy moving and in the right direction.

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1 Thank you very much.
 2 MR. PACK: Kristen, thank you very much
 3 for the presentation. And you all are doing a
 4 remarkable job down there at the Chesapeake Bay
 5 Maritime Museum.
 6 It's always been a big part of this
 7 community. I can't count how many times I've
 8 been down there for different events that were
 9 done by outside groups that you guys have
 10 hosted down there.
 11 So you've been a great partner to the
 12 Douglass Honor Society. I think BAAM had
 13 something down there recently.
 14 MS. GREENAWAY: Yup.
 15 MR. PACK: So just been great to have you
 16 guys here.
 17 And yes, you're certainly making a
 18 tremendous impact here in Talbot County. So
 19 hats off to you.
 20 One thing I do want to ask regarding the
 21 expansion project, is there any timetable on

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1 how that project is going?
 2 MS. GREENAWAY: Yup. Good question.
 3 Thank you, Corey.
 4 The library collections expansion, which
 5 will give us another 5,200 square feet, that is
 6 (inaudible). In fact, we're getting quotes
 7 right now for construction. That will start by
 8 either later this year or very early in the new
 9 year. And for the new multi-purpose building,
 10 about a 12,000 square foot building, that we
 11 hope to have full funding within the next
 12 actually few months. And the anticipation of
 13 that is to start construction either middle to
 14 late next year.
 15 MR. PACK: Okay. That's great. You guys
 16 are right around the corner from a big time
 17 expansion there. And it's just going to bring
 18 more people here to the area to see what's
 19 happening at the Maritime Museum.
 20 So I'll stop and see if there's any more
 21 comments from any other Council members.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: This is Frank Divilio. I
 2 love the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.
 3 I really greatly appreciate all that you
 4 do for the community, especially just bringing
 5 tourists here to the community. And the good
 6 ones that are obviously spending money and
 7 staying and keeping -- enjoying and
 8 appreciating the area. It's a great
 9 opportunity to learn about the Chesapeake Bay
 10 and have that experience where you go home
 11 respecting it a little bit more than you had
 12 before.
 13 So thank you very much for that.
 14 I'm excited for the expansion for you
 15 guys. I can't wait to see how that all works
 16 out.
 17 But I do want to really thank you for all
 18 the contributions that you make to the
 19 community. It's fantastic. The children love
 20 it. And it's just such a great worthwhile
 21 educational experience that we love going down

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1 there. So thank you.
 2 MS. GREENAWAY: Thank you, Frank.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Chuck Callahan, Kristen.
 4 You've done a spectacular job.
 5 (Inaudible) Talbot County, I mean you're right.
 6 It's the heart of St. Michael's, and you do
 7 such a fantastic job.
 8 And kudos to our main man, Pete, too.
 9 MS. PRICE: We've got to give you kudos to
 10 keep that guy around, right?
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, we do. (Inaudible)
 12 kudos.
 13 MS. GREENAWAY: Our longest serving staff
 14 person (inaudible) 28 years.
 15 MS. PRICE: That's wonderful.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: The good part of it is I
 17 made him smile.
 18 MS. GREENAWAY: It's not hard. It's not
 19 hard, Chuck. But thank you.
 20 MS. PRICE: It's nice to see all the
 21 smiling faces. But I also want to thank you,

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1 Kristen. You've just been an extraordinary
 2 leader there.
 3 I mean it's always been the gem of
 4 St. Michael's and the gem of Talbot County.
 5 But what you have added to it is just amazing,
 6 and thank you very much.
 7 We really do appreciate everything you do
 8 and we're all working through trials and
 9 tribulations, but it's going to come back even
 10 stronger. Again, thanks.
 11 MS. GREENAWAY: Appreciate it. Thank you.
 12 MR. PACK: Any (inaudible), Mr. Leshner?
 13 If not, we'll move on.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Corey, I just want to say
 15 one other thing.
 16 MR. PACK: I don't know which one of you
 17 was speaking. I think Pete was speaking.
 18 MR. LESHNER: Sorry about that. I just
 19 said I'm proud to be part of the team there.
 20 MR. PACK: Okay. Good. I'm going to go
 21 back to Mr. Divilio. I think Frank had a

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1 follow-up statement.

2 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah. So the Chesapeake Bay

3 Maritime Museum, when you put the plan together

4 on reopening, it was brought up on one of the

5 countywide phone calls that we had with the

6 Health Department. And I remember how pleased

7 they were and how happy they were that you put

8 safety first in every decision that you made.

9 And it went a long way towards making them feel

10 more comfortable with the opening and knowing

11 that you were going in the right direction with

12 that.

13 So thank you for being a great example to

14 the community of what we can do when we think

15 about safety and plan accordingly. So thank

16 you.

17 MS. GREENAWAY: Frank, thank you very

18 much. We have an incredible team at the

19 museum. We really, really do.

20 MR. PACK: Well, Kristen, thank you very

21 much for the presentation. I look forward to

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1 being down there soon. Thank you.

2 Have we found superintendent yet? Is she

3 with us yet?

4 DR. GRIFFITH: I'm here.

5 MR. PACK: I hear you. Don't see your

6 head yet. But let me take my glasses off.

7 DR. GRIFFITH: You won't be able to see

8 me, but you can hear me.

9 MR. PACK: That's the next best thing,

10 Kelly.

11 So I'm going to go ahead and turn it over

12 to Superintendent Kelly Griffith for an update

13 on our opening of our public schools here.

14 Kelly, the floor is yours.

15 DR. GRIFFITH: Okay. Jessica was going to

16 try to share the slides. I don't know if she's

17 able to do that because I can't see.

18 I will begin by sharing with you that we

19 started school on September 8th. The first

20 week was all virtual. We still needed some

21 time to get kids connected. As of today, we

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1 have been able to connect most of our kids, and

2 I'll give you some details in a few minutes.

3 And the past couple of weeks, we have

4 brought in more than 200 students in small

5 groups and (inaudible) extremely well.

6 We are (inaudible) our state of hybrid,

7 which is small groups in every building. We

8 have brought back students with no connectivity

9 first and some of our students with special

10 needs as well. And (inaudible).

11 MR. DIVILIO: Excuse me, Dr. Griffith.

12 Could we have everybody mute their phones

13 that's not speaking? We have a lot of

14 background noise. Thank you.

15 DR. GRIFFITH: So we have been following a

16 schedule of doing synchronous learning on four

17 days a week where the students are on with

18 their teachers an average of three and a half

19 hours. (Inaudible) is little more than that as

20 secondary every day. And then they have

21 asynchronous time. They have teacher time also

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1 on Wednesdays with small groups or office

2 hours.

3 And we did put out a commitment form to

4 all parents asking parents if they were ready

5 to return to school in the hybrid, full hybrid

6 model, or would like to remain virtual for the

7 semester. So we did get that commitment form

8 out last Friday.

9 Tomorrow is the last day to get that

10 commitment form in. I have an ongoing tally.

11 So far, we have approximately 70 percent of our

12 parents have filled it out (inaudible) their

13 students. So we're still trying to get that

14 last 30 percent in so that we can plan

15 accordingly with a hybrid model.

16 Our next stage with the hybrid model will

17 depend on the number of families that are

18 committed to coming into school. Right now,

19 I'm looking at about a 65 to 70 percent of our

20 families so far do want their children to be

21 back in school. So that's what we're looking

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1 at so far. And if that's the case, we will
 2 continue to work (inaudible) plan and do the
 3 hybrid model.
 4 We are very pleased with our digital
 5 divide and our community partnership with our
 6 educational foundation. We have been able to
 7 connect most of our kids at this time. And the
 8 ones that we're bringing in, Easton Utilities,
 9 Atlantic Broadband, and Verizon are steadily
 10 getting into our homes and getting those kids
 11 connected. So in case we ever have to go back
 12 to a stay-at-home, we can do that.
 13 Jessica, if you can just flip to the
 14 digital divide slide, I think that we'll just
 15 pick up there. That's probably your best bet.
 16 We have raised almost \$90,000 to pay for
 17 families to have that connectivity for the
 18 remainder of the school year, which I think
 19 will be definitely appreciated all throughout.
 20 And if you go to the next slide, Jessica,
 21 gives you a little bit of some examples of how

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1 we're using Easton Utilities' plan in
 2 connecting families, but we're also using some
 3 hot spots that were paid for through grants and
 4 also with some local funds. 427 hot spots are
 5 out.
 6 And then it also shared with you the cost
 7 per family per year that we are spending that
 8 money on.
 9 Connectivity was a major concern of mine
 10 in the beginning, and I'm feeling much better
 11 about that now. I talked to every principal
 12 today. They're all feeling really comfortable
 13 with the connectivity. We do have some spotty
 14 areas in some areas that no matter what we do,
 15 it's not working. And those are kids that we
 16 have in. So that's a good thing.
 17 If we go to the next slide, which is the
 18 demographics. And what I want to share with
 19 you on this slide is we are a little more than
 20 200 kids less than we had last school year.
 21 And what that breaks down to is we're 55

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1 percent white. That's right where we were last
 2 year. Our Hispanic Latino population has gone
 3 up one more percent, and our two or more races
 4 has gone down one percent.
 5 Our free and reduced meals, right now as
 6 we speak, and we have until October 30th to get
 7 some more of those forms in, but that's gone up
 8 another percentage to 49 percent.
 9 And just as of today, actually yesterday,
 10 excuse me, we have 75 students that we were
 11 bringing in that were classified as homeless.
 12 We are currently at 433 English language
 13 learners, which is up from last year. Our
 14 (inaudible) population is about the same. It's
 15 down just slightly.
 16 But what I want to emphasize with this
 17 slide is our enrollment is down because some
 18 parents have chosen to do homeschooling because
 19 of COVID. We are reaching back out to them and
 20 saying that if they would like to stay on our
 21 virtual program and stay enrolled, that would

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1 be great. And if they would like to come in
 2 once we start bringing our students back in
 3 that hybrid model, (inaudible) right at the
 4 beginning of October, that second week of
 5 October. So we're trying to still reach out to
 6 some of those folks to get some more in.
 7 But with this enrollment the way it is,
 8 basically it will make our FY22 budget income a
 9 lot less from the State and a lot less from
 10 local. So we are looking at approximately
 11 losing 1.8 million with this lower enrollment,
 12 which is another reason why we're still
 13 reaching out to families to see if they're
 14 willing to come back.
 15 We also have some families that haven't
 16 enrolled in pre-k. And we're trying to get
 17 them, see if they'd be willing to enroll as
 18 well.
 19 I wanted to give you a heads up on that
 20 because that is a big difference.
 21 Please note that the number of students

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1 that are eligible for State aid, they are
 2 students that does not include our P3 or pre-k
 3 program. (Inaudible) increase of about 164,
 4 165 students at this time.
 5 With that (inaudible), I also want you to
 6 know that our teachers are doing an amazing job
 7 teaching right now. We are getting pretty much
 8 a 99.5 percent engagement of our kids. And
 9 that is impressive, and that is done with a lot
 10 of hard work and planning. And our staff has
 11 done an amazing job doing that.
 12 I'm walking through buildings. I see
 13 teachers dressed up as all kinds of characters
 14 because they're acting out things for our pre-k
 15 students. I see stuffed animals on the screen
 16 because they're trying to keep those
 17 kindergarteners engaged.
 18 But they're doing an amazing job. I don't
 19 think our teachers could work any harder at
 20 this time.
 21 And all of our teachers are back in our

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1 building. They have been since August.
 2 And the next slide that I have, and then
 3 I'll entertain some questions, is a slide about
 4 the class of 2020. I am very impressed with
 5 how the class of 2020 ended their school year,
 6 considering we closed on March 13th. We
 7 actually have the highest graduation rate we've
 8 ever had in Talbot County Public Schools with
 9 the class of 2020. It is 90.5.79, and our
 10 dropout rate is below that at 1.58. Last year
 11 it was 93.9 and 4.07.
 12 We have 71 percent of our students plan to
 13 got to a two or four-year college. That's a
 14 little less than last year. But we did have a
 15 large increase in the amount of students in the
 16 class of 2020 that actually took some courses
 17 for dual enrollment because of COVID. I think
 18 a lot of them started working on some of those
 19 courses virtually.
 20 We did have more students take advance
 21 placement course than we've had in the past.

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1 And we had a little less of our students finish
 2 with a career in technology completer than the
 3 year before. That's 40 percent.
 4 Our SAT average went up again for the
 5 fourth year in a row to a 1067. And that's a
 6 composite average. And our scholarships are
 7 still hanging around 14 million, which is
 8 outstanding.
 9 Something I can say is we were just able
 10 to find out that we can now count our NJROTC
 11 program as a CTE completer. So that's going to
 12 be phenomenal for our students that want to
 13 pursue either the military or take NJROTC.
 14 They can do that for their graduation
 15 requirement.
 16 Jessica, the next slide is a list of all
 17 the colleges where our kids were accepted to.
 18 I know that is kind of tiny, but you all will
 19 get the PowerPoint. So I think it's important
 20 that we put this out there to the community
 21 because these are not -- these are truly

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1 acceptances from our students that are going
 2 and they're doing incredible things, along with
 3 their staff.
 4 The next two slides show our support staff
 5 of the year, Tasha Akins. And David Cherry,
 6 our teacher of the year.
 7 So we are actually starting very strong.
 8 Our theme this year is resilience. And I can
 9 tell you that I have been so impressed with the
 10 resilience of the TCPS team and so grateful of
 11 the support of the community and the patience
 12 of our parents.
 13 This has been an amazing feat.
 14 I can tell you that we have everything in
 15 place to make sure that we have the proper PPE
 16 and all of the cleaning supplies that we need.
 17 And we are ready to get our kids back in that
 18 hybrid model starting October 5th. We're
 19 planning that now. That's our goal is to get
 20 that done.
 21 And we just really appreciate everyone's

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1 support, including your support.
 2 And I will be happy to take any questions.
 3 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,
 4 Dr. Griffith, for that report. And it's glad
 5 to see that our students and staff and faculty
 6 have embraced this new reality, and school is
 7 underway here in Talbot County. So that's
 8 excellent reporting.
 9 One question that I do have. I believe
 10 that you hinted to the number of our students
 11 perhaps are now being homeschooled. And how do
 12 they go about setting that up? Do they have to
 13 sign a waiver or something that they have to
 14 produce to you to show that that student is
 15 being homeschooled? Are there quarterly
 16 reports that they have to report out to you for
 17 the homeschooling to be accredited?
 18 DR. GRIFFITH: Yes. We actually have a
 19 homeschool person that actually monitors all
 20 our homeschool families with students services.
 21 And they have to actually, when they withdraw

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1 from us, they have to enroll in an accredited
 2 program.
 3 And we do midyear monitoring and
 4 end-of-year monitoring with reports and data.
 5 So that is something that we have always
 6 done, and we've always had students in Talbot
 7 County that have homeschooled.
 8 We have an increase of about 100
 9 (inaudible) students that have enrolled in
 10 homeschool. So when I say we're 200 less, it's
 11 not all (inaudible) homeschool. It's about
 12 100.
 13 MR. PACK: 100 went to homeschool this
 14 year. Okay.
 15 DR. GRIFFITH: So far. We're hoping to
 16 get some people back now that we're moving
 17 along and we're actually (inaudible) way.
 18 MR. PACK: Okay. And you have an event
 19 taking place on September the 30th at two p.m.
 20 Do you want to talk a little bit about that?
 21 DR. GRIFFITH: Yes. And I probably should

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1 have put that in here. Just with so much going
 2 on, Corey --
 3 MR. PACK: That's okay.
 4 DR. GRIFFITH: September 30th.
 5 MR. PACK: I understand.
 6 DR. GRIFFITH: But yes. We have our grand
 7 opening of our Easton Elementary School
 8 building September 30th at two o'clock. It
 9 will be by invitation only. We will be
 10 outside, but we're really trying to keep it
 11 below 50 people, around more like 38 or 40.
 12 And we are very excited about that new
 13 school project. We really appreciate your
 14 support on this project. (Inaudible) I love
 15 watching them -- and look up at the -- and they
 16 are just so proud of their school.
 17 Dr. Salmon will be here.
 18 MR. PACK: Good.
 19 DR. GRIFFITH: Also for the ribbon
 20 cutting. And I know, Corey, you'll be saying a
 21 few words.

