



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

January 10, 2017

Present – President Jennifer L. Williams, Vice President Corey W. Pack, Dirck K. Bartlett, Chuck F. Callahan, Laura E. Price, County Manager R. Andrew Hollis, and County Attorney Michael L. Pullen. Assistant County Attorney Anthony Kupersmith was absent.

- I. Agenda – Ms. Williams requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, January 10, 2017.
- II. Minutes – Ms. Williams requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, December 6, 2016 and Tuesday, December 13, 2016.
- III. Disbursements – Ms. Williams requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, December 20, 2016, Tuesday, December 27, 2016, Tuesday, January 3, 2017 and Tuesday, January 10, 2017.
- IV. Presentation by Talbot County Agricultural Community – Craig Zinter, District Manager, Talbot Soil Conservation District; Ed Heikes, Member, Board of Directors, Talbot County Farm Bureau; Shannon Dill, Extension Educator – AGNR, University of Maryland Extension – Talbot County; John Barga, County Executive Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Talbot County Farm Service Agency; Kyle Hutchison, Talbot County Farmer – Mr. Zinter presented Council with information highlighting the 2016 accomplishments of the Talbot County Soil Conservation District, including the planting of 57,733 acres of cover crops. He stated that Talbot County is one of the leading counties in the state for cover crops. He stated that his office continues to work with the Talbot County Department of Public Works to identify areas on County owned roadsides which are suitable for 2-stage ditches. Mr. Zinter provided information on the new Best Management Practice of woodchip bioreactors and stated that to date nine bio-reactors have been installed in Maryland, three of which are in Talbot County at the Hutchison Brothers Family Farm. Kyle Hutchison of Hutchison Brothers Family Farm outlined the process by which the bio-reactors reduce nitrates entering waterways and provided results achieved to date. Ms. Dill provided information on the results of a 2015 Agricultural Needs Assessment for the nine counties of Maryland’s Eastern Shore. She stated that the respondents rated their top concern with regard to farm viability as regulation and legislation; the top three priorities for services to be provided by University of Maryland Extension included research data from field and variety trials; assistance in interpreting regulations and the implementation of same on the farm; and promotion of agriculture and education to consumers and non-farmers. She stated that the Needs Assessment was forwarded to 600 names, 297 of whom replied. Ms. Dill concluded her presentation by extending a personal invitation to the Council to attend the Annual Talbot Corn Club Dinner to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 19, 2017. Mr. Barga reiterated that the mission of his agency is to ensure the well-being of American agriculture, the environment, and the American public through the administration of farm commodity programs, including conservation programs, disaster assistance and farm lending. He stated that each of the agencies represented supports the mission of protecting our natural resources and that in 2016, payments to Talbot County totaled approximately \$2.7 million in benefits for conservation and other farm programs.

Mr. Heikes briefed the Council on various resolutions supported and/or adopted by the Talbot County Farm Bureau in 2016, and requested Council's support of any initiatives brought forth through collaboration between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Farm Bureau pertaining to curtailing crop damage caused by deer. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Heikes and Delegate Johnny Mautz regarding the specifics of the proposal, including draft legislation anticipated to be introduced by Delegate Mautz at the 2017 General Assembly. At Council's request, staff will assist Delegate Mautz with arranging a time and location for a hearing in Talbot County on the proposed legislation. Council will continue to give the request for support of the legislation their consideration. Mr. Heikes also briefed the Council on various resolutions adopted by the Maryland Farm Bureau. Council discussion ensued with each representative as various items were brought forward. Representatives of the agricultural community will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.

V. Introduction of Numbered Resolution:

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE VILLAGE CENTER BOARD ("BOARD") FOR THEIR WORK ON TALBOT COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, EXPRESSING THE COUNCIL'S APPRECIATION TO THE BOARD FOR ACCOMPLISHING THEIR MISSION AND DISCHARGING THE BOARD WITH THE THANKS OF THE COUNCIL was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction of the resolution, Martin Sokolich, Talbot County Long Range Planner, stated that, in his opinion, the Village Center Board had served the primary purpose for which it was established but that it was his understanding that there will still be some interaction between the villages and the County. Kirke Harper, Chairman, Talbot County Village Center Board, stated that, in his opinion, the Village Center Board accomplished part of its purpose, with 12 of the villages having completed a Village Master Plan for their particular village and that the Master Plans of the villages can be a valuable resource as the update of the County zoning ordinance moves forward. Mr. Harper concluded his comments by requesting Council's consideration to add a sunset clause to those boards and committees established for a specific purpose. Council commended all those citizens who had served on the Village Center Board, including Mr. Harper, Janet Hammed and Frank Cavanaugh, who have served as chairperson. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Pack, Ms. Price and Ms. Williams as Resolution No. 238. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

VI. Public Hearing:

Resolution No. 237, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN COUNTY-OWNED AND MAINTAINED PUBLIC ROADS KNOWN AS MARYS COURT, MISTLETOE DRIVE, BRYAN DRIVE, AND A PORTION OF PORT STREET TO THE TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ANNEXATION PLANS ADOPTED BY THE TOWN FOR THE TALBOT COMMERCE PARK ANNEXATION AND THE EASTON POINT ANNEXATION RESPECTIVELY was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing and the public was provided an opportunity to comment on the legislation. The public hearing on Resolution No. 237 was then closed. At Mr. Pack's request, Resolution No. 237 will remain open for written comments until such a time that the Town of Easton has completed their Annexation Agreement for the subject parcels and any comments received by the County are reviewed by the Council.

