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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

April 28, 2026; 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's go ahead and</p> <p>4 get started. I want to welcome everybody to</p> <p>5 tonight's meeting.</p> <p>6 Let's go ahead and stand, and we're going</p> <p>7 to say the prayer and then the Pledge of</p> <p>8 Allegiance of the Flag.</p> <p>9 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's go ahead and</p> <p>11 get started. Appreciate you guys coming</p> <p>12 tonight. We've got the agenda before us,</p> <p>13 Council. Is there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>14 corrections to the agenda, Council?</p> <p>15 MS. MIELKE: No.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hearing none, the</p> <p>17 chair moves that the agenda be accepted as</p> <p>18 unanimous consent. Okay.</p> <p>19 Next is the disbursements of April 21st</p> <p>20 and April 28th. Council has had a chance to</p> <p>21 take a look at those. Is there any additions,</p>	<p>1 to come on up, please. There you go. If you</p> <p>2 want to -- yeah. Okay.</p> <p>3 Madam Secretary, you want to go ahead and</p> <p>4 read the proclamation into the record.</p> <p>5 You can sit down. Yeah.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Certificate of Recognition to</p> <p>7 Shauna Beulah.</p> <p>8 Whereas, Shauna Beulah's passion for books</p> <p>9 began as a child and while working as a young</p> <p>10 adult in her high school library.</p> <p>11 And whereas, following her move from</p> <p>12 Virginia to the Eastern Shore of Maryland</p> <p>13 almost 50 years ago, Shauna began volunteering</p> <p>14 at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton</p> <p>15 before being hired in 1984 as a part-time</p> <p>16 employee.</p> <p>17 And whereas, in 1986 Shauna became the</p> <p>18 first paid branch manager of the St. Michaels</p> <p>19 Branch of the library, which initially opened</p> <p>20 in 1981 in a storefront on Talbot Street in</p> <p>21 St. Michaels and was staffed by volunteers.</p>
Page 3	Page 5
<p>1 deletions, or corrections to the disbursements,</p> <p>2 Council? Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves</p> <p>3 that the disbursements be accepted as unanimous</p> <p>4 consent. Okay.</p> <p>5 So we got a lot of proclamations tonight.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Go ahead.</p> <p>8 MR. LESHER: We have the fourth estate</p> <p>9 here.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: Can we give her a desk over</p> <p>12 here so she can take notes?</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHER: The Star Democrat.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Come on over. Yeah.</p> <p>16 There we go. Yeah.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHER: There's a nice little desk</p> <p>18 for the fourth estate right over here.</p> <p>19 SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I really</p> <p>20 appreciate that.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Ms. Beulah, you want</p>	<p>1 And whereas, Shauna has served as the</p> <p>2 branch manager of the St. Michaels Branch of</p> <p>3 the Talbot County Free Library since 1986,</p> <p>4 dedicating 40 years of her life to serving the</p> <p>5 people of St. Michaels and the Bay Hundred</p> <p>6 Area of the county.</p> <p>7 And whereas, during her tenure, Shauna</p> <p>8 oversaw the move of the branch in 1988 from the</p> <p>9 storefront to a vacant garage owned by the Town</p> <p>10 of St. Michaels on the Freemont Street and the</p> <p>11 move in 2003 to temporary headquarters in the</p> <p>12 town's old firehouse in Muskrat Park while the</p> <p>13 Freemont Street was being remodeled.</p> <p>14 And whereas, Shauna led the rescue effort</p> <p>15 that saved the collection of the St. Michaels</p> <p>16 Branch of the library when Hurricane Isabel</p> <p>17 inundated Muskrat Park one month later in</p> <p>18 September 2023 and also oversaw the return of</p> <p>19 the branch collection to the Freemont Street</p> <p>20 address.</p> <p>21 And whereas, when the current renovations</p>