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1 MR. PACK: Yes.
 2 DR. GRIFFITH: We're going to videotape
 3 it. So that Mr. (Inaudible) I don't think is
 4 able to make the trip but really wants to be --
 5 to watch it. So we're going to videotape so we
 6 make sure he gets a copy of that. And anyone
 7 else in the Alumni Association that might want
 8 to be a part of that ceremony.
 9 But we're very excited about the grand
 10 opening.
 11 MR. PACK: As well am I and the rest of
 12 the Council I'm sure.
 13 Dr. Griffith, one last question. Can you
 14 confirm -- the report that I'm hearing is that
 15 the Easton Elementary School will be square
 16 footage wise the largest elementary school in
 17 the State of Maryland. Is that true?
 18 DR. GRIFFITH: I do know that was the case
 19 when we started building the building. I would
 20 have to defer to Kevin to find out if that is
 21 still the case.

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1 MR. PACK: Okay.

2 DR. GRIFFITH: But I believe so. I can

3 get back with you and let you know for sure.

4 MR. PACK: We'll bring Kevin up next, and

5 maybe he'll have an answer for me.

6 But I'll open it up to the rest of the

7 Council. I'm sure they have some comments for

8 you.

9 MR. LESHER: Dr. Griffith, I know that we

10 have a large and growing number of students on

11 free and reduced meals. I know that was an

12 important part of the schools' efforts over the

13 summer, was the feeding programs.

14 And I'm curious how that is changing as we

15 move into the school year.

16 DR. GRIFFITH: Yeah. That's a good

17 question, Mr. Leshner.

18 We are not serving as many meals as we did

19 this summer, which I find really perplexing, to

20 be honest with you.

21 I do think when we get our kids back, we

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1 will be doing more.

2 We do have pickup. Our parents did ask to

3 change the time from four to 5:30 because it's

4 easier for them to pick up the meals after

5 work. So we did change that time. We're

6 hoping that might help get more people to come

7 pick them up.

8 The breakfast and lunch is free to any

9 child two through 18. So we are getting more

10 and more information out there. We are having

11 students that are coming into school eating

12 lunch at school as well.

13 MR. PACK: Okay. Is there anyone else,

14 comments?

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Kelly. Great report.

16 Really appreciate all that you've done, all the

17 teachers and everybody. Really, really

18 appreciate it.

19 Could you clarify something for me,

20 please?

21 DR. GRIFFITH: Sure.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: So you said you had like

2 100 and some that are homeschooled now?

3 DR. GRIFFITH: There's 100 additional

4 students that went to homeschool. We have

5 about 130 students that normally homeschool in

6 Talbot County regularly.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got you. So they're

8 home. Plus 200 less students this year?

9 DR. GRIFFITH: No. Out of the 200 less

10 that are enrolled, 100 did enroll in

11 homeschool.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I got you.

13 DR. GRIFFITH: The other hundred went to

14 either moved or went somewhere else.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you.

16 DR. GRIFFITH: I don't have it all broken

17 down --

18 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem, no problem. I

19 was just kind of thinking through that.

20 With that situation like that, did you

21 feel like that gave you, on some of these

Page 49

1 classrooms, did that give you a little bit of

2 breathing room on some of these classrooms?

3 DR. GRIFFITH: Oh, no. I want them back.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

5 DR. GRIFFITH: No. I want them back.

6 I think what happened, to be honest with

7 you, I think a lot of people jumped to

8 homeschool when they saw what happened in the

9 spring.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Got you.

11 DR. GRIFFITH: And they saw that there

12 were just a couple of assignments.

13 I think now that parents are experiencing

14 virtual school and how well the teachers are

15 doing with it, I think we might get some of

16 those homeschool families back because they see

17 that it will be a choice that they can have

18 moving forward.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: I see.

20 DR. GRIFFITH: We are thinking that there

21 might be some that come back.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got you. Well, I
 2 appreciate that.
 3 DR. GRIFFITH: Sure.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Dr. Griffith, this is Frank
 5 Divilio. If you could, just speak about the
 6 survey for a second. You said about 70 percent
 7 have completed the survey, which gives you the
 8 data you need to decide how many kids are
 9 coming back or how you're doing to handle it?
 10 DR. GRIFFITH: Correct. So we asked
 11 parents to decide if they were going to join us
 12 in the hybrid model going back or if they were
 13 going to remain virtual for the rest of the
 14 semester. We also asked if they would need
 15 transportation and if they would be planning on
 16 using our food service.
 17 So now what we do is we move in our plan
 18 into the next phase, which is the yellow phase.
 19 We're moving out of the orange and into the
 20 yellow as we had planned.
 21 And so now what we will do is if it is

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1 70 percent, 30 percent, we actually have to
 2 look at it by school by grade level. And we
 3 got to really see how many students we would be
 4 able to bring back in that building safely
 5 still keeping six feet social distancing. And
 6 then we'll make a determination of the schedule
 7 of how it will go based on that.
 8 For an example, and I'm just going to use
 9 this as an example that people can kind of wrap
 10 their heads around. Let's say at Tilghman
 11 Island I have 30 percent of my parents or 40
 12 percent of the parents want to come back to
 13 school. You know, 40 percent of Tilghman might
 14 be able to come every day, right.
 15 But if I have 40 percent that want to come
 16 back at Easton High, I might have to do an A
 17 day, B day depending on the number of students.
 18 I might have 70 percent at Easton High and
 19 40 percent at Tilghman.
 20 So we do have to look at each of our
 21 schools. We have to look at the grades. And

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1 then we have to make a determination of how
 2 we're going to do this in a safe manner.
 3 Our goal originally was to do a hybrid
 4 model where the students are coming in a couple
 5 of days a week and then they're going to be
 6 doing asynchronous learning a couple of days a
 7 week, and others would remain virtual.
 8 So we will have to work all of that out.
 9 It will depend also on our buses. Our buses
 10 can only hold 24 students at a time right now.
 11 That is way different than what we normally run
 12 our buses. So when we look at this model, we
 13 also have to look at transportation and where
 14 are those students going to school and how many
 15 buses we're going to be able to use to
 16 transport the students.
 17 So this is a real complex logistics
 18 managing moving target, if you will. But
 19 that's why it's important that parents need to
 20 get back to us because we really want to make
 21 sure we have the right numbers.

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1 I have told parents that if you're on the
 2 fence and you want to come back but you're
 3 still not sure, I said just opt in and say you
 4 want to come back. It's easier to pull them
 5 out virtually than it is to put them in
 6 physically. Because once you get a certain
 7 amount on a bus, you can't just add another
 8 student.
 9 Does that make sense?
 10 MR. DIVILIO: Yes. That is excellent.
 11 DR. GRIFFITH: Safety first.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Yes. So there's one of us
 13 on this Council who spoke out very much for
 14 local control of education.
 15 And you're doing an excellent job of that.
 16 And Talbot County is unique from all the
 17 other counties around, and just like each
 18 county is different.
 19 I greatly appreciate you reaching out to
 20 the families to find out what their wants are
 21 and then putting a plan together around that.

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1 This is completely different than the
 2 spring was. And I want parents and families to
 3 know that. The two weeks of what are we doing
 4 two weeks and what we are going to do for
 5 another two weeks is over. Now we're really
 6 planning for the whole school year. And it's
 7 with community input.
 8 Thank you. Thank you for doing that.
 9 DR. GRIFFITH: You're welcome. It's
 10 really important.
 11 I mean this is a scary thing for some
 12 families, and we just want to assure our
 13 families that safety is first. And we have had
 14 kids come in slowly, steadily, but we're having
 15 success. And we're very proud of that.
 16 MR. PACK: Speaking regarding safety, our
 17 SROs, where do we stand with those school
 18 resource officers? Are we still in need of the
 19 number that we have? Do we think we need to
 20 make some adjustments there with that, the
 21 deployment of those officers?

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1 DR. GRIFFITH: You know our plan is
 2 calling for us to continue to transition in
 3 phase. So actually Steve Elliott reached out
 4 to us today and gave us a plan.
 5 They're using those SROs in the Sheriff's
 6 Department now. So I know Joe is short. So
 7 it's helping him tremendously.
 8 We are also -- they're helping us at meal
 9 distribution sites. We have them. Joe has it
 10 all figured out of how he's going to continue
 11 to use the SROs in our school, but when they're
 12 not, they're doing some things for him as well.
 13 Joe and I are working together on that,
 14 and that's the way I think it needs to work.
 15 MR. PACK: What about the number of
 16 substitute? I guess right now you don't have a
 17 high demand for substitutes, correct?
 18 DR. GRIFFITH: Yeah. We do have some cost
 19 savings, Corey. We have some cost savings
 20 because we didn't start coaching and sports.
 21 We have some cost savings because we're not

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1 doing after-school activities. We have some
 2 cost savings obviously in some of these areas.
 3 But we also have spent a lot more in PPE
 4 and infrastructure and signage and technology
 5 and some other areas.
 6 We've really done a great job I think
 7 personally in getting a lot of grant money.
 8 And we have written for every grant imaginable
 9 to the tune of we've gotten about a million
 10 dollars in grants. So we are really trying
 11 very hard to make sure that we're being good
 12 fiscal stewards of tax payers' money and also
 13 trying to retain resources from grants from
 14 other sources.
 15 MS. PRICE: Hi, Kelly. It's Laura.
 16 Speaking of PPE, the technology and PPE
 17 and all of those things, there was a separate
 18 pot of money, however large or small, that came
 19 from the State to pay for those types of
 20 things.
 21 And one of the things that we've talked

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1 about at our MACo meetings is to make sure that
 2 those items which qualify, which would be the
 3 PPE, the food, and the technology, is paid for
 4 from that pot of money and not from our
 5 operating budget.
 6 Can you tell me if you've exhausted the
 7 money that came from the State for the
 8 COVID-related expenses?
 9 And if you've had to dip into the
 10 operations expenses, then I think that's
 11 something that all the counties need to share
 12 to make sure that we can get those reimbursed
 13 so that those types of expenses don't come out
 14 of the operating budget.
 15 DR. GRIFFITH: Yeah. We are -- we are not
 16 using operating money right now. We're using
 17 our grant funding, whether it's MEMA, FEMA,
 18 whether it's CARES Act, whether it's Gears
 19 fund, we're using that money for the PPE and
 20 all of the things that are COVID related. And
 21 that is the goal.

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1 We also know that the State has just said
 2 they're going to give \$10 million out to
 3 schools that have reopened, and that is us. So
 4 we'll get about \$200,000 with that.
 5 And right now, we're looking at that money
 6 because that's supposed to go to PPE or
 7 transportation. We're looking at that for
 8 second semester. Because we certainly don't
 9 have enough to go for the entire school year,
 10 but I don't know what this COVID is going to
 11 bring second semester. And I would rather be
 12 over prepared than under prepared.
 13 MS. PRICE: Right. We just want to try to
 14 keep obviously the expenditures in two separate
 15 pots. And if there's --
 16 DR. GRIFFITH: Sarah Jones has a
 17 spreadsheet where she's keeping them totally
 18 separate.
 19 MS. PRICE: Right. And submit for those
 20 expenses as we go along.
 21 I guess another big savings right now

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1 would be in transportation since I guess we're
 2 really minimal running of buses, which maybe
 3 will pick as we go along through the semester
 4 and through the school year --
 5 DR. GRIFFITH: (Inaudible) transportation
 6 costs. Because our buses are going to have to
 7 do a couple of runs because of only holding 24
 8 students. We're going to have to do a couple
 9 of runs instead of one. So our transportation
 10 costs might go up.
 11 MS. PRICE: So as parents are making the
 12 decision whether to come back hybrid model,
 13 hopefully a lot of them, maybe they're like
 14 well, I'll have them in school but maybe I'm
 15 not so comfortable with them on the bus.
 16 Maybe people can work out, for anybody who
 17 is listening, carpooling with your neighbors
 18 and friends and transporting the children to
 19 school themselves, if they have the ability to
 20 do so. Not everybody does. They have their
 21 jobs and the timing might not work out. I

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1 guess the more people that are willing to drive
 2 their kids or a couple of kids to school will
 3 take a little bit of the pressure off the bus
 4 systems.
 5 DR. GRIFFITH: Yes. (Inaudible) data from
 6 our survey, our commitment form. We have about
 7 50 percent of our parents that are requesting
 8 bus transportation right now. We still have to
 9 get a third of them in. But we are looking at
 10 less, Laura.
 11 MS. PRICE: Okay. And that's something
 12 that they can do, like I said, if they have the
 13 ability to do so, a way that they can help so
 14 that the budget is going to go into different
 15 places. You have savings in one area and
 16 (inaudible) in another. So anything that
 17 people can do to -- the good old-fashioned
 18 carpool.
 19 DR. GRIFFITH: That's right. Thank you so
 20 much for reminding people of that.
 21 MR. PACK: Okay. Dr. Griffith, thank you

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1 very much for the presentation. And again, I
 2 look forward to seeing you at the grand opening
 3 of the Easton Elementary School next week.
 4 One thing I think Council does have up on
 5 its agenda coming forward, I think the school
 6 districts, the School Board districts have to
 7 be redrawn, if not by the end of this year, by
 8 the first of next year I believe, Dr. Griffith.
 9 Is that correct?
 10 DR. GRIFFITH: I do not know about that.
 11 MR. PACK: Yeah. I think they're up. I
 12 think it's once every ten years. So I would
 13 double-check with Jess.
 14 DR. GRIFFITH: (Inaudible) I'll look into
 15 that.
 16 MR. PACK: Yeah. I think that's coming
 17 up.
 18 So thank you very much for the
 19 presentation. Stay on the line --
 20 MR. DIVILIO: I have a couple of more
 21 questions, if that's okay.

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1 MR. PACK: Let me move on, Mr. Divilio, if
 2 I can because Kevin has a presentation --
 3 MR. DIVILIO: \$1.8 million is significant.
 4 I'd like to just -- if we can go back to \$1.8
 5 million of loss, that that's significant due to
 6 the parents who are not completing the survey.
 7 We need to make sure that everyone completes
 8 that survey.
 9 And again, if anybody is on the fence
 10 about sending the kids back in or not, sign up
 11 for it. And if you're nervous and don't like
 12 it, you have the opportunity to pull out.
 13 But \$1.8 million of lost revenue is
 14 significant. And I want to make sure that
 15 that's correct and that we are getting that
 16 message out.
 17 Is that correct, Dr. Griffith?
 18 DR. GRIFFITH: Well, 1.8 million, the
 19 amount of students that are not enrolled, 200
 20 less that are not enrolled, not the ones that
 21 didn't fill out the survey.

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1 MR. PACK: So they could be homeschooled,
 2 Mr. Divilio. That doesn't mean that the survey
 3 is not filled out.
 4 DR. GRIFFITH: Or they could have gone
 5 somewhere else or they might not have just
 6 enrolled when they moved here. So we need them
 7 to enroll. Right.
 8 MR. PACK: Okay. You got it?
 9 DR. GRIFFITH: Thank you very much.
 10 MR. PACK: Thank you, Kelly. We're going
 11 to move into Kevin now for his presentation.
 12 Kevin.
 13 DR. GRIFFITH: Thank you.
 14 MR. SHAFER: Thank you, President Pack.
 15 Good evening, members of the Council and staff.
 16 I'm going to try -- this is my first Webex
 17 event. Give me one second here. All right.
 18 There we go.
 19 So I come before the Council this evening
 20 to request consideration of the FY22 Talbot
 21 County Public Schools Capital Improvement Plan.