VII. County Manager’s Report:

- A. Talbot County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board - Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Thom McCarty and Kate Stinton to three-year terms on the Talbot County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board as representatives of the Talbot County Health Department; said terms will expire on January 1, 2020. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack - Aye
Mr. Callahan - Aye

- B. Talbot County Board of Appeals – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of John Sewell and Greg Gannon to three-year terms on the Talbot County Board of Appeals as a regular member and alternate member, respectively; said terms will expire February 11, 2020. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack - Aye
Mr. Callahan - Aye

- C. Talbot County Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Sarah Harper Cloxton to a four-year term on the Talbot County Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council; said term will expire on January 1, 2021. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the appointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Bartlett – Aye
Mr. Pack - Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye

VIII. Council Comments:

Mr. Callahan – Mr. Callahan stated that he hoped everyone had a great and safe holiday and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Pack - Mr. Pack stated that it is once again volunteer fire department dinner season and time for the Council to go thank the volunteer firemen. He stated that he would not be able to attend a couple of the dinners due to some family obligations. Mr. Pack stated that the Cordova Volunteer Fire Department dinner is on Saturday, January 14th; the Oxford Fire Company dinner is on Friday, January 20, 2017; and the Trappe Fire Department’s dinner is on Saturday, January 21, 2017. He stated that the Council had also received an invitation to the Annual Dinner at the Talbot Agriculture and Education Center on January 23, 2017. He invited his colleagues to participate in the 11th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Basketball Classic to be held on Monday, January 16, 2017 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Easton Middle

School; basketball games will be held at Easton Middle School and the YMCA. At Noon, members of the Easton, Federalsburg, Denton and Cambridge communities will be recognized with the Martin Luther King Image Award. He stated that the annual tri-county event for middle school students is an opportunity for a day of fun while reflecting on the life and legacy of Dr. King. The event is hosted by, among others, Preston Peper, Director, Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation, Lorraine Gould, Director, Town of Easton Parks and Recreation, and the YMCA.

Mr. Bartlett - Mr. Bartlett expressed his appreciation to Mr. Hollis and County staff, particularly Warren Edwards and the roads crew for putting in long hours on snow removal efforts and for helping stranded motorists. He also expressed his appreciation to Jim Bass, Emergency Management Coordinator, for his timely emails during the snow event.

Ms. Price - Ms. Price echoed Mr. Bartlett's comments and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Ms. Williams - Ms. Williams wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that, in her opinion, the Council is excited to be back. She stated that they had had a nice break over the holidays which they had thoroughly enjoyed, but are ready to go. She reiterated Mr. Pack's comment that it is fire department banquet season with the Cordova Volunteer Fireman's Association's annual banquet on Saturday night, the Talbot Corn Club next Thursday, the Oxford Fire Company's banquet on Friday, and the Trappe Fire Department's banquet next Saturday.

IX. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 in Open Session and immediately adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of legal, personnel and real estate matters as listed on the Statement for Closing the Meeting, and at 6:00 p.m. for the regularly scheduled Council meeting by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Ms. Williams – Aye

Ms. Price – Aye

Mr. Bartlett – Aye

Mr. Pack - Aye

Mr. Callahan – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

The transcript of the January 10, 2017 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the County Manager during regular office hours.

X. On Tuesday, January 10, 2017 a Closed Session of the Talbot County Council convened at 5:00 p.m. in the County Council Conference Room. Upon motion by Mr. Pack seconded by Ms. Price, the Council met in Closed Session by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Bartlett – Aye

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Pack – Aye

Ms. Price – Aye

Ms. Williams – Aye

In accordance with General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1)(i)(3)(7)(8) the purpose of the Closed Session was for personnel matters to discuss appointments to various County boards and committees and to discuss a personnel matter in the Finance Office; for a legal matter to discuss the possible transfer of County owned property and legal advice regarding same; and for a legal matter for an update on a legal matter involving the County. The Closed Session recessed at 6:00 p.m. and reconvened at 7:05 p.m. The Closed Session ended at 7:30 p.m.