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<p>1 and expansion began to be planned to better                  2 serve the needs of the citizens in                  3 St. Michaels and the Bay Hundred Area, Shauna,                  4 having served the community for so many years,                  5 assisted with the design to help ensure the new                  6 facility met the needs of the community it                  7 serves.                  8 And whereas, Shauna yet again oversaw the                  9 move of the branch in 2025 to temporary                  10 headquarters while the Freemont Street address                  11 was renovated and expanded and oversaw the                  12 return of its collection to the newly-renovated                  13 Freemont Street address for its grand reopening                  14 in March 2026.                  15 And whereas, Shauna Beulah has long since                  16 become a beloved community icon in                  17 St. Michaels, the Bay Hundred, and the entire                  18 county.                  19 And whereas, throughout all her years of                  20 service and passionate devotion to the library,                  21 the staff of the entire Talbot County Free</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and                  2 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the                  3 vote.                  4 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  5 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  6 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.                  7 MR. STEPP: Big aye.                  8 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.                  9 MR. LESHER: Aye.                  10 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.                  11 MS. MIELKE: Aye.                  12 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.                  13 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.                  14 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome. That was a tough                  15 one, wasn't it.                  16 MS. BEULAH: Yes. Thank you.                  17 MR. CALLAHAN: Take your time.                  18 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.                  19 MR. CALLAHAN: This is your moment, you                  20 know. We're so proud of you.                  21 MS. BEULAH: Thank you. Lots of many</p>
Page 7	Page 9
<p>1 Library system has learned and gained from                  2 their association with her.                  3 And whereas, Shauna Beulah, after                  4 faithfully serving the people of Talbot County                  5 for a total of 45 years, will officially retire                  6 from the library on May 1, 2026.                  7 Now, therefore, be it resolved that we,                  8 the members of the Talbot County Council, do                  9 hereby express our sincere gratitude to Shauna                  10 Beulah for her four-plus decades of dedicated                  11 service to the citizens of Talbot County and                  12 thank her for the thousands of smiles she has                  13 bestowed upon us over the years.                  14 Given our hands and the great seal of                  15 Talbot County this 1st day of May in the year                  16 of our Lord, 2026.                  17 MS. BEULAH: Thank you.                  18 MR. STEPP: Mr. Callahan, if I can make                  19 this official by starting off a motion, please.                  20 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely.                  21 MR. LESHER: Second.</p>	<p>1 years.                  2 I said to my staff and my coworkers it's                  3 going to be hard to leave. It just is. But                  4 I'm going to.                  5 But I have enjoyed my many years in the                  6 county and serving the county and working at                  7 the library and my wonderful staff and                  8 coworkers. It has been a pleasure.                  9 And the support of the County Council,                  10 certainly the Town of St. Michaels, and the                  11 Bay Hundred Area, it's been just humbling and                  12 warming to my heart all the response I've                  13 gotten from all of you.                  14 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sure.                  15 MS. BEULAH: I thank you, I thank you very                  16 much.                  17 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stepp.                  18 MR. STEPP: I was just going to say it's                  19 hard to say what has already, any more than                  20 already what's been said in your proclamation.                  21 I mean it outlined what a wonderful career.</p>