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1 The format of the CIP submission and this
 2 presentation is to provide a prioritized list
 3 and description of capital projects to be
 4 submitted to the Inter-Agency Commission for
 5 public schools construction.
 6 Now I need to figure out how to advance
 7 the slide here. There we go. Sorry about
 8 that.
 9 So the first priority is the complete roof
 10 replacement at Easton High School. The plan
 11 requests funding in FY22 and '23. The roof
 12 continues to be relatively stable but requires
 13 ballasts, as you can see in the pictures, to
 14 prevent wind damage to the roofing membrane.
 15 Our maintenance staff continues to monitor
 16 its performance and make repairs as we move
 17 towards replacement.
 18 Just so the Council is aware, this is a
 19 15-year roof installed in 1997. It's 23 years
 20 old. As I stated, we are maintaining it.
 21 We've had an architect look at it and

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1 multiple roofing experts. And all are
 2 recommending replacement.
 3 But this is a mitigation tactic to keep
 4 those ballasts to prevent further damage from
 5 wind and other weather conditions.
 6 Second priority is a roof replacement at
 7 Chapel District Elementary School, which
 8 specifies funding request in FY24. This roof
 9 also remains relatively stable, and our
 10 maintenance staff does continue to monitor its
 11 performance and make repairs as we move towards
 12 replacement.
 13 This is a different type of roof,
 14 (inaudible) roof, installed in '94. It's 26
 15 years old.
 16 And we -- it's some years away, but we
 17 just want to put it on the back burner so that
 18 the Council is aware that that will need to
 19 take place.
 20 The next slide here displays a portion of
 21 two forms contained within the CIP document.

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1 The top portion is from form 102. It's page 13
 2 of the packet that displays the cost associated
 3 with the Easton High School roof replacement.
 4 So moving from left to right in the green, it
 5 gives the total estimated budget for the
 6 project of 5,072,000, local funds 2.65 million
 7 and State funding would be 2.41 million. And
 8 this is over two years, if you notice, FY22 and
 9 23.
 10 So that cost is broken out a little bit
 11 further in the bottom part of that slide, which
 12 is from form 102.4. And it shows from left to
 13 right there highlighted in green, the total
 14 costs, then the State and local.
 15 I have the prior public school
 16 construction/IEC funds highlighted in pink
 17 there as zero, but there is a chance that there
 18 will be some remaining State funding from the
 19 Easton Elementary School projects, which is
 20 still up in the air. Obviously as we move
 21 towards close-out of that at the end of this

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1 year, it could be somewhere around a couple
 2 hundred thousand dollars.
 3 And then it shows the current requests
 4 column of 1.2 million, 1,208,000, for the State
 5 for this coming year in FY22. And then the
 6 other half of that, which would happen in '23.
 7 And that would mirror basically the same costs
 8 locally. And then you'd see the Chapel roof in
 9 FY24 for 542,000 for half the cost of that.
 10 And I just wanted to talk very quickly.
 11 We've been working with a roofing vendor, which
 12 is where we generated these cost estimates.
 13 And I've also had discussion with the public
 14 schools construction program, the IAC, about
 15 where we are coming in at on roof costs. And
 16 on the Eastern Shore, we're looking at anywhere
 17 from 26 to \$32 a square foot. Western shore,
 18 they're upwards of 40. And the public school
 19 construction program is seeing those kinds of
 20 costs, real costs in projects taking place now.
 21 And it is a little bit shocking to me, and

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1 the Council is probably aware that back when we
 2 replaced the St. Michael's roof, we were
 3 looking at \$14, \$15 a square foot. So almost
 4 double the cost in a five-year window.
 5 But like I said, I'm not exactly sure what
 6 is driving that. I'm hearing that it's --
 7 well, I can tell you that of that \$5 million
 8 estimated cost, only about a million of that is
 9 for the actual roofing product and the
 10 remainder is for the labor associated with the
 11 install. And that is, like I said, that's
 12 consistent with local projects that are being
 13 conducted now.
 14 So I wanted to make the Council aware of
 15 those upcoming projects and the requests that
 16 will be submitted to the State with that
 17 document.
 18 So at this time, I am requesting that the
 19 Council consider supporting the FQ22 CIP as
 20 submitted, but certainly I can answer any
 21 questions that you may have prior to

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1 consideration.
 2 MR. PACK: Is there any questions out
 3 there for Kevin regarding the CIP request?
 4 MR. LESHER: Yes. Mr. Shafer, on the
 5 roofs, are the proposed replacements in-kind,
 6 that is membrane roof for the existing
 7 (inaudible) and so forth?
 8 MR. SHAFER: So yes. The Easton High
 9 School roof would be (inaudible) roof
 10 (inaudible) that acronym. But it is a standard
 11 roofing product.
 12 So one of the things I didn't mention, and
 13 it's a good question, is another part of the
 14 increased costs is that the specifications
 15 required by the State have changed
 16 significantly. So these would be a 30-year
 17 roof rather than the cheaper 15, that includes
 18 additional elements, including two layers of
 19 vapor barrier and specific thicknesses for the
 20 actual membrane and so on and so forth.
 21 So yes. To answer the question, Easton

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1 High School would be a replacement roof of a
 2 similar kind. Chapel, that would not be. We
 3 would not install (inaudible). Those are
 4 astronomically priced. And we would install an
 5 EPD (inaudible) there at that time.
 6 MR. LESHER: Okay. Thank you.
 7 MR. PACK: Any other questions?
 8 Kevin, Council's consideration for the CIP
 9 tonight doesn't bind us into this \$2.6 million
 10 projected cost right now. It just gives you
 11 the means to go ahead and make the application
 12 to the State for the two projects. Is that
 13 correct?
 14 MR. SHAFER: It would (inaudible)
 15 requesting a letter of support from the Council
 16 for the FY22 submission, which would be
 17 (inaudible) Easton High School roof. Yes.
 18 MR. PACK: When does it have to be turned
 19 in by, Kevin?
 20 MR. SHAFER: October 5th I believe is the
 21 deadline.

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1 MS. PRICE: So obviously the elephant in
 2 the room is that we -- well, I guess I'll start
 3 with the good news, is that we ended this
 4 fiscal year with an extra chunk of income tax
 5 revenues, which is one-time distribution. And
 6 of course, with the economy the way it's going
 7 and the uncertainty, everybody expects that
 8 State revenues are going to be down, local
 9 revenues are going to be down.
 10 We have some things coming up on the
 11 ballot in a couple of months. If they pass on
 12 the ballot initiatives, will help, but
 13 certainly don't get us all the way there. We
 14 still don't have enough money on an annual
 15 basis to be making the payments on the new
 16 elementary school.
 17 We understand that we need new roofs, but
 18 I get concerned when you support something
 19 going to the State. And yes, they need to pay
 20 their share as well, but it kind of starts the
 21 ball rolling and saying that we support this.

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1 We don't know that we can afford a 5 million,
 2 even half of a \$5 million roof when we're going
 3 to be having a hard time making ends meet.
 4 And we know that it cost money to maintain
 5 them. It's not that anybody believes that --
 6 again, certain things are needed. But some
 7 things are going to have to be put off because
 8 we just simply won't have the money.
 9 And the State school construction fund is
 10 actually tied to Kirwan and Kirwan is kind of a
 11 mess. And we'll see what happens in this
 12 upcoming legislative year, but something that
 13 they tied, they married the two things, the
 14 pieces of legislation last year.
 15 And MACo is advocating for at least
 16 continued school construction money, which is
 17 also I assume for roofs and new construction.
 18 I guess that's the long way of saying that
 19 I have major concerns, as I always do. And
 20 that when you write a letter of support, you
 21 know, if you get your State funds, while we're

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1 not "obligated," you almost -- you can't say no
 2 at that point.
 3 So is it something that you feel like you
 4 have to submit this year or because we have all
 5 of these other expenditures and other things
 6 that we have to pay for that are already on the
 7 books, that are already debt on our column, I'm
 8 going to say can this wait a year and continue
 9 maintenance and just see where we come out of
 10 this and how long we're stuck in COVID land?
 11 MR. SHAFER: So Ms. Price, I'm getting
 12 (inaudible).
 13 So I would say, number one, as part of my
 14 job, I'm obligated to ask for the funds
 15 associated with these projects. And the county
 16 obviously has a responsibility to maintain the
 17 buildings. Easton High School (inaudible)
 18 building. (Inaudible) is what protects all of
 19 that.
 20 So it is (inaudible) that we prioritize
 21 projects like this to protect our assets,

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1 right. With that said, we have survived the
 2 23rd year with that roof. I would be remiss if
 3 I didn't express to the Council that there is a
 4 risk there. (Inaudible) failure -- that cannot
 5 (inaudible) through repair. So I just want to
 6 make sure that it is clear. I would say it's
 7 bordering (inaudible).
 8 MS. PRICE: You're breaking up a little
 9 bit.
 10 MR. SHAFER: I'm sorry. Just to restate
 11 it, it is a project that -- the roof at Easton
 12 High School is bordering on an emergency. I
 13 don't think anybody can really say if we can
 14 wait on it. I do think it should be a
 15 priority, though.
 16 MR. PACK: Kevin, I don't know if I've
 17 seen any -- I know that the Easton High School
 18 roof has been brought up before with Council.
 19 So I know that it has been on your list before
 20 and we passed it up and pushed it down the road
 21 or kicked the can, as some would say.

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1 I don't remember seeing the last report,
 2 if there was a report done on that rooftop.
 3 I know several years ago I believe
 4 Mr. Bartlett went up on that rooftop and took a
 5 look at it himself. I'm going back several
 6 Councils.
 7 So you're absolutely right. It is the
 8 responsibility of the county for maintenance
 9 and repair of those buildings. We certainly
 10 don't want this roof to fail or fail any
 11 further after we spent hundreds of thousands of
 12 dollars putting a new air conditioner in that
 13 building.
 14 So a letter of support is different than a
 15 letter of commitment.
 16 I would like to have the opportunity, and
 17 I wish we had another week or so for me to sit
 18 down with Ms. Lane and look at these numbers a
 19 bit closer. That's the only thing that gives
 20 me pause right now this evening, is that you
 21 need this letter back by October the 5th.

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1 Council won't be coming back together until the
 2 week after that.
 3 Is it any way possible we can get an
 4 opportunity or at least I can get an
 5 opportunity to speak with Ms. Lane before you
 6 get an actual vote on this?
 7 MR. HOLLIS: Mr. President, it's Andy.
 8 Sorry.
 9 So I just want to remind Council every
 10 year when the letter goes up, you do include a
 11 sentence that says subject to the availability
 12 of adequate county funding at the time each
 13 project is scheduled to be initiated. Don't
 14 know if that provides you with the comfort
 15 level you need or not.
 16 MR. PACK: Well, actually, Mr. Hollis,
 17 that would provide me with plenty of comfort
 18 level, then. If that language is always built
 19 into that letter of support, that would
 20 certainly give us, give me enough time to sit
 21 down with Ms. Lane and go through the numbers

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1 more closely.
 2 But Kevin, you're absolutely right. Your
 3 job is to present to us your priority list. I
 4 do know that the Easton High School roof has
 5 been an issue for a number of years. So this
 6 isn't anything new. And perhaps its lifetime
 7 has just come to a point where it needs to be
 8 redone or resurfaced.
 9 So I would vote to support the letter of
 10 support with the language that Mr. Hollis just
 11 laid out also be included in that letter to go
 12 up to the State.
 13 And I'll hear from the rest of Council at
 14 this time.
 15 MR. LESHER: I think as Mr. Shafer put it,
 16 you've got to protect your assets. And putting
 17 off a roof in danger of catastrophic failure is
 18 penny wise and pound foolish.
 19 The county went through a disaster like
 20 this back in the 1990s with the St. Michael's
 21 building and got a bailout from the State at

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1 that time. We can't count on that kind of
 2 thing happening again. I think they've changed
 3 the State procedures on that since then.
 4 We need to take care of the properties
 5 we've got. And when we're being told that
 6 they're getting close to a state of emergency,
 7 this is time to do it.
 8 I'll certainly support this.
 9 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I think, Kevin,
 11 you're telling us straight up like it is.
 12 A lot of times when you go, if you're
 13 seeing failures right now, I mean a lot of
 14 times it's, per se, it's too late. So you need
 15 to act now.
 16 And look, Ms. Price, I fully understand
 17 that we're in a budget (inaudible) in a sense
 18 with the pandemic and all that, but we've got
 19 to protect this asset. And this just gets the
 20 ball rolling, in one sense of the way and no
 21 commitment at this time. And we're just going

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1 to have to make that decision next year when
 2 Kevin comes back to us and says this is what
 3 it's going to cost. I mean it needs a new
 4 roof.
 5 MR. PACK: Mr. Divilio.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: I agree. And I accept
 7 Mr. Shafer's recommendation.
 8 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, will you make it
 9 unanimous?
 10 MS. PRICE: Yes. I just always want to
 11 make sure (inaudible) get the message out and
 12 voice our concerns and why we need more tax
 13 revenue and keeping that aware and out there.
 14 But yes.
 15 MR. PACK: Absolutely. Duly noted.
 16 It is unanimous, Mr. Shafer. So go ahead.
 17 We'll get that. I guess Jess will work with
 18 you to get the letter drafted and add my
 19 signature to it and send it up with you.
 20 Kevin, do you have one more presentation
 21 before we let you go?

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1 MR. SHAFER: No. That was it.
 2 MR. PACK: That was it. Okay, sir. Then
 3 I'll go ahead and say good-bye to you. Thanks,
 4 Kev.
 5 MR. SHAFER: Thank you.
 6 MR. PACK: And Council, we're going to
 7 hear now from our president of the Talbot
 8 County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association.
 9 Mr. Phil Starkey has been patiently waiting on
 10 hold with us. I know they have a 7:30 meeting.
 11 Phil, I'm sorry that we couldn't get you
 12 on any sooner. There you are. Lower that
 13 camera a little bit for me, Phil. There we go.
 14 And so, Phil, I know you have a number of
 15 requests for Council. Thank you very much for
 16 being with us. And I'll turn it over to you,
 17 sir.
 18 MR. STARKEY: Well, thank you, President
 19 Pack and rest of the Council for entertaining
 20 me tonight.
 21 I have a few things (inaudible) the fire

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1 companies overall have done a really good job
 2 with handling the COVID. And with the lack of
 3 fundraisers, they adjusted.
 4 MR. PACK: Did he freeze?
 5 MR. STARKEY: The hope.
 6 MR. PACK: Okay. Phil, we're getting some
 7 interruption in your feed. Why don't you try
 8 to start over again. Let's see if we can pick
 9 you up here.
 10 MS. PRICE: One suggestion, if he doesn't
 11 have great cell service, he could turn off his
 12 video and just try speaking. Yup.
 13 Phil, you might try without the video feed
 14 and just speaking. It might help with the
 15 amount of megabytes on your connection.
 16 MR. PACK: You can try that, Phil.
 17 We do have your letter, Phil. So we have
 18 that in front of us as well.
 19 So if you want to drop the camera off and
 20 just go with your audio and let's try that.
 21 Okay?

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1 MR. STARKEY: Okay. How is that? Is that
 2 any better?
 3 MR. PACK: That is much better. Let's go
 4 with that. Thank you.
 5 MR. STARKEY: Like I was saying, the fire
 6 departments have done really well. We really
 7 thank you guys as the Council for approving the
 8 home testing. The home testing was a big
 9 success for all the departments, especially
 10 with the lack of funding because of the
 11 fundraisers.
 12 The chiefs, Sonny Jones has done an
 13 excellent job with each committee. They've
 14 been steady meeting every month. He is
 15 currently working on, with the other chiefs, to
 16 come up with a package deal so for gear
 17 purchase, which will help save the companies
 18 and the county money in the long run by doing
 19 one purchase per year.
 20 The companies have also, the engineers
 21 have been meeting with all the companies and

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1 they've been setting up drills. So it's been a
 2 really good working relationship with all seven
 3 companies. They do it once a month. Even
 4 through the COVID, they've come up with
 5 training seminars. So it's done really well.
 6 A couple of other things that the Talbot
 7 County Association has done, the R and R did
 8 set up a 4H fair, the virtual, whatever it was
 9 called, for the 4H fair. They did some
 10 recruitment.
 11 The county, St. Michael's, Tilghman
 12 Island, and Easton has about 12 new
 13 firefighters that are currently in class at
 14 this time. Eight at nighttime and I think four
 15 students through the vo tech, which is a great
 16 thing because we weren't really promoting the
 17 COVID -- yeah. We weren't really promoting the
 18 crewman because of the COVID situation because
 19 a lot of companies weren't meeting and just
 20 trying to abide by the rules and regulations
 21 from the COVID stuff.