- XI. Meeting with Talbot County Taxpayers Association to Discuss Possible Modifications to Revenue Cap – The County Council met with members of the Talbot County Taxpayers Association on Thursday, January 5, 2017 in the Meeting Room at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton. The purpose of the work session was to discuss possible avenues by which the County could raise additional revenues in order to keep pace with the increasing demand for, and cost of, County services, particularly public safety services (emergency and law enforcement). County legislation in place since 1997 states in part that the amount of revenue the County can raise from taxes on properties existing on the County real property tax rolls at the commencement of the County fiscal year shall not increase, compared with the previous year, by more than two percent, or by the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CIP-U) percentage of change for the latest calendar year, determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, whichever is the lesser. The Council emphasized that for the past several years, the increase has been less than 2% which has not allowed the County to keep with costs for needed expenditures. The group also discussed the means by which both the County and the Taxpayers Association can educate county citizens on the need for an increased revenue stream to help ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the County to meet citizens’ needs. The Council is anticipated to meet again with representatives of the Talbot County Taxpayers Association in early April.

CASH STATEMENT 12/20/2016

BALANCE 12/13/2016	\$33,733,700.46
INTEGRA CLAIMS THROUGH 12/12/16	(81,275.10)
PAYROLL-FD/SS/MS WH PPE 12/02/16	(141,509.43)
MD WH PPE 12/02/16	(35,096.64)
PENSION DED PPE 12/02/16	(33,569.35)
SECU PPE 12/02/2016	(4,487.14)
DEF COMP DED PPE 12/02/16	(11,126.98)
FLEX SPENDING PPE 12/2/2016	(2,928.71)
ACH TRANSFER	(15,085.75)
USDA/RURAL DEV/AIRPORT MTHLY SEWER LOAN 12/2016	(1,304.00)
TC MD PUB IMPROV BOND 2008	(1,189,325.00)
PUB IMPROV REF BOND 2015	(627,100.00)
DEPOSITS	2,035,151.02
CHECKS	(990,990.98)
BALANCE 12/20/2016	<u>32,635,052.40</u>

AIRPORT ACCOUNTS

AIP42	14,212.32
DEPOSIT	4,706.84
CHECK #1012	(18,919.16)

AIRPORT ACCOUNTS TOTAL BALANCE 0.00

INVESTMENTS – CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>CERTIFICATE DATE</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.45%	18,000,000.00
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>\$18,000,000.00</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>\$15,570.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS			<u>\$50,650,622.40</u>

CASH STATEMENT 12/27/2016

BALANCE 12/20/2016			\$32,635,052.40
INTEGRA CLAIMS THROUGH 12/21/16			(52,895.56)
DEPOSITS			7,015,096.42
CHECKS			(985,853.29)
VOID CHECKS #31216			113.00
BALANCE 12/27/2016			<u>\$38,611,512.97</u>

AIRPORT ACCOUNTS

AIP42 0.00

AIRPORT ACCOUNTS TOTAL BALANCE 0.00

INVESTMENTS – CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>CERTIFICATE DATE</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.49%	18,000,000.00
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>\$18,000,000.00</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>\$15,570.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS			<u>\$56,627,082.97</u>

CASH STATEMENT 1/03/2017

BALANCE 12/27/2016	\$38,611,512.97
FD/SS/MS WH PPE 12/16/16	(155,323.75)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 12/16/16	(11,126.98)
MD WH PPE 12/16/16	(37,006.85)
SECU DED PPE 12/16/16	(4,487.14)
ACH TRANSFER	(14,560.75)
DEPOSITS	744,611.96
CHECKS	(1,946,726.61)
VOID CHECKS #311087	162.65
BALANCE 1/03/2017	<u>37,187,055.50</u>

AIRPORT ACCOUNTS

AIP42	0.00
AIRPORT ACCOUNTS TOTAL BALANCE	<u>0.00</u>

INVESTMENTS – CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>CERTIFICATE DATE</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.52%	18,000,000.00
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>\$18,000,000.00</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>\$15,570.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS			<u>\$55,202,625.50</u>

CASH STATEMENT 1/10/2017

BALANCE 1/3/2017	\$37,187,055.50
BOARD OF EDUCATION 12/2016	(3,057,519.00)
2016 RETIREMENT BILL BREAKDOWN FY 2017	(982,515.00)
2016 RETIREMENT BILL BREAKDOWN FY 2017	(20,668.00)
FD/SS/MS/WH PPE 12/31/16	(2,899.61)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 12/31/16	(1,240.00)
MD WH PPE 12/31/16	(513.97)
PENSION DED PPE 12/31/2016	(796.74)
FLEX SPENDING PPE 12/31/2016	(193.33)
INTEGRA CLAIMS THRU 1/3/2017	(74,171.72)
WF/GOLF COURSE EQUIP LEASE 12/2016	(4,222.00)

DEPOSITS			5,342,755.14
CHECKS			(779,457.98)
VOID CHECKS #25176			250.00
BALANCE 1/10/2017			<u>37,605,863.29</u>
<u>AIRPORT ACCOUNTS</u>			
AIP42			0.00
AIRPORT ACCOUNTS TOTAL BALANCE			<u>0.00</u>
INVESTMENTS – CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT			
<u>CERTIFICATE DATE</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.53%	18,000,000.00
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>\$18,000,000.00</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>\$15,570.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS			<u>\$55,621,433.29</u>