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<p>1 Capstone project with overseeing this</p> <p>2 beautiful new library we have down in</p> <p>3 St. Michaels.</p> <p>4 So when you add all that up and your</p> <p>5 service, it just equates to just a big thank</p> <p>6 you. So thank you.</p> <p>7 MS. BEULAH: To say you're welcome doesn't</p> <p>8 sound (indiscernible).</p> <p>9 MR. STEPP: I feel you. I feel you.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHAR: Well, for all the time that I</p> <p>11 have worked in St. Michaels and longer, you</p> <p>12 have been the face of the St. Michaels Library</p> <p>13 and really the enabler of the community</p> <p>14 institution that the library is, bringing</p> <p>15 people together in that community.</p> <p>16 And thank you for all that you've done</p> <p>17 there.</p> <p>18 We will, we will absolutely miss you. But</p> <p>19 what a time to go out, just as you have cut the</p> <p>20 ribbon on the expanded branch in a place that</p> <p>21 you've dedicated so much time to. It's nice to</p>	<p>1 you.</p> <p>2 MS. BEULAH: Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Why don't you</p> <p>4 come on up. We got something to give you.</p> <p>5 MR. STEPP: For you, Shauna, framed up.</p> <p>6 MS. NEWMAN: Do you mind if we bring some</p> <p>7 more people up?</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Yeah. Absolutely.</p> <p>9 Whoever you like, whoever you like. Come on</p> <p>10 up.</p> <p>11 MR. STEPP: I got to say you guys always</p> <p>12 bring the crowd.</p> <p>13 MS. NEWMAN: She brings the crowd. She's</p> <p>14 touched so many.</p> <p>15 MR. STEPP: You guys always bring it.</p> <p>16 MS. KILMON: So what we're going to do is</p> <p>17 I'm actually going to let Emma take one with</p> <p>18 her camera because she's got the wide lens.</p> <p>19 We'll do that first, and then we'll follow</p> <p>20 behind.</p> <p>21 SPEAKER: And then Emma can come in the</p>
Page 11	Page 13
<p>1 be able to go out on a high.</p> <p>2 MS. MIELKE: I concur with everything</p> <p>3 that's been said.</p> <p>4 I was at the dedication of the renovation</p> <p>5 of the library, and it was just beautiful. And</p> <p>6 I can't think of a better finale for you and</p> <p>7 the library than that.</p> <p>8 And congratulations. And thanks for all</p> <p>9 you've done over the years. It's been</p> <p>10 beautiful.</p> <p>11 MS. HAYTHE: So Ms. Shauna, I just met you</p> <p>12 probably about four years ago through the</p> <p>13 St. Michaels Library. And your kindness, your</p> <p>14 humbleness, the way you embrace the community</p> <p>15 is, is truly amazing. You truly are a kind and</p> <p>16 gentle soul, and you are the very thread of</p> <p>17 that library down there.</p> <p>18 And going out on this high note after the</p> <p>19 St. Michaels expansion is truly a blessing.</p> <p>20 So I just wish you much prosperity and</p> <p>21 enjoyment in your retirement. So God bless</p>	<p>1 picture.</p> <p>2 MS. KILMON: And then Emma can come in the</p> <p>3 photo.</p> <p>4 SPEAKER: Are we ready? Okay.</p> <p>5 MS. KILMON: All right. Ready? One, two,</p> <p>6 three. Great, guys.</p> <p>7 SPEAKER: Thank you. Okay.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That was fantastic.</p> <p>9 Next proclamation is Sexual Assault</p> <p>10 Awareness Month. Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>11 read that into the record.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Sexual Assault Awareness</p> <p>13 Month, April 2026.</p> <p>14 Whereas, April 2026 marks Sexual Assault</p> <p>15 Awareness Month, a time to bring attention to</p> <p>16 the widespread issue of sexual violence and to</p> <p>17 empower communities to take action.</p> <p>18 And whereas, sexual assault, abuse, and</p> <p>19 harassment affect people of every age, gender,</p> <p>20 race, and background. And every person in our</p> <p>21 community deserves safety, dignity, and</p>