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1 I want to also give kudos to Clay and
 2 Brian and Holly for all the excellent work
 3 they've done this summer. We've had a couple
 4 of big fires. Dispatchers did an excellent
 5 job. The chiefs gave them kudos.
 6 Thank you guys for putting that
 7 (inaudible) into service for five days a week,
 8 12 hours a day. It was excellent. We all
 9 appreciate it, especially on the north end.
 10 Jane that was doing the food distribution,
 11 she did an excellent job. She gave each
 12 company was getting food donated to the
 13 companies and we were disbursing it within the
 14 community. We did it all summer long. Her and
 15 I coordinated together to get food to the
 16 stations on Thursdays and the stations gave it
 17 out to the communities, which really worked out
 18 well. And actually some of the stations wished
 19 they kept it going but I guess the federal
 20 funding had run out.
 21 That's kind of basically what has been

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1 going on with the association.
 2 There's two things I've come to you guys
 3 also tonight.
 4 One, I will be sending a letter. Just to
 5 make you guys aware that I'm going to be
 6 sending a letter of request to look at possible
 7 assistance to some of the funds that were lost
 8 due to fundraising activities that were
 9 canceled due to the COVID. I haven't sat down
 10 with all the presidents from the stations yet,
 11 but once we get that meeting done and come up
 12 with a dollar figure, I will be sending that up
 13 to the Council for review and we'll discuss it
 14 then.
 15 The main thing that I've come to you guys
 16 tonight about is the longevity awards program.
 17 It's a program, LOSAP program that's based on
 18 50 points. Due to the COVID, a lot of the
 19 activities, the drills, the fundraising events,
 20 meetings have been canceled. So people aren't
 21 accumulating the points that might be necessary

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<p>1 to get to 50 points by the end of the year.</p> <p>2 So I would like to ask the Council for a</p> <p>3 waiver based upon the status of the people from</p> <p>4 the previous year. So if they met the</p> <p>5 requirements the previous year and they were on</p> <p>6 the road this year but don't quite have enough</p> <p>7 points by the end of the. . .</p> <p>8 MS. PRICE: Phil?</p> <p>9 MR. STARKEY: Yes.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: I thought we lost you there for</p> <p>11 a second.</p> <p>12 MR. STARKEY: No. I'm sorry.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Okay.</p> <p>14 MR. STARKEY: The presidents of the</p> <p>15 companies can adjust the point system so</p> <p>16 they'll have their 50 points at the end of the</p> <p>17 year. But the stipulation is that person has</p> <p>18 to have 50 points the previous year to show</p> <p>19 that they were an active member.</p> <p>20 So I guess my request is, for tonight, for</p> <p>21 the county to allow the departments to adjust</p>	<p>1 speaks of a waiver request. So in essence, you</p> <p>2 are waiving the 50-point requirement for this</p> <p>3 year based on the captain or the president</p> <p>4 signing off on that.</p> <p>5 MR. HOLLIS: Mr. President, (inaudible)</p> <p>6 back on.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: Did we lose him?</p> <p>8 MR. HOLLIS: It sounds like it.</p> <p>9 MR. STARKEY: I'm here.</p> <p>10 MR. HOLLIS: Okay.</p> <p>11 MR. STARKEY: Can you hear me?</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Yeah, we hear you. You're</p> <p>13 going in and out, Phil.</p> <p>14 MR. STARKEY: I'm sorry.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: It's okay.</p> <p>16 MR. STARKEY: We've got bad reception up</p> <p>17 here.</p> <p>18 MS. PRICE: So Phil, this is Laura. Are</p> <p>19 you basically just saying if they qualified</p> <p>20 last year, they qualify this year and just</p> <p>21 let's just carry them over?</p>
<p>Page 87</p> <p>1 the point system with the acceptance of the</p> <p>2 president's signature on the paper.</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Phil, have you submitted that?</p> <p>4 I know we do have your letter in front of</p> <p>5 us, but have you submitted that breakdown to us</p> <p>6 as far as how that would work? And was this</p> <p>7 voted on unanimously of all the chiefs to go</p> <p>8 ahead and waive the 50-point requirement for</p> <p>9 this year?</p> <p>10 MR. STARKEY: It was discussed. We had a</p> <p>11 presidents meeting, and it was discussed. It</p> <p>12 wouldn't necessarily be a waiver of the 50</p> <p>13 points. It would be an adjustment. So if Joe</p> <p>14 Blow comes in in December and has in December</p> <p>15 has 48 points. So this would be the president</p> <p>16 of the company (inaudible) authority to</p> <p>17 (inaudible) the two (inaudible) based on their</p> <p>18 previous -- I think we're going to have any</p> <p>19 mention of that (inaudible), but there is going</p> <p>20 to be a year. . .</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: So in essence, your letter</p>	<p>Page 89</p> <p>1 MR. STARKEY: That's pretty much it, yeah.</p> <p>2 MS. PRICE: I think that's the least we</p> <p>3 can do.</p> <p>4 MR. STARKEY: In the long run, because</p> <p>5 basically the State, the same point system, are</p> <p>6 pretty close, it's not identical, but the same</p> <p>7 system is used for the Maryland tax system.</p> <p>8 And the State more or less has given the</p> <p>9 authority for the fire companies to adjust the</p> <p>10 points to members that are active.</p> <p>11 So I'm asking for basically the same thing</p> <p>12 for the longevity program for you guys.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: So you're saying the State has</p> <p>14 already granted waiver of the point system for</p> <p>15 the taxes?</p> <p>16 MR. STARKEY: The way the State attorney</p> <p>17 has came back to us from the Maryland State</p> <p>18 Fireman's Association is they said -- on how to</p> <p>19 accumulate the points. What happens to them --</p> <p>20 anybody who (inaudible) on paper. As long as</p> <p>21 the president and the chief of that company</p>

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1 sign off on it, then they don't really have any
 2 background to go back and say (inaudible)
 3 because they're depending on the companies to
 4 certify that there is actual (inaudible)
 5 because they're telling us that if we write up
 6 a paper saying X amount of people (inaudible)
 7 COVID, everybody gets a point for that meeting
 8 or (inaudible) went ahead from (inaudible) sign
 9 off on. So if we get audited, it will be
 10 (inaudible) but didn't happen because of COVID,
 11 the 50 points.
 12 And according to the charter, I think it's
 13 (inaudible).
 14 MS. PRICE: We're not hearing what you're
 15 saying. It's (inaudible). It's all static.
 16 So phone call with Phil unfortunately is not
 17 working.
 18 MR. PACK: Phil, why don't we do this.
 19 MR. STARKEY: I'm really sorry.
 20 MR. PACK: I certainly get the gist of
 21 what you're asking for.

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1 I would ask that you allow us time to
 2 digest your request. If you could send us the
 3 information from the AG allowing each
 4 department, each volunteer department in the
 5 State to sign off on the point requirement for
 6 the property tax waiver that volunteer firemen
 7 are entitled to based on their number of hours
 8 of work each year, if you could send us that to
 9 look at along with your request.
 10 And my question to you, again, is that if
 11 this was a unanimous decision by all the chiefs
 12 of the fire departments, I would also like to
 13 know if it was unanimous as well to do this.
 14 If you could send us that, so we can take a
 15 look at it.
 16 I would also like Mr. Kupersmith to also
 17 look at it as well. And we could certainly
 18 give it the full consideration of following
 19 what the AG appears to have been doing, which
 20 is to give consideration for any volunteer that
 21 was impacted by COVID. And that would give us

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1 something to look at as well.
 2 MR. STARKEY: Okay. I'll put it all in
 3 writing and send it to you guys.
 4 MR. PACK: Okay.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Starkey, this is Frank
 6 Divilio. So am I getting this right that
 7 members who would normally get points for
 8 attending the fundraisers that we caused you to
 9 cancel or members that would normally go to
 10 trainings and things like that that were
 11 canceled due to COVID because of restrictions
 12 and not being able to come out, so they lost
 13 out on those points due to the COVID-19
 14 restrictions?
 15 So we would just be allowing a waiver for
 16 those points that we caused your members to not
 17 be able to get; is that correct?
 18 MR. STARKEY: That's correct, yes.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: Okay. Then yes. As a
 20 volunteer organization, I'm more than happy to
 21 support you guys. And I appreciate everybody

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1 still staying, volunteering, wanting to keep
 2 their points up through this year.
 3 MR. LESHER: I second Mr. Divilio's
 4 motion.
 5 MR. PACK: I didn't hear a motion. I
 6 heard a support for what Mr. Starkey had
 7 introduced.
 8 My request is for additional information
 9 to be sent down based on the AG's
 10 interpretation of that for us to take a look
 11 at.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. President, I think in
 13 this particular situation, I think it seems
 14 pretty simple to me. He's just asking for a
 15 waiver.
 16 MS. PRICE: I would just say have him send
 17 the information. We can certainly do a vote
 18 here tonight to support that. If there's
 19 something in the paperwork that doesn't allow
 20 us to do so, then we have to rescind it.
 21 But I think, Mr. Divilio, you're correct.

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1 This is a volunteer organization. It's not
 2 their fault that (inaudible) points. So I
 3 think in theory we could make the motion. I'll
 4 support that.
 5 And if there's something that doesn't
 6 match up in the paperwork, but I certainly
 7 trust what he's trying to tell us. (Inaudible)
 8 we're missing half of what he's saying.
 9 MR. PACK: That's another point, too,
 10 Ms. Price. I would just caution.
 11 I do understand Mr. Divilio's passion
 12 wanting to get out there to be first. But if
 13 we can just wait and let him send us the
 14 information, allow Mr. Kupersmith to look it
 15 over.
 16 We don't have to do a formal vote. We can
 17 just approve this and send the letter back up
 18 saying that it's approved and just sign off on
 19 it. So it doesn't have to be a formal public
 20 vote on it, but at least we get a chance to
 21 make sure that what we're reading and what

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1 we're agreeing to is correct.
 2 MS. PRICE: So I think what you're hearing
 3 is that we're in support of this and we just
 4 want to --
 5 MR. PACK: I'm in support of it as well.
 6 I just want to make sure there's good grounds
 7 to do it.
 8 MS. PRICE: Yup. Dot the Is, cross the
 9 Ts, and I think we'll probably be good.
 10 MR. STARKEY: Okay. And I can get you
 11 guys the paperwork and you guys will have it
 12 and hopefully have a better understanding.
 13 Thank you, guys, for your support. I'll
 14 get it to you --
 15 MR. PACK: I'm sorry that (inaudible) you
 16 can make it over to your meeting. I know it's
 17 about 25 of the hour now.
 18 MR. STARKEY: It's okay.
 19 MR. PACK: And we'll sign and get it back
 20 over to you, Phil. Thank you.
 21 MR. STARKEY: Thank you, guys.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: Another one.
 2 MR. PACK: Okay. The next thing we have
 3 is -- I lost my place here. Number of
 4 resolutions. We have a public hearing. I'm
 5 sorry, no. We have several numbered
 6 resolutions.
 7 Madam Secretary, the first one is dealing
 8 with Talbot County comprehensive water and
 9 sewer plan reclassification. If you would read
 10 the title to that, please.
 11 SECRETARY: A resolution to amend the
 12 Talbot County comprehensive water and sewer
 13 plan, to reclassify and remap residential real
 14 property located on Ferry Bridge Road, Easton,
 15 Maryland 21601. Described as tax map 24,
 16 parcels 69, 70, and 191 from unprogrammed to
 17 S-1 immediate priority status.
 18 MR. HOLLIS: County engineer should be on
 19 the call.
 20 MR. PACK: Okay. Mr. Clarke, are you with
 21 us? Ray, are you with us?

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1 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir, I'm here.
 2 MR. PACK: Okay. Madam Secretary just
 3 read the resolution dealing with tax map 24
 4 parcels 69, 70, and 191.
 5 Would you care to comment on it before we
 6 introduce?
 7 MR. CLARKE: Sure. Just let the Council
 8 know that we have received an application from
 9 the three property owners based upon their
 10 request to amend the comp water and sewer plan
 11 to include their lots within the sewer service
 12 area.
 13 These lots are located basically I guess
 14 across the Unionville bridge that goes over the
 15 Miles River. They're pretty much across from
 16 Rest Circle or just northeast of Rest Circle.
 17 MR. PACK: Okay. And right now they're
 18 listed as unprogrammed, Ray?
 19 MR. CLARKE: That is correct, yes, sir.
 20 MR. PACK: Do you know if there's anything
 21 about the lots that we should know? Is the

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1 septic system failing or has any of these
 2 septic systems failed already?
 3 MR. CLARKE: Not to my knowledge, no.
 4 MR. PACK: Okay. Any other questions for
 5 Mr. Clarke on the introduction of this
 6 resolution?
 7 MR. LESHER: Mr. Clarke, this is the same
 8 pipe that comes down Unionville, down
 9 St. Michael's Road, and ultimately connects up
 10 with the region two sewer plan. Is that
 11 correct?
 12 MR. CLARKE: That is correct, yes.
 13 MR. LESHER: And is this the same line
 14 where we've had all those problems with the
 15 underground joints failing resulting in spills
 16 over the last couple of years? Is that the
 17 main that these would be using?
 18 MR. CLARKE: Actually the problems tend to
 19 happen with our release valve. And a lot of
 20 them on this line it goes down more (inaudible)
 21 Market is located.

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1 MR. LESHER: Do we have a plan to address
 2 those failures system wide or we're just
 3 tackling them as they fail?
 4 MR. CLARKE: We are currently trying to
 5 work on that with (inaudible) development I
 6 guess a monitoring system.
 7 MR. PACK: Any further questions,
 8 Mr. Leshner?
 9 MR. LESHER: Just I think that we need
 10 to -- as we add more properties to that line, I
 11 think that we ought to be attentive to the
 12 existing problems there to make sure that we've
 13 got a plan to tackle them.
 14 MR. PACK: I'm sure that Mr. Clarke does
 15 have a very extensive plan as well as the
 16 Public Works Advisory Board. That's something
 17 that we always are looking at as we have our
 18 monthly meetings. INI has been a big problem
 19 across our lines for years.
 20 If there's no further question on the
 21 reading of the resolution, Madam Secretary,

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1 because we're doing this virtually, I will ask
 2 that you call the roll on the introduction of
 3 the resolution.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 5 MR. PACK: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 11 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 13 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 14 MR. PACK: Okay. And you have a number
 15 for me, Madam Secretary?
 16 SECRETARY: Yes. This will be known as
 17 Resolution Number 293, and public hearing will
 18 be on Tuesday, October 27th, at 6:30 p.m.
 19 MR. PACK: Okay, 27th at 6:30. Thank you
 20 very much, Madam Secretary.
 21 Council, you do have a second resolution.

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1 I will ask Madam Secretary to read that one.
 2 SECRETARY: A resolution to amend the
 3 Talbot County comprehensive water and sewer
 4 plan to approve a capital project for the
 5 improvements associated with Talbot County
 6 Resolution 235.
 7 MR. PACK: Mr. Clarke, I'll turn it over
 8 to you for a bit more explanation.
 9 MR. CLARKE: Sure thing. This is coming
 10 from the Maryland Department of the
 11 Environment. They've requested that we go
 12 ahead and introduce a resolution to identify
 13 the pump station improvements for pump station
 14 number one, as well as identifying I guess the
 15 capacity for Royal Oak pump station number one,
 16 which was incorporated into the resolution.
 17 This is to help us in securing I guess
 18 both loans and grants through the Maryland
 19 Department of the Environment. So that's what
 20 we're working to try and I guess address their
 21 questions and concerns.

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<p>1 MR. PACK: Okay. Any questions of 2 Mr. Clarke on the resolution? 3 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, as we are 4 virtual for the introduction of the resolution, 5 please call the roll. 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 7 MR. PACK: Aye. 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 9 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 13 MS. PRICE: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 15 MR. LESHER: Aye. 16 MR. PACK: Madam Secretary, you have a 17 number for us? 18 SECRETARY: Yes. This will be known as 19 Resolution Number 294, and the public hearing 20 will be on Tuesday, October 27th, at 6:30 p.m. 21 MR. PACK: Thank you very much.</p>	<p>1 were done through a Rural Development loan. 2 What we're doing is we're going to MDE 3 seeking both I guess potential grant funds as 4 well as a refinancing of the loan to help lower 5 the overall cost of the loan costs. 6 MR. PACK: Okay. 7 MR. CLARKE: And based upon our submission 8 of paperwork in January last year, one of the 9 issues was not having the comp water and sewer 10 plan amended, as well as not getting approval 11 through the Smart Growth Committee. So this 12 will achieve all that. 13 MR. PACK: Okay. Any other questions of 14 Mr. Clarke on this resolution? 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. I'm sorry. 16 MR. PACK: Go ahead. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: So do we have -- are we 18 doing brown grease right now or are we making 19 arrangements to do that? 20 MR. CLARKE: No. We are currently 21 treating for brown grease as well. We're doing</p>
<p>Page 103</p> <p>1 And we do have a third matter for 2 introduction. Madam Secretary, if you'll read 3 that one. 4 SECRETARY: A resolution to amend the 5 Talbot County comprehensive water and sewer 6 plan Resolution 204, a resolution to add a 7 capital project to upgrade the Talbot County 8 bio-solids facility at 9786 Klondike Road, tax 9 map 18, parcel 57, to add receiving and 10 treatment capability for brown grease, equipped 11 with odor control, proposed for FY2014 with 12 funding in the amount of \$6 million through 13 Rural Utility Service Program, USDA Rural 14 Development, bio-solids facility, Klondike 15 Road, Easton, Maryland. 16 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary. 17 Mr. Clarke, didn't we do some improvements 18 on this facility about four years ago, four, 19 five years ago? 20 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir, we did. We ended 21 up with those improvements, those improvements</p>	<p>Page 105</p> <p>1 septage and brown grease. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 3 MR. PACK: If you remember, Mr. Callahan, 4 about a year ago we weren't getting the amount 5 of grease that we were hoping to get, and 6 Mr. Clarke was trying to devise a plan to reach 7 out to some of those restaurants in the area to 8 get more grease. 9 I think there was a place up in Ridgely, 10 Ray, that was taking brown grease. 11 MR. CLARKE: If I'm not mistaken, Hurlock. 12 MR. PACK: Hurlock, okay. 13 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir. 14 MR. PACK: Okay. Yeah. So we're still 15 taking it. We're just trying to get more of it 16 to pay off this loan. 17 Any other questions? 18 Madam Secretary, since we are virtual, 19 would you please call the roll for the 20 introduction of this resolution. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p>

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1 MR. PACK: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. Mr. Callahan.
 5 MR. PACK: Hey, Chuck?
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 7 MR. PACK: Madam Secretary is calling you
 8 for your vote.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Can you hear me?
 10 SECRETARY: Yes.
 11 MR. PACK: I can hear you, yes.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, yes.
 13 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 14 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 16 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 17 MR. PACK: Okay. Madam Secretary, you
 18 have a number for us?
 19 SECRETARY: Yes. This will be known as
 20 Resolution Number 295. The public hearing will
 21 be on Tuesday, October 27th, at 6:30 p.m.

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1 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam
 2 Secretary, for that. I certainly appreciate
 3 it.
 4 And Council, next matter for us is a
 5 public hearing. This is on -- I'm sorry. I
 6 take that back. This is also introduction of
 7 legislation. This is dealing with the
 8 amendment to Chapter 172 of the Talbot County
 9 Tax Code.
 10 Madam Secretary, would you please read the
 11 title of the bill, please.
 12 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 172 of
 13 the Talbot County Code, taxation, to authorize
 14 the creation of special taxing districts in
 15 Talbot County for the purpose of installing,
 16 maintaining, and operating street lighting
 17 along county roads and when such improvements
 18 are approved by the Maryland Department of
 19 Transportation, State Highway Administration,
 20 along State highways within Talbot County.
 21 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam

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1 Secretary.
 2 Mr. Kupersmith, are you or Mr. Hollis
 3 taking this?
 4 MR. KUPERSMITH: I'm happy to take this
 5 one.
 6 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 7 MR. KUPERSMITH: So this piece of
 8 legislation would authorize the creation of
 9 special taxing districts throughout the county
 10 for the purpose of providing street lighting.
 11 The most important thing to note in
 12 connection with this legislation is that these
 13 street lighting districts would only be created
 14 upon the receipt of a petition signed by at
 15 least 60 percent of the owners of property
 16 located in the proposed district.
 17 So the Council or the county would not be
 18 creating these districts on their own. It
 19 would have to receive a petition from the
 20 citizens who live in the area.
 21 MR. PACK: Mr. Kupersmith, that's a very

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1 important distinction to make.
 2 How would the Council go about, A,
 3 garnishing that petition? Would it go out as a
 4 ballot question? Would it go out -- could they
 5 come to the fire station and vote for it? And
 6 how do we or who would actually map out the
 7 catch area, if you would, for that population
 8 to be questioned or surveyed?
 9 MR. KUPERSMITH: That's a good question.
 10 There are a couple of different scenarios could
 11 occur.
 12 You could have a scenario where there's a
 13 neighborhood and the neighborhood decides that
 14 they want street lighting and they might
 15 initiate this petition all on their own and
 16 present it to the County Council.
 17 You could also have a situation, though,
 18 where the county is interested in initiating or
 19 being involved in the creation of the district.
 20 And in that case, I believe you would have
 21 citizen meetings. You would invite people to

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1 come talk about the issue. The county could
 2 help with the preparation of the petition, but
 3 ultimately there would need to be signatures
 4 from at least 60 percent of the citizens.
 5 MR. PACK: Okay. And would the Council
 6 then basically map out what area we're going to
 7 be pulling that information from? We would map
 8 that area out, correct?
 9 MR. KUPERSMITH: In the scenario where the
 10 Council or the county is involved, I believe it
 11 would be appropriate for the county to have
 12 discussions about what the district parameters
 13 would include. But ultimately, the petition
 14 that's signed by 60 percent of the residents,
 15 it has to be in that defined area.
 16 So they would obvious have a say. They
 17 would have the say, ultimately, in what the
 18 boundaries are. But we could be engaged in
 19 those discussions.
 20 MR. PACK: Okay. Any further questions
 21 from anybody of the bill as introduced? As

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1 read, I should say? Sorry.
 2 And I think it goes without saying this
 3 was all stemming from the Tilghman Island light
 4 situation. Of course, those lights were put up
 5 by the community several years, many years ago
 6 I should say. The community is right now
 7 struggling to pay that light bill. This
 8 Council did cover that bill both in the FY21
 9 and the FY20 budget. But it's something that
 10 the Council can't go on doing, is paying for
 11 private lights.
 12 So this would give an avenue by which the
 13 citizens of this district would be taxed in
 14 order to pay for those lights to remain on the
 15 streets.
 16 If there's no further questions, Madam
 17 Secretary, for introduction purposes only,
 18 would you please call the roll.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Can you hear me? Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Okay. Mr. Divilio.

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1 Mr. Divilio.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 4 MR. PACK: We didn't hear you, Chuck.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye, aye.
 6 MR. PACK: Okay.
 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 8 MS. PRICE: I think we're just going to
 9 have to go with a thumbs up.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 11 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 12 MR. PACK: Okay. Something is happening
 13 with the sound right now. So let's see if we
 14 can get through this.
 15 Madam Secretary, you have a number for me,
 16 bill number? I'm sorry.
 17 SECRETARY: Yes. The bill number will be
 18 Bill Number 1464.
 19 MR. PACK: Okay.
 20 SECRETARY: The public hearing will be on
 21 Tuesday, October 13th, at 6:30 p.m.

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1 MR. PACK: Great. And let's make sure we
 2 get that notice down to the Tilghman Bay
 3 Hundred area, please. Okay.
 4 Moving right along here, we've got ten of
 5 eight. Next is a presentation of the Talbot
 6 County Diversity Statement. We have with us
 7 director of human resources, Ms. Kim Ferullo.
 8 Kim, good to see you this evening. And
 9 I'll pass it over to you.
 10 MS. FERULLO: Good to see you guys as
 11 well. Thanks.
 12 I come before you tonight to present the
 13 Diversity Statement for your consideration. If
 14 approved, it would be included in the county
 15 employee handbook. But would be (inaudible)
 16 board, commission, and committee member that
 17 they've received, read, and understand the
 18 Diversity Statement.
 19 And I'm going to read a portion of what
 20 was drafted with regards to the Diversity,
 21 Equity, and Inclusion Statement for Talbot

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1 County.

2 We recognize that diversity, equity, and

3 inclusion are prominent factors that can

4 maximize the success of our workplace by

5 bringing different experience levels and

6 perspectives. The foundation of our diversity,

7 equity, and inclusion philosophies are to

8 clearly articulate to both our employees and

9 the general public our intention to create a

10 work culture that embraces our ability to hire,

11 retain, develop, manage, and promote a diverse,

12 engaged workforce.

13 The county's expectation for employees and

14 the focus on ongoing development of a work

15 environment that values differences requires

16 respectful communication and cooperation

17 between all employees, listening with the

18 intent to learn and understand, teamwork and

19 employee participation, permitting (inaudible)

20 the representation of all groups and employee

21 perspectives, creating and maintaining

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1 effective and productive diverse teams, and

2 creating a positive community presence through

3 outreach and effective service delivery that

4 represents and reaches diverse populations.

5 Talbot County expects employees to treat

6 others with dignity and respect at all times.

7 All employees are expected to exhibit conduct

8 that reflects inclusion during work, at work

9 functions on or off the work site, and at all

10 county-sponsored events.

11 The expectations set forth in this

12 statement include all board, commission, and

13 committee members as well.

14 And this is what I would like for

15 consideration and inclusion in the employee

16 handbook as our Diversity, Equity, and

17 Inclusion Statement.

18 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Kim.

19 Any questions or comments with what I

20 consider to be a very well written Diversity

21 Statement?

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1 I had a chance to read it and had a chance

2 to go through it with a colleague of mine, who

3 is highly regarded in this field. We both felt

4 that the statement was very well written, very

5 well covered all the points that I believe that

6 counties and governments and corporations

7 should strive for. And that is to not just

8 speak about diversity and inclusion, but live

9 it and be an example thereof.

10 So Kim, I want to thank you personally for

11 all your efforts you put into it. You

12 certainly brought your years of experience and

13 your past endeavors to this task and very well

14 crafted and very well stated in my opinion.

15 MS. FERULLO: Thank you.

16 MR. LESHER: I'll jump on that

17 appreciation.

18 Go ahead, Chuck.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry, Pete.

20 Kim, you did an excellent job. I'm very

21 proud of you. This means a lot (inaudible)

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1 turning point for the county. And it's

2 something to look forward to.

3 And I also want to comment too that, Andy,

4 you've done a great job helping put that stuff

5 together, too.

6 So I'm very proud of both of you and proud

7 of Council for making the effort to get to this

8 point.

9 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack, I just want to echo

10 your appreciation for the research that went

11 behind this.

12 And thank Ms. Ferullo for the work that

13 went into this.

14 I think that this is probably a little bit

15 more formal as we heard, perhaps a little more

16 detailed than perhaps you originally intended.

17 But benchmarking this against best practices

18 elsewhere is certainly the route to go, and

19 this clearly shows the work that went into it.

20 MS. PRICE: Just want to thank both of you

21 as well. And Kim, all your research.

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1 I always had every confidence that we
 2 could handle this in-house. There's so many
 3 best practices, as you said, Mr. Leshner, out
 4 there to look at as an example.
 5 I also really appreciated the cover letter
 6 that you sent to Council with all of your
 7 background. And I just really want to thank
 8 you.
 9 I think that you definitely nailed it.
 10 It's very complete, and I appreciate it very,
 11 very, very much.
 12 And yeah, I knew we could get this done.
 13 We have very, very talented staff and
 14 department heads, and you have done an
 15 outstanding job on this. Thank you.
 16 MS. FERULLO: Thanks.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: I was equally very impressed
 18 with the cover letter that you provided to us,
 19 and even more so of the Diversity Statement
 20 that you put together. Thank you.
 21 And I really like how you broke that down

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1 with the objective, explaining what it is. But
 2 also at the end wrapping up with employee
 3 concerns and showing them exactly how to follow
 4 through the channels to get protected and fix
 5 the situation. So thank you for including all
 6 of those pieces for our community and our
 7 employees.
 8 I do have one question. I brought this up
 9 a couple of times. In my business, we have to
 10 go through phishing and money laundering videos
 11 every year to just stay in compliance. And I
 12 was wondering if we do that and if diversity
 13 could be included into that?
 14 MS. FERULLO: We are looking into
 15 different diversity, equity, and inclusion
 16 training opportunities. I'm working very
 17 closely with our county manager on that. And
 18 personally reviewing several different options
 19 that I've located and found through my research
 20 and trying to determine what would make the
 21 most sense for our employees.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: Excellent. Thank you.
 2 MR. PACK: Kim, now that you have
 3 successfully drawn the roadmap for this
 4 Council, you and Mr. Hollis, now the hard part
 5 comes up with this Council and Councils to come
 6 is to live up to it. It's now to put feet to
 7 your words, actions to your comments.
 8 It's one thing to write a well-drafted
 9 diversity statement with great research and
 10 great forethought. It's a whole nother thing
 11 entirely to live up to it. And now comes the
 12 tough part that whether or not we can live up
 13 to what you've drafted for us. That's the
 14 tough part. You've done your part, you and
 15 Mr. Hollis, in putting this together. Now this
 16 Council and Councils to come will have to do
 17 its part in essence to live up to it.
 18 So again, I thank you very much for this,
 19 for this drafting. Very well done. As I said
 20 before, I had a colleague look at it who also
 21 echoed, and I shared that with you earlier, her

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1 sentiments that you hit every point in the
 2 drafting of this document.
 3 With that being said, if there's no
 4 further comment, Mr. Hollis, do you have
 5 anything you wish to add to this before I call
 6 for the vote?
 7 MR. HOLLIS: No, Mr. President. Just
 8 waiting for the vote.
 9 MR. PACK: Okay. On the first ever in the
 10 history of Talbot County Diversity Statement,
 11 Madam Secretary, could you please call your
 12 roll for acceptance.
 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. Leshner.

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1 MR. LESHER: Aye.

2 MR. PACK: A historic vote. Thank you

3 very much. Very much appreciate it, Kim. And

4 again, we'll see what the future holds as we

5 hopefully live up to this statement as well.

6 Thank you so much.

7 MS. FERULLO: Thank you.

8 MR. PACK: Next we're going to hear from

9 Ms. Angela Lane. I believe she's coming on

10 with us shortly. This is our annual request

11 for abatement of county real property taxes.

12 This is an annual consideration that the

13 finance officer brings before Council of those

14 nonprofit entities in the county who are

15 requesting a waiver, or an abasement if you

16 would, of their real property tax due to the

17 county. Ms. Lane normally has a nice lengthy

18 list for us.

19 Waiting to see her name pop up here.

20 Ms. Lane, are you with us?

21 MS. LANE: I'm on the phone. Have I been

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1 unmuted?

2 MR. PACK: Maybe I was just talking too

3 much. I'm going to turn it over to you.

4 MS. LANE: Okay. Great. Good evening,

5 Council members. I am back for my annual

6 request to request the County Council grant

7 real property tax credits to various

8 organizations that own property in the county.

9 I will start this by saying all of the

10 organizations that have requested tax credits

11 for fiscal 21 have received them in the past

12 and virtually all of the properties are the

13 same.

14 The groups who have requested property tax

15 credits are Chesapeake Audubon Society, which

16 is the Pickering Creek site and a marsh in High

17 Banks, which they have six parcels in total

18 that they've requested tax credits for.

19 The next organization is Chesapeake

20 Wildlife Heritage. They're requesting tax

21 credits on nine parcels for three wildlife

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1 sanctuaries in the county. One is on Bailey's

2 Neck, one is in the Bozman area, and one is at

3 Canterbury Farm.

4 The commissioners of St. Michael's have

5 requested tax credits for three parcels, all

6 being held for future town use. Two of the

7 parcels are on Freemont Street and one parcel

8 is on Talbot Street.

9 Habitat for Humanity has requested tax

10 credits for 18 properties that are being held

11 for future home sites. Nine properties are in

12 Easton and nine are in St. Michael's. Habitat

13 is actually requesting less properties be --

14 sorry. Habitat is requesting less properties

15 for tax credits this year. They're down I

16 believe two from last year. So those

17 properties have been sold to current owners.

18 The Neighborhood Service Center is

19 requesting a tax credit for the South Street

20 property that they are renovating for future

21 housing for three families.