Page 14	<p>1 respect.</p> <p>2 And whereas, in Maryland, more than half</p> <p>3 of women, 57.2 percent, have experienced sexual</p> <p>4 violence in their lifetime and one in four</p> <p>5 Maryland men report experiencing some form of</p> <p>6 unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime,</p> <p>7 compared to 45.1 percent of women and</p> <p>8 16.9 percent of men nationally.</p> <p>9 And whereas, one in three female victims</p> <p>10 and one in four male victims of rape or</p> <p>11 attempted rape first experienced it as a child</p> <p>12 between the ages of 11 and 16.</p> <p>13 And whereas, For All Seasons's April 2026</p> <p>14 Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign focuses</p> <p>15 on helping midshore residents to stay informed,</p> <p>16 vigilant, and equipped to safeguard themselves</p> <p>17 and their communities against sexual violence.</p> <p>18 And whereas, Talbot County supports the</p> <p>19 experts who work to identify and prevent sexual</p> <p>20 violence and is dedicated to providing services</p> <p>21 and avenues for survivors seeking proper care</p>	Page 16	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>4 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Want to welcome For</p> <p>12 Seasons. Yes, ma'am, come on up.</p> <p>13 MR. WEBER: Hello. It's lovely to see</p> <p>14 standing room only at a Council meeting.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Exactly.</p> <p>16 MS. AHLSTROM: A lot to be proud of.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome.</p> <p>18 MS. AHLSTROM: Thank you. Thank you very</p> <p>19 much for --</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: If you could introduce</p> <p>21 yourself, that would be great.</p>
Page 15	<p>1 and treatment.</p> <p>2 And whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness</p> <p>3 Month and each day of the year is an</p> <p>4 opportunity to stand with survivors to</p> <p>5 recognize progress in combating these crimes</p> <p>6 and to recommit to reducing sexual violence in</p> <p>7 Talbot County.</p> <p>8 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of</p> <p>9 Talbot County, do here recognize April 2026 as</p> <p>10 Sexual Assault Awareness Month and call this</p> <p>11 observance to the attention of our citizens.</p> <p>12 Given under our hands and the great seal</p> <p>13 of Talbot County this 28th day of April in the</p> <p>14 year of Lord, 2026.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.</p> <p>16 Okay, Council. Is there a motion?</p> <p>17 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>20 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>21 vote, please.</p>	Page 17	<p>1 MS. AHLSTROM: I am Susan Ahlstrom. I am</p> <p>2 the human trafficking regional navigator at For</p> <p>3 All Seasons. I cover the midshore region in</p> <p>4 Maryland.</p> <p>5 MR. WEBER: I'm Lauren Weber. I'm the</p> <p>6 chief strategy officer at For All Seasons and I</p> <p>7 also run our center for learning, which is how</p> <p>8 we bring education and outreach to the</p> <p>9 community.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.</p> <p>11 MS. AHLSTROM: So we here. For All</p> <p>12 Seasons is the midshore's only rape crisis</p> <p>13 center. We serve Talbot, Queen Anne's,</p> <p>14 Caroline, Dorchester, and Kent Counties.</p> <p>15 And that means that For All Seasons is the</p> <p>16 only rape crisis center serving nearly 200,000</p> <p>17 people living in the five midshore counties.</p> <p>18 What we do is we are available 24 hours a</p> <p>19 day. Our sexual assault advocates are</p> <p>20 available. We offer our confidential hotline</p> <p>21 crisis counseling and hospital accompaniment</p>

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1 during forensic exams, support through law  
 2 enforcement and court processes, and ongoing  
 3 therapy and case management.  
 4 And for survivors of sexual assault,  
 5 support is always immediate. We are available.  
 6 There is no wait to speak with someone or to  
 7 receive support.  
 8 And through our open access program at For  
 9 All Seasons, we also provide same day mental  
 10 health appointments with no wait list. So  
 11 anyone can walk in and be seen that day so  
 12 people can get help when they're ready, not  
 13 weeks later.  
 14 So when someone comes forward, they do not  
 15 have to go through it alone. We meet them  
 16 where they are and support them at their pace.  
 17 MR. WEBER: We are always grateful to come  
 18 before you. I've been with you, gosh, three or  
 19 four years now to recognize, I don't want to  
 20 celebrate, this really important month.  
 21 And here is what I'll say. We often get

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1 thanked, and I'm sure that you all are getting  
 2 ready to do the same thing, for what we do.  
 3 Part of what we want to share during this month  
 4 is that everyone has a role.  
 5 It really is something that happens here.  
 6 Just maybe a couple of weeks ago, we had a  
 7 program with our director of victim services,  
 8 who runs our rape crisis center, our chief  
 9 clinical officer, and Shannon Temple, who is a  
 10 forensic nurse examiner at the University of  
 11 Maryland.  
 12 Just talking through what happens when you  
 13 report to an emergency room after a sexual  
 14 violence has occurred and demystifying that  
 15 process a little bit. And what their message  
 16 is is the same one that we have tonight. It  
 17 happens here, it happens frequently, it happens  
 18 to children, it happens to adults. It doesn't  
 19 matter what your background is.  
 20 What we are asking our community to do is  
 21 to be aware of what's happening, to take steps

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1 to educate yourself