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1 The Talbot County Agricultural Center is

2 requesting a tax credit for their Hiners Lane

3 site.

4 Talbot County is requesting credit for six

5 parcels, park and recreation properties near

6 Oxford, St. Michael's Road, and near the Town

7 of Queen Anne, and also for county facilities.

8 The Town of Easton is requesting tax

9 credits for nine parcels. Seven are Hill

10 property projects, one is a park property, and

11 one is a public works facility property.

12 Tuckahoe Steam and Gas Association is

13 requesting a tax credit for their two parcels

14 on Route 50.

15 And the Waterfowl Festival is requesting a

16 tax credit for one parcel being held for future

17 use.

18 The total requests for credits, and this

19 is just for county real property taxes, is

20 \$44,825.10. And it is for a total of 56

21 parcels.

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<p>1 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Lane. We do 2 have those listings in our Granicus as well as 3 the corresponding cover letters and real 4 property tax bills associated with those 5 properties. We certainly appreciate you not 6 going through each of every one of them during 7 your presentation. 8 As we said earlier, this is an annual 9 request of these nonprofit entities. We've 10 done it without hesitation in the past, and I 11 would recommend the Council likewise do it this 12 year. 13 With that being said, the chair would 14 entertain a motion to accept -- 15 MS. PRICE: I'll make that motion to do 16 the property tax credits. 17 These are great organizations and really 18 important to Talbot County, and it's one of the 19 least things that we can do to assist them. 20 MR. PACK: Motion made by Ms. Price. Is 21 there a second?</p>	<p>1 damage I can do thus far tonight. I'll turn 2 the rest of it over to you for county manager 3 report. 4 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you, Mr. President. 5 Judge Kehoe has been very patiently waiting on 6 the line. He has a request before Council for 7 two additional employees at a cost of \$59,126, 8 including benefits, per employee. 9 This is for two new court recorder 10 positions. If they're approved, the need for 11 the part time current court recorders would 12 diminish. 13 I don't know if Judge Kehoe would like to, 14 if you'd like him to say a few words or not. 15 MR. PACK: Judge Kehoe, are you with us? 16 Mr. Hollis, the total of 59,000, was that 17 for one or both? 18 MR. HOLLIS: Per. 19 MR. PACK: Per person, okay. 20 MS. PRICE: I'm looking at the sheet. And 21 it is a total of an increase of a little over</p>
<p>Page 127</p> <p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it. 2 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan, was that you? 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. 4 MR. PACK: Motion and a second has been 5 made. Is there any further comment, questions 6 of Ms. Lane before I call for the vote? 7 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, would you 8 please call your roll. 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 10 MR. PACK: Aye. 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 12 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 15 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 16 MS. PRICE: Aye. 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 18 MR. LESHER: Aye. 19 MS. LANE: Thank you very much, Council. 20 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Ms. Lane. 21 Mr. Hollis, I believe I've done all the</p>	<p>Page 129</p> <p>1 91,000 if you subtract out the part time of 2 25,000. 3 I think the biggest thing is having to add 4 two sets of benefits. 5 So there is Judge Kehoe. Hello. My 6 question to you is is there any way we can do 7 this with a part-timer and a full-timer so that 8 we only have to add one set of benefits? 9 (Inaudible) that's willing to do that? 10 HONORABLE KEHOE: The problem with one 11 part time and one full time is (inaudible) tend 12 to be running two courtrooms at a time and we 13 may need part time to run a third courtroom. 14 We may, because of the demand, have to 15 look at remote locations for some trials that 16 are coming up, because basically the delay 17 caused in trying cases by COVID. 18 And if we're doing one part time, it's 19 going to put a strain on the rest of the staff 20 to have to cover for the part-time court 21 reporter. So really two full-time would be the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p> <p>1 best way to go about it.</p> <p>2 MS. PRICE: So can you put -- obviously</p> <p>3 there wasn't court for many months, and now</p> <p>4 you're playing catch-up, so to speak. Right?</p> <p>5 HONORABLE KEHOE: That's exactly what</p> <p>6 we're doing.</p> <p>7 MS. PRICE: So once you get caught up, do</p> <p>8 you still feel like this is something that is</p> <p>9 an absolute have-to-have long-term? Is there a</p> <p>10 way to do someone contractually full time or do</p> <p>11 you think that is a forever need?</p> <p>12 HONORABLE KEHOE: I think it's a forever</p> <p>13 need.</p> <p>14 Generally speaking, we run two courtrooms</p> <p>15 at a time. Sometimes we're running three where</p> <p>16 somebody may be using the Bradley Meeting Room,</p> <p>17 the magistrate is using courtroom two, and</p> <p>18 there's a live trial going on in courtroom one.</p> <p>19 So it definitely is a long-term need. On</p> <p>20 any given day, we're going to have two</p> <p>21 courtrooms running.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p> <p>1 recorders at this time to be added onto the</p> <p>2 budget.</p> <p>3 I will yield to Council. Mr. Divilio, you</p> <p>4 have a comment.</p> <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: Judge Kehoe, so I kind of</p> <p>6 came into this hoping that you would say that</p> <p>7 you could get by with one and we could see how</p> <p>8 things would go and then expand if need be.</p> <p>9 My fear when going through the budget and</p> <p>10 adding positions is always what could happen</p> <p>11 next year if you have to lay somebody off.</p> <p>12 If you were thinking about this, would you</p> <p>13 rather start with the two people and then have</p> <p>14 that knowledge or that idea that you may have</p> <p>15 to let off a couple of the part-timers or do</p> <p>16 you think that you are solid with these two?</p> <p>17 HONORABLE KEHOE: So I think these two</p> <p>18 positions would replace the part-timers. We</p> <p>19 may have part-timers who are essentially</p> <p>20 retired people who would come back on from time</p> <p>21 to time to fill in on a per diem basis. But</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p> <p>1 MR. PACK: Okay. Judge Kehoe, I certainly</p> <p>2 know that you're a man who does not make</p> <p>3 requests unless they're certainly needed. And</p> <p>4 I believe that you are correct.</p> <p>5 As we have been in this delay due to</p> <p>6 COVID, cases have been stacking up. So they're</p> <p>7 not just going to go away, as some people think</p> <p>8 that this virus will just go away. There will</p> <p>9 be more cases lined up behind these cases as</p> <p>10 you get through your docket.</p> <p>11 And then you have to account for persons</p> <p>12 who may need leave themselves. They may get</p> <p>13 sick themselves and may have to be out for a</p> <p>14 couple of days or a week or so. So you're</p> <p>15 going to need coverage there for those</p> <p>16 employees as well.</p> <p>17 It just makes sense to me in the climate</p> <p>18 to be proactive and get ahead of the problem,</p> <p>19 to stay abreast of the demand that's on the</p> <p>20 court.</p> <p>21 So I would support the two full-time</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p> <p>1 they're retired. So it's not a priority for</p> <p>2 them to come in and it's really a luxury when</p> <p>3 we do get them in.</p> <p>4 And it just, if we have two full-time</p> <p>5 people, it gives a lot of flexibility to say</p> <p>6 that a court reporter is going to be there all</p> <p>7 day long for whatever is going to happen during</p> <p>8 the course of the day.</p> <p>9 And quite frequently things do happen,</p> <p>10 cases do come up, hearings do come up. For</p> <p>11 example, a domestic violence petition may be</p> <p>12 filed and we'll need a court reporter for that.</p> <p>13 We may have had a hearing in the morning, and</p> <p>14 there's no hearing in the afternoon, except a</p> <p>15 domestic violence petition gets filed and we</p> <p>16 need to hear that in the afternoon (inaudible)</p> <p>17 for that.</p> <p>18 That's just one example.</p> <p>19 MR. DIVILIO: So I'll make a motion that</p> <p>20 we accept -- that we -- what are we doing here?</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: -- position. Two full-time</p>

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<p>1 reporter, motion made by Mr. Divilio. Can I 2 have a second, please? 3 MR. CALLAHAN: I'll second it. 4 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. 5 Any further comment or discussion? 6 The only thing I will say is that Council 7 may remember we did get a report from our 8 State's Attorney, Scott Patterson. And Scott 9 did lay out how a number of trials that we're 10 seeing here, jury trials and bench trials, are 11 increasing here in Talbot County. They're not 12 going down, they're actually going up. 13 So we do know, and then the lengths and 14 the intricacies of those particular proceedings 15 are also getting somewhat long as well. 16 So if you recall that report from 17 Mr. Patterson last budget I believe it was, 18 that report did lay out to us that these 19 proceedings here were increasing here in Talbot 20 County. We're not going down. We're actually 21 going up.</p>	<p>1 MR. PACK: Thank you, sir. Enjoy your 2 evening. 3 HONORABLE KEHOE: Thank you. 4 MR. PACK: Mr. Hollis, I'll pitch it back 5 over to you, sir. 6 MR. HOLLIS: Mr. President, I believe 7 Mr. Clarke is still on the line. 8 He has a request before the Council to 9 approve the issuance of a proposal for bids to 10 bid out the engineering services for the Ferry 11 Point wastewater system. 12 Council has spent considerable time having 13 this item discussed previously. And we're now 14 to the point of asking for approval to bid it 15 out for engineering services. 16 And I don't know if Mr. Clarke wants to 17 add to that. 18 MR. CLARKE: I'm here. Can you hear me? 19 MR. PACK: Yeah, Ray. We hear you. Go 20 ahead. 21 MR. CLARKE: Yes. This is basically to go</p>
<p>Page 135</p> <p>1 So I just wanted to add that into the 2 conversation. 3 So we have the motion and a second. If 4 there's no further discussion, Madam Secretary, 5 would you please call your roll. 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 7 MR. PACK: Aye. 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 9 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 13 MS. PRICE: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 15 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 16 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Your 17 Honor. Thank you for being with us. And I 18 appreciate your patience in holding on for us. 19 HONORABLE KEHOE: Okay. Thank you very 20 much. And thank you for listening to this 21 request. Thank you.</p>	<p>Page 137</p> <p>1 ahead and put -- what we would end up doing is 2 finish up with the RFP and then put it out to 3 bid. We would still come back to the County 4 Council once we've gotten -- with the 5 recommendation to award once we have the 6 prices. 7 MR. PACK: Okay. Any other comment or 8 question of Mr. Clarke? I'm sorry. 9 Madam Secretary, please call your roll. 10 MS. PRICE: Sorry. I didn't get myself 11 unmuted. 12 Okay. So this is the one that we have 13 talked about many times about whether it was 14 going to be to the possibility of running a 15 line to Trappe or this is the discharge into 16 the Choptank. 17 This is going to bring online the 18 residential properties but not the commercial 19 yet. Right? (Inaudible.) The other way 20 around. 21 MR. CLARKE: It's the other way around.</p>

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1 We would be looking at bringing on the
 2 commercial properties and not bringing on the
 3 residential at this time.
 4 MS. PRICE: But have we -- you want to bid
 5 out the engineering services.
 6 I mean have we approved that this is what
 7 we want to do?
 8 MR. CLARKE: I think at the last work
 9 session, the Council, we got direction to go
 10 ahead and move forward with the MBR, which is
 11 the micro-biological reactor unit. And then
 12 ultimately design it for discharge to the
 13 Choptank River.
 14 MS. PRICE: And I know we're bidding it
 15 out.
 16 It gets paid for completely by the users?
 17 MR. CLARKE: Yes, ma'am. Once everything
 18 is all said and done, all the costs that have
 19 been extended by the county would then be
 20 turned over and then ultimately that would be
 21 incorporated in their loan package. That would

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1 reimburse the county.
 2 MS. PRICE: And those few commercial
 3 properties can afford the cost of an entire
 4 wastewater treatment plant?
 5 MR. CLARKE: We're looking at, depending
 6 upon the cost, we're probably looking at
 7 anywhere from 500 to \$750,000 at this point in
 8 time.
 9 MS. PRICE: Total cost or per commercial
 10 property?
 11 MR. CLARKE: Right now, we're looking at a
 12 total cost in talking with some vendors, that
 13 would probably be in the five to \$750,000
 14 range.
 15 MS. PRICE: To have it built out?
 16 MR. CLARKE: Yes, ma'am.
 17 MS. PRICE: Okay. Thought it was
 18 millions.
 19 MR. CLARKE: We are getting pricing that's
 20 lower than that, yes.
 21 MS. PRICE: All right. Thank you.

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1 MR. PACK: All right. Madam Secretary,
 2 call your roll, please.
 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: Thank you very much, Ray.
 14 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. No problem.
 15 MR. HOLLIS: Council, next item involves
 16 economic development. I believe Ms. Vanhooser
 17 is still on the line, though it might be a poor
 18 connection.
 19 We're requesting your approval to enter
 20 into an MOU, memorandum of understanding, with
 21 the Mid-Shore Regional Council to partner on a

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1 grant project through US Economic Development
 2 Administration to create a dashboard
 3 application and other web-based solutions to
 4 address economic impacts of the coronavirus
 5 pandemic.
 6 Economic Development and Tourism will
 7 receive \$60,000 to complete this work. And no
 8 county funds are required.
 9 Again, I don't know if Ms. Vanhooser is on
 10 and can add to that.
 11 MR. DURHAM: If she's on, can you press
 12 star three on your phone and I'll unmute you?
 13 MR. PACK: Is she there with us?
 14 MR. DURHAM: I do not see a request.
 15 MR. PACK: Maybe she's not.
 16 MR. DURHAM: I do not see a request.
 17 MR. PACK: Okay. This is an MOU. No
 18 county dollars are part of this. To do an
 19 economic development study regarding the
 20 COVID-19 pandemic.
 21 We will be joining with the Tri-County

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1 Council of the Lower Eastern Shore, along with
 2 some other entities to look at this impact.
 3 If there's no further questions of
 4 Mr. Hollis, again Ms. Vanhooser is not with us,
 5 I'll entertain a motion at this time.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Frank Divilio. I'll make a
 7 motion that we enter into the MOU.
 8 MR. PACK: Made by Mr. Divilio. Is there
 9 a second?
 10 MS. PRICE: Second.
 11 MR. PACK: Seconded by Ms. Price.
 12 If there's no further comments or
 13 questions of Mr. Hollis, Madam Secretary, call
 14 your roll.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 16 MR. PACK: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

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1 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 3 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 4 MR. HOLLIS: Council, next I'd like to ask
 5 for approval to move forward on January 1st of
 6 2021 with your previous-approved mid-year
 7 salary increases and adjustments as provided
 8 for in the current budget.
 9 (Inaudible) increase beyond what we have
 10 anticipated in income tax payments from the
 11 State for the final payment of the fiscal year.
 12 I would also caution the next fiscal year
 13 you may not be in the position to reward the
 14 hard work of your employees.
 15 So again, Council, you've already approved
 16 this as part of the budget. But if you
 17 remember, you put it to the side to give
 18 (inaudible) blessing before you went ahead and
 19 distributed anything as of January 1st.
 20 I'm asking for that final blessing.
 21 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Hollis. I

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1 couldn't unmute myself for some reason.
 2 Any further question?
 3 Mr. Hollis is correct. Council did
 4 discuss this during the budget. We wanted to
 5 hold this off and not issue these increases
 6 right away.
 7 County manager has now asked that we go
 8 ahead and do that now.
 9 In light of everything that we've gone
 10 through with COVID-19 with our employees here,
 11 I think it's just a fitting way to show them
 12 that we're still supporting them and that we
 13 still appreciate all the hard work that they've
 14 done and dealing with shutdowns and reopenings
 15 and everything else that they had to deal with,
 16 storms and what have you.
 17 So I certainly support it. And I'll pass
 18 it on for any other comment.
 19 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack, I wholeheartedly
 20 agree. We did say at the time we would see how
 21 fiscal year figures came in. They came in much

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1 more favorably than projected.
 2 And I agree with you that our employees
 3 deserve these modest increases, especially with
 4 the added stress of the pandemic, the way that
 5 they have risen to that challenge.
 6 So I wholeheartedly support implementing
 7 this planned increase at this time.
 8 MR. PACK: Anyone else?
 9 MS. PRICE: I think we all support it and
 10 appreciate the employees. And thankfully we
 11 have for this year, or actually it's kind of
 12 last year's at this point, fiscal year's income
 13 tax revenues. It's a good number and it's
 14 going to hold us we hope for a little while.
 15 As it's a recurring theme typically with
 16 me, it's like yup, right now we have the money
 17 in the bank.
 18 The only thing that's scary is when you're
 19 giving an actual salary increase, it's
 20 obviously expected that next year and the next
 21 year and the next year. And that's when we

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1 know we're going to start having problems.
 2 Certainly support it now. Hopefully we
 3 won't have to go backwards or anything like
 4 that. We just be grateful that we had some
 5 good revenues come in and we're able to do this
 6 at this point.
 7 MR. PACK: Okay. If there's no other
 8 comment, the chair would entertain a motion to
 9 proceed with the salary increases at this time.
 10 MR. LESHER: So moved.
 11 MR. PACK: By Mr. Leshner.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 13 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Divilio. Any
 14 further comment?
 15 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call
 16 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. Leshner.
 5 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 6 MR. HOLLIS: Council, we're requesting
 7 your approval to enter into an agreement with
 8 the Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 9 regarding the Bill Burton Fishing Pier State
 10 Park on the Talbot County side of the Choptank
 11 River, specifically excluding the pier itself.
 12 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board this
 13 week, I'm sorry, this past week, had the item
 14 on their agenda and are in favor of the
 15 memorandum of agreement.
 16 This is basically (inaudible) document
 17 (inaudible) facilitated as a part by Secretary
 18 Riccio, Haddaway-Riccio.
 19 For those that have been on the Council
 20 for many years, you may remember actually
 21 Council Member Tom Duncan was a very proponent

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1 of this and it has actually taken us this long
 2 to get to the memorandum stage and actually
 3 have some movement on it.
 4 MR. PACK: You're absolutely correct,
 5 Mr. Hollis. Mr. Duncan was a very strong
 6 supporter of working out some kind of
 7 memorandum of understanding or agreement with
 8 the State regarding the Bill Burton Park,
 9 although we don't want the pier. But the park
 10 did allow for some water features as well as
 11 some camping features as well or open space for
 12 recreational features on that site.
 13 I remember when our former Park & Recs
 14 director, Mr. Rick Toll, took me down there
 15 many, many years ago when I first walked that
 16 site with him.
 17 And recently when the lieutenant governor
 18 came in for the unveiling of the exhibits, we
 19 also had a chance to go down there with him and
 20 walk the site as well.
 21 It's a beautiful site, right there on the

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1 mouth of the big Choptank River as it comes
 2 out. And it gives us what Talbot County really
 3 needs, is another beachfront feature so that
 4 people can come in and enjoy the county and
 5 enjoy what we have to offer.
 6 I remember when the pandemic first hit and
 7 the weather started getting warm, if you
 8 remember, all the beaches were closed in the
 9 area. And I remember crossing over the bridge
 10 there and looking over to my right and seeing
 11 that there were some people wading out there
 12 right there on that little sandbar at the base
 13 of the park.
 14 So yeah. We've been working at this for
 15 some time. We had an agreement. For whatever
 16 reason, it never got drafted. Not pointing
 17 fingers at either side, but we never got it
 18 done. Mr. Toll left. And of course, we now
 19 have Mr. Peper with us.
 20 This is something I hope this Council can
 21 work towards, getting this agreement worked out

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1 so that we can have this ability to use this
 2 park. This would be a great, great asset to
 3 this county. It really would.
 4 And one other thing I might want to add to
 5 Council. The YMCA reached out to me, Robbie
 6 Gill, several months ago about this very parcel
 7 and said that they would also contribute their
 8 support. So I hope I'm not speaking out of
 9 turn, Robbie. But they would offer their
 10 support for anything that they could do to help
 11 out with this as well.
 12 So it would be a great asset to our
 13 portfolio to be able to work something out with
 14 them.
 15 Again, Secretary Haddaway-Riccio has been
 16 a strong proponent of this herself. We
 17 certainly appreciate all of her support in this
 18 endeavor.
 19 So if we can make this work, wow, it will
 20 be really great for this county.
 21 And I'll yield.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: This is Frank Divilio. I
 2 did present this to the Parks Board. It came
 3 with the typical cautions of we're adding more
 4 space, who is going to maintain it, who is
 5 going to pick up the trash. We may need to
 6 look at county staff that we have there.
 7 And actually one of the Parks Board
 8 members had a family member who was maintaining
 9 that property for, well, I guess Dorchester
 10 County because they were working at Harriet
 11 Tubman and they would come up there to maintain
 12 both. They were I believe just pulled off of
 13 that to stay down there, the Harriet Tubman
 14 exhibit.
 15 So there aren't necessarily a ranger
 16 station there. It's not that big of a park,
 17 25 acres. But it has some beautiful trails
 18 through it. It's an excellent access point for
 19 the water. I've said it many times. I'll
 20 continue saying it, that until people are able
 21 to get out and taste the Bay and play in it and

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1 really appreciate it, they don't really
 2 understand how much they need to protect it.
 3 So I think looking at the Oxford Strand
 4 that's down there, Bellevue Beach, Claiborne
 5 Beach, this will be another wonderful access
 6 point for the community.
 7 MR. HOLLIS: Looking for a motion of
 8 approval if the Council is so inclined.
 9 MR. PACK: Thank you very much,
 10 Mr. Hollis.
 11 I'll look for a motion.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: I'll make a motion.
 13 MR. PACK: Motion by --
 14 MR. DIVILIO: -- agreement. Frank
 15 Divilio.
 16 MR. PACK: By Mr. Divilio.
 17 Chuck, was that a second from you?
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: I'll second it.
 19 MR. PACK: Seconded from Chuck.
 20 If there's no further comment, Madam
 21 Secretary, would you please call 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, requesting your
 12 approval to procure a 2020 Rock Solid
 13 (inaudible) trailer (inaudible) county 2003
 14 community response trailer. (Inaudible), the
 15 trailer will be purchased by piggy backing on
 16 existing Anne Arundel County contract.
 17 Total cost is \$16,000. That will be paid
 18 for by grant dollars using the 2019 emergency
 19 management program grant. No county funds are
 20 required.
 21 MS. PRICE: That's my favorite line of the

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<p>1 night that you said, Mr. Hollis, no county 2 funds. 3 MR. PACK: Absolutely. 4 MS. PRICE: With that, I'll make a motion. 5 MR. PACK: Motion made by Ms. Price. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: I'll second it. 7 MR. PACK: Second made by Mr. Callahan. 8 I know we do have Mr. LeCates on the line 9 with us. Brian, you have a motion and a 10 second. Do you have anything you wish to add 11 before I call for the roll? 12 MR. LeCATES: I would just like to say 13 thank you. That's all. I won't delay the 14 meeting any further. 15 MR. PACK: Appreciate that, man. 16 Appreciate that. 17 Madam Secretary, will you please call your 18 roll. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 20 MR. PACK: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p>	<p>1 the request real quick. You can explain it. 2 Okay? 3 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, sir. 4 MR. HOLLIS: So we're requesting Council 5 or you're requesting Council approval to extend 6 the lease agreement through November 6th for 7 crusher and stacker equipment at the 8 Repurposing Center for an additional price of 9 \$22,000. 10 Mid-Atlantic Machinery is willing to put 11 100 percent of the rental fees toward the 12 purchase of the crusher, making the buyout of 13 that machine \$377,247. 14 Warren, why don't you go ahead. 15 MR. EDWARDS: Okay. Good evening, again, 16 Council. 17 The reason we're asking for this request 18 is because the material from the second school 19 is just coming in slow. All this material will 20 be resellable material when we get permission 21 from the Council back to the contractors in the</p>
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<p>1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 5 MS. PRICE: Aye. 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 7 MR. LESHER: Aye. 8 MR. PACK: Thank you very much. 9 MR. HOLLIS: Sorry, Mr. President. 10 (Inaudible) if Warren Edwards, the 11 superintendent, is on the line. 12 MR. PACK: Is Warren with us? 13 MR. DURHAM: Mr. Edwards, if you're on the 14 line, if you could press star three on your 15 phone so I can unmute you. 16 Go ahead. 17 MR. EDWARDS: Can you hear me? 18 MR. PACK: Yeah, we can hear you, Warren. 19 MR. EDWARDS: Okay. Good evening, 20 Council. 21 MR. HOLLIS: So Warren, let me queue up</p>	<p>1 county. 2 We're expecting seven to 10,000 tons of 3 repurposed material just from the school. 4 I have some other figures if you need them 5 to explain what we're doing, but it is very 6 important that you look at the number that 7 they're subtracting from the purchase of the 8 two pieces of equipment. One is the stacker 9 and one is the crusher that we've been renting. 10 Because right now, after November the 1st, it's 11 100 percent off the cost of the price. 12 MR. PACK: Okay. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Warren, can you hear me? 14 It's Chuck. 15 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, I can, Mr. Callahan. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Could you -- like I 17 think we talked about it about a month or so 18 ago, you were going to bring some figures back 19 to us and see at this point how much money 20 we've brought in. 21 MR. EDWARDS: We just got a check from the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p> <p>1 first school. It was a little over \$61,000</p> <p>2 from the first school. It was just over</p> <p>3 7,000 tons of material we sold back to them.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you.</p> <p>5 MR. EDWARDS: And we have lots of material</p> <p>6 in there that is ready to sell.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>8 MR. EDWARDS: (Inaudible) every day wants</p> <p>9 to buy it.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Right, right. Yeah.</p> <p>11 MS. PRICE: Hey, Warren, it's Laura. So</p> <p>12 we got the check. And so do you think that the</p> <p>13 rental costs will be covered by the revenue</p> <p>14 that we get? I mean are we going to lose money</p> <p>15 on this or are we going to end up making money</p> <p>16 on it?</p> <p>17 MR. EDWARDS: Right now, right now, we're</p> <p>18 operating with our hands behind our back. We</p> <p>19 spent almost \$12,000 in scale fees at Vulcan</p> <p>20 because the school had to weigh the recycled,</p> <p>21 the material that they demoed, not the recycled</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p> <p>1 be phenomenal. The revenue just for the permit</p> <p>2 to come in there and drop repurposed materials</p> <p>3 would be significant, not to mention \$20 a</p> <p>4 load, which everybody says is absolutely</p> <p>5 acceptable.</p> <p>6 MS. PRICE: And where are we with opening</p> <p>7 the doors?</p> <p>8 MR. EDWARDS: We have a meeting. I met</p> <p>9 with Mary Kay from Planning & Zoning and Ken</p> <p>10 and Mike Mertaugh and Ann from Environmental</p> <p>11 Health and Davis, Bowen & Friedel. We have a</p> <p>12 meeting I think it's October 14th for TAC</p> <p>13 Committee.</p> <p>14 Unless they throw a horseshoe at me that</p> <p>15 I'm not expecting, we look like we're in good</p> <p>16 shape for that. Mary Kay gave Ken a list of</p> <p>17 things from Davis, Bowen & Friedel that we</p> <p>18 need. He said there was no issue. He would</p> <p>19 take care of them.</p> <p>20 I talked to Chris Westerfield today from</p> <p>21 Maryland Department of the Environment. We</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 159</p> <p>1 material.</p> <p>2 So we're losing money there that should be</p> <p>3 part of our -- we would have \$80,000 in revenue</p> <p>4 just from that first cycle.</p> <p>5 So to answer your question, yes, we should</p> <p>6 make our money back easily because I'm</p> <p>7 negotiating with Schumer, who is doing a job</p> <p>8 for Mr. Clarke down in St. Michael's. And</p> <p>9 they're willing to pay us \$14 a ton for the</p> <p>10 material, and actually they love it. It's</p> <p>11 amazing.</p> <p>12 MS. PRICE: We just want to make sure that</p> <p>13 our expenses don't outweigh our revenues at the</p> <p>14 end of the day.</p> <p>15 MR. EDWARDS: Well, right now, again,</p> <p>16 we're operating with our hands behind our back.</p> <p>17 We got two people down there and myself.</p> <p>18 So I'm running the Roads Department and</p> <p>19 running that and doing all the permits and</p> <p>20 inspections.</p> <p>21 And if we open the door, the sales would</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 161</p> <p>1 absolutely do not have to do anything about</p> <p>2 mitigation and/or wetlands because we're</p> <p>3 working within the bermed (sic.) area. So that</p> <p>4 takes Mr. Mertaugh out of the equation.</p> <p>5 I don't see -- I got permission from the</p> <p>6 neighbors, the Gannons, because the only issue</p> <p>7 we know of is the variance for the property</p> <p>8 line. And they are going to write us a letter</p> <p>9 saying they have no issue with it whatsoever.</p> <p>10 So I don't see any hiccups.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Warren, what day is that</p> <p>12 meeting again?</p> <p>13 MR. EDWARDS: I'm sorry? I can't hear</p> <p>14 you.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: I'm sorry, Warren. Which day</p> <p>16 is that TAC meeting again?</p> <p>17 MR. EDWARDS: I believe it's October the</p> <p>18 14th.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: Okay. If there's no other</p> <p>20 questions, October the 14th.</p> <p>21 And yeah. I mean we need to get this site</p>

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<p>1 up and running to its full capacity. Right now 2 it's just limping along. 3 Yes, there were some things that we had to 4 do regulation wise. And I think you're working 5 towards that. Hopefully the TAC meeting will 6 address those lingering issues. It looks like 7 the variance question you've already got 8 resolved. But there was also some other 9 environmental issues I do remember that had to 10 be worked out. 11 So hopefully things will come to a 12 complete resolution after the 14th, and this 13 Council will unleash you or take your hands 14 from -- untie your hands from behind your back 15 and allow this Repurposing Center to really 16 flourish and bring in the revenue that it is 17 designed to do. 18 So we'll hopefully see you sometime late 19 October, early November to make that 20 consideration at that time. 21 Right now, though, it is a request before</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 2 MS. PRICE: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 4 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 5 MR. HOLLIS: (Inaudible.) 6 MR. PACK: Mr. Hollis, I think you were 7 muted right before you started. If you can 8 repeat that again, please. 9 MR. HOLLIS: Sure. For the Animal Control 10 Board, requesting the reappointment of 11 Dr. Steve Harris and Joan Trudy Lee. 12 MR. PACK: Is there a motion? 13 MR. DIVILIO: Make a motion we accept. 14 MR. PACK: By Mr. Divilio. 15 MS. PRICE: Second. 16 MR. PACK: Seconded by Ms. Price. Any 17 further discussion? 18 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, call your 19 roll. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 21 MR. PACK: Aye.</p>
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<p>1 Council to go ahead and extend the lease on 2 this crusher. The additional payments will go 3 towards any purchase of the item. And it 4 appears that we still have material from the 5 schools that we need to process. 6 So I support it, and I'll yield to 7 Council. 8 MS. PRICE: I'll make a motion. Go ahead. 9 MR. DIVILIO: Make a motion that we allow 10 Mr. Edwards to extend the lease. 11 MS. PRICE: Second. 12 MR. PACK: Motion made by Mr. Divilio. 13 Seconded by Ms. Price. Any further comment? 14 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call 15 your call. 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 17 MR. PACK: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 19 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 2 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 6 MS. PRICE: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 8 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 9 MR. HOLLIS: (Inaudible.) 10 MR. PACK: You were muted again. So try 11 it one more time. 12 MR. HOLLIS: Okay. The Town of 13 St. Michael's is requesting the reappointment 14 of Chief Smith as a representative to the Local 15 Emergency Planning Committee. 16 MR. PACK: Is there a motion? 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Motion. 18 MS. PRICE: So moved. 19 MR. PACK: By Mr. Callahan. Seconded by 20 Ms. Price. 21 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.</p>

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<p>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: (Inaudible) the reappointment 12 of Ian Fleming representing the bed and 13 breakfast industry to the Tourism Board. 14 MS. PRICE: So moved. 15 MR. PACK: Moved by Ms. Price. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it. 17 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. 18 Madam Secretary, please call your roll. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 20 MR. PACK: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p>	<p>1 starting at ten a.m. Information is at 2 frederickdouglassday.com. 3 And (inaudible) the household hazardous 4 waste day is also Saturday the 26th from 5 eight a.m. to two p.m. at Queen Anne's County 6 Public Works facility at 312 Safety Drive in 7 Easton. 8 And that's all. Thank you very much, 9 Council. 10 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, 11 Mr. Hollis. 12 Ms. Morris, what do I have, anybody for 13 public comment? 14 MR. DURHAM: Currently have callers online 15 (inaudible) requesting to speak. I will unmute 16 the caller. 17 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you. 18 MR. DURHAM: Caller, please begin. 19 MS. TURNER: Is that me? 20 MR. DURHAM: That is you. 21 MS. TURNER: Good evening, President Pack</p>
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<p>1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 3 MR. PACK: Chuck? Chuck? Chuck, we need 4 your vote. 5 MS. PRICE: His mouth moved aye. 6 SECRETARY: Okay. 7 MR. PACK: Chuck, are you good? Is he not 8 seeing us or hearing us? Chuck, are you good? 9 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm good. I just went out 10 on you. Sorry. 11 MR. PACK: Okay. So are you voting yes? 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, yes. 13 MR. PACK: Okay. 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Price? 15 MS. PRICE: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 17 MR. LESHER: Aye. 18 MS. PRICE: Now we've lost Andy. 19 MR. HOLLIS: (Inaudible) Frederick 20 Douglass Day is a virtual event this year. It 21 is scheduled for Saturday, September 26th,</p>	<p>1 and Council. 2 MR. PACK: Good evening. 3 MS. TURNER: Can you hear me okay? 4 MR. PACK: Yes, ma'am. 5 MS. TURNER: My name is Gail Turner. My 6 husband and I have been coming to Tilghman 7 Island for 50 years, spending weekends at 4787 8 Black Walnut Point Road. 9 My reason for coming before the Council is 10 to address the problems on Black Walnut Point 11 with an increase of out-of-county residents 12 fishing. 13 The road was first made a landing after 14 Hurricane Isabel, and there were no major 15 problems until this year. 16 A few of my points being we're seeing a 17 very large amount of these people coming to 18 fish mostly from out of state and out of county 19 as well. Memorial weekend saw 75 cars, and 20 yes, I counted them, with an average of four to 21 five people per car. That's 300 people.</p>

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1 Staying until the park closes at 11 o'clock.
 2 There's gobs and gobs of fishing line in
 3 the roadway, in the woods, also being ingested
 4 by the waterfowl and the birds. Speeding is a
 5 huge issue as well. There is one speed limit
 6 sign posted where the road narrows, but I just
 7 cringe with people fishing, children running in
 8 the roadways, dogs, they're on bikes, all
 9 trying to fish as cars sometimes race down the
 10 roadway.
 11 There's a lot of litter, litter, litter.
 12 Styrofoam food containers, gloves, wipes in our
 13 woods and on the roadway and in my yard.
 14 Someone dumped a tent canopy frame in the
 15 woods, to give you one example.
 16 The rocks are full of the litter. Recs &
 17 Parks does regularly come to clean up, but I
 18 know they certainly can't remove all of the
 19 bottles, plastic bottles that make their way
 20 down to the rocks.
 21 The riprap is there to hold back our

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1 shore. It's now being used to jam fishing
 2 poles into.
 3 People walk as far as they can down the
 4 rocks almost to the water's edge to fish.
 5 It has decreased somewhat after the
 6 summer, I will admit. We counted today. There
 7 were seven cars down there fishing today.
 8 During the summer when it was a landing,
 9 they are allowed to fish for 19 hours. The
 10 signs are up posting it now as a park where it
 11 should open at dawn and close at dusk.
 12 MR. DURHAM: Fifteen seconds.
 13 MS. TURNER: They were fishing for 19
 14 hours. And now we've backed it back by three
 15 hours. So that leaves us residents about five
 16 hours to enjoy our roadway.
 17 In summary, more than a dozen private
 18 homes on Black Walnut Point Road have seen the
 19 quality of a quiet, clean, and tranquil life
 20 forever change for the worse unless you, the
 21 Council, can make changes to return it to the

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1 pristine natural wonder it once was.
 2 People enjoy coming down to see the sun
 3 set, walk their dogs, bring their children,
 4 just take in the beauty of the Bay.
 5 The consensus among the residents in an
 6 e-mail sent (inaudible) discussion is
 7 eliminating the fishing. There is a fishing
 8 pier in Cambridge.
 9 Our road is not conducive to fishing with
 10 people driving and residents living there in
 11 close proximity.
 12 I do know that Claiborne has a similar
 13 problem, and it has major issues as well.
 14 Please consider this important issue
 15 (inaudible) to consider to find a resolution.
 16 We don't want another summer in 2021 like this
 17 past summer.
 18 We, the citizens, did not ask for the
 19 landing or a park and all the problems they
 20 have brought. We would prefer to have our
 21 beautiful views of the Chesapeake Bay enjoyed

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1 by all without the throngs of fishermen.
 2 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Turner.
 3 And as you alluded to, yes, we've heard
 4 similar complaints from residents over at the
 5 Claiborne jetty.
 6 I know that Mr. Peper and his staff have
 7 been working diligently, diligently trying to
 8 find an answer to this problem.
 9 One of the considerations was the county
 10 may have to even go to the employment of its
 11 own park rangers.
 12 We are a victim of our own success, if you
 13 would. People want to come here and enjoy the
 14 fishing and the surrounding areas. So you're
 15 kind of -- we understand what you're speaking
 16 to. I just wanted to let you know that.
 17 And I know Mr. Divilio is on our Parks
 18 Board. I know that's something that probably
 19 has come up with several, several times with
 20 the Parks Board.
 21 But we certainly hear you. I know

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 174</p> <p>1 Mr. Peper is also working towards that as well.</p> <p>2 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack, just to support</p> <p>3 what you say, you are exactly right. At the</p> <p>4 last Parks Board meeting, we even brought up</p> <p>5 what extra enforcement ability there is for a</p> <p>6 park ranger, if they can go with the police or</p> <p>7 what have you.</p> <p>8 Ms. Turner, as you know, we don't have the</p> <p>9 largest police force and deputies, as many as</p> <p>10 we would love to have on the road. So if we</p> <p>11 could have one more from the park who is</p> <p>12 already down there, that is one less deputy</p> <p>13 that's responding to that call that could go to</p> <p>14 another emergency.</p> <p>15 Yes, that is a known concern that we are</p> <p>16 trying to address. And actually as of this</p> <p>17 week, we met and spoke about it.</p> <p>18 Thank you for bringing that back up to our</p> <p>19 attention.</p> <p>20 And yes, Mr. Pack, you were absolutely</p> <p>21 right on that. That's where we're going.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 176</p> <p>1 Council to see how the public opinion for the</p> <p>2 statue was clearly in favor of for it to come</p> <p>3 down and was completely ignored.</p> <p>4 Again, this is not over, as you can tell.</p> <p>5 Having your meetings (inaudible) because you</p> <p>6 guys don't want to have the meeting in the</p> <p>7 Bradley Room is difficult. When you eventually</p> <p>8 do return to the Bradley Room and having the</p> <p>9 public meeting, we will be there. So see you</p> <p>10 then.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Well, Mr. Herr, number one,</p> <p>12 appreciate you calling in.</p> <p>13 I hope that persons who want to come</p> <p>14 demonstrate do so peacefully, number one.</p> <p>15 We've had a meeting with our local law</p> <p>16 enforcement regarding peaceful demonstrations</p> <p>17 here on the courthouse square. Mr. Callahan</p> <p>18 sat in on a meeting with me earlier this week</p> <p>19 as well as did Mr. Leshner as we were working</p> <p>20 towards trying to allow for peaceful</p> <p>21 demonstration, but at the same time, not</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 175</p> <p>1 MR. PACK: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>2 MS. TURNER: One more thing. I have one</p> <p>3 more thing.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Ms. Turner, I'm going to have</p> <p>5 to -- we have another caller. I gave you quite</p> <p>6 a bit of time there to get your statement out.</p> <p>7 We certainly appreciate it.</p> <p>8 Anyone else on the call?</p> <p>9 MR. DURHAM: We do have another caller</p> <p>10 wishing to speak. I will unmute that caller</p> <p>11 right now.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. DURHAM: Caller, you are unmuted.</p> <p>14 MR. HERR: Hi. Can you hear me okay?</p> <p>15 MR. DURHAM: We can.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Yes, sir.</p> <p>17 MR. HERR: This is Henry Herr again</p> <p>18 calling about the Talbot Boys statue.</p> <p>19 I just -- there was another article that</p> <p>20 came out in the New Yorker speaking about it.</p> <p>21 And I thought it was quite embarrassing for the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 177</p> <p>1 abridge the Council's right to assemble</p> <p>2 peacefully as well.</p> <p>3 We are a business entity. We do have our</p> <p>4 rights to also assemble and to conduct our</p> <p>5 business. And as long as persons are</p> <p>6 demonstrating peacefully, I have no problem</p> <p>7 with that. There was a demonstration going on</p> <p>8 outside the window as I was sitting here this</p> <p>9 evening. I barely heard them, barely heard</p> <p>10 them.</p> <p>11 So we certainly understand what you're</p> <p>12 saying. But, again, hopefully you didn't mean</p> <p>13 it as a threat. We welcome demonstration, but</p> <p>14 we also welcome it peacefully. So let me just</p> <p>15 say that point.</p> <p>16 Anyone else on call, Mr. Durham?</p> <p>17 MR. DURHAM: There are two other phone</p> <p>18 calls and one other computer user, but no one</p> <p>19 has requested to speak.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: With that being said, we'll</p> <p>21 close public hearing then.</p>

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1 And Council comment. Mr. Callahan, do you
 2 have anything, sir?
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: No. I'm good tonight,
 4 Mr. President.
 5 MR. PACK: How did your background change?
 6 What did you do, move around the house on me?
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Man, I had some lighting
 8 issues.
 9 MR. PACK: Mr. Divilio, you have anything?
 10 Hopefully you're not having any lighting issues
 11 there.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: No, I'm fine with lighting.
 13 I don't have anything to add. Thank you.
 14 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, you have anything to
 15 add?
 16 MS. PRICE: Well, I've got this whole
 17 blurred background thing going, which is kind
 18 of cool. You know, I wish Mr. Hollis taught me
 19 how to do that.
 20 I don't know. I kind of like this Brady
 21 Bunch look. We can look up at other each and

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1 look down at each other.
 2 Aside from a couple of the callers that
 3 had some -- it seemed to be the callers as
 4 opposed to the people participating on video
 5 where we had some interference. But this is
 6 the second one. And I think for those who are
 7 participating on video, it works out well.
 8 I just want to be Marcia Brady. That's
 9 all.
 10 Anyway, thank you. Y'all have a good
 11 night.
 12 MR. PACK: No comment there at all.
 13 Mr. Leshner, please save me.
 14 MR. LESHNER: I just want to remind Talbot
 15 County voters that we've got some very
 16 important ballot initiatives coming up on the
 17 November ballot.
 18 You'll have the opportunity to start
 19 voting, if you vote by mail, beginning early
 20 October I believe when those first ballots will
 21 go out.

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1 And so I want to call your attention to
 2 ballot questions B, C, and D. Those ballot
 3 questions together will reform Talbot County's
 4 property tax revenue cap in ways that will
 5 allow us to support public safety, support the
 6 Sheriff's Office, who has been losing deputies,
 7 lost a very valuable deputy this summer, and
 8 has been unable to recruit because of funding
 9 issues.
 10 This is -- the root of the problem is in
 11 the tax structure and our ability to afford
 12 both sheriff's deputies as well as another
 13 ambulance unit so that we can get to calls
 14 within the prescribed 20 minutes.
 15 We need to encourage people, voters to
 16 vote yes on questions B, C, and D. A no vote
 17 is essentially a route to very slowly, as we've
 18 been doing over the years, defunding the
 19 police. I don't think we want that in Talbot
 20 County. And so please vote yes on questions B,
 21 C, and D.

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1 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Leshner. And you
 2 basically stole my thunder. I had the ballot
 3 questions already printed out, ready to go over
 4 them. But you've already taken care of that.
 5 And I just will echo that as well.
 6 Ms. Strickland sponsored the Back the Blue
 7 rally this past Friday. I couldn't attend. I
 8 was with my lovely wife on my birthday party
 9 she had for me, my birthday dinner. So we were
 10 away enjoying the evening together.
 11 But you're absolutely right. For citizens
 12 who are supporting emergency services, the
 13 Cordova surge unit that was deployed by
 14 Mr. Clay Stamp earlier this year that Council
 15 supported, to see that unit continue on, the
 16 possibility of creating a home for that unit in
 17 that Cordova area to serve that part of the
 18 county, to attract better qualified officers.
 19 As you know, this Council elected to
 20 sponsor or look for a study dealing with the
 21 retirement benefit package for the sheriff's

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1 deputies here in the county. That study would
 2 just give us the total cost if we go into the
 3 LEAPS program, but it doesn't pay for it. So
 4 we still would have to find the dollars to
 5 actually pay if this Council or the next
 6 Council chooses to do that.

7 And you're absolutely right. Citizens who
 8 do support those types of law enforcement and
 9 emergency services, if they want to see them
 10 continue, if they want to see them expand so
 11 that people are safe here in the county,
 12 whether they be residents or whether they be
 13 visitors coming here to fish and enjoy what we
 14 have to offer, these three amendments will
 15 allow us to do that.

16 So I know there's been a lot of focus on a
 17 lot of other things, the COVID and school
 18 openings and virtual learning and all of that,
 19 but we have to put people's focus for the next
 20 several weeks on these ballot questions. We
 21 really do.

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1 This Council, next Councils need these
 2 ballot questions dearly if we want to pay for
 3 additional retirement programs to attract new
 4 officers for our Sheriff's Office.

5 So I join you in that, Mr. Leshner, as well
 6 in that plea.

7 I also, along with that, want to remind
 8 everybody that the deadline for sending in your
 9 census information is September the 30th.

10 Right now Talbot County is about in tenth place
 11 when it comes to response to those census
 12 surveys.

13 So I am asking all citizens now. And if
 14 you have not submitted your census survey,
 15 please do so. We have eight days remaining.
 16 We're in tenth place. Let's see if Talbot
 17 County can push its way into the top five, if
 18 not number one in the State. How about that?

19 So it's very important when it comes to
 20 getting an accurate count as far as our
 21 population size, when it comes to dollars that

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1 we're going to receive from the federal
 2 government, and also our representation in
 3 Congress.

4 So please, please, madam, sir, if you have
 5 not submitted your census data, please do so
 6 today. Don't delay.

7 With that being said, you know, we took
 8 one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight,
 9 nine, we took over ten votes tonight. All of
 10 them were five-O. Think about that. We took
 11 ten votes tonight. All of them were five-O,
 12 all of them. And Mr. Callahan surprised me on
 13 the recycling one and made it five-O.

14 It shows that when we work together, we
 15 can get things done. And I will just employ
 16 this Council to do so. We have a number of
 17 important issues ahead of us. We have a number
 18 of important department heads who will be
 19 leaving this county that will need to be
 20 replaced with qualified, diverse people. And
 21 we're going to have to work together. We're

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1 going to have to work together to get this job
 2 done.

3 Ten votes. Five-O, five-O.

4 The County Council's next meeting will be
 5 held on Tuesday, October the 13th, beginning at
 6 six p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room. The
 7 Council will be convening in open session at
 8 4:30 and immediately adjourning into closed
 9 session to discuss real estate, legal, and
 10 personnel matters as listed on the statement
 11 for closing that meeting.

12 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
 13 and reconvene as noted?

14 MR. DIVILIO: Divilio. So moved.

15 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Divilio.

16 MS. PRICE: (Inaudible.)

17 MR. PACK: Seconded by Ms. Price.

18 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.

19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.


20 MR. PACK: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 5 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 7 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 8 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, guys.
 9 Enjoy the rest of your evening.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 11 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 12 (Meeting concluded at: 8:59 p.m.)
 13
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1 STATE OF MARYLAND
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel,
 3 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
 4 at the time and place herein set according to law,
 was interrogated by counsel.
 5
 I further certify that the examination was
 6 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 7 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 in a true and accurate manner.
 8
 I further certify that the stipulations
 9 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 presence.
 10
 I further certify that I am not of counsel
 11 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 12 interested in the outcome of this action.
 13 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 30th
 day of September, 2020 at Eastern MD.
 14

 15
 16
 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public
 17
 18
 19
 20 My commission expires September 16, 2021
 21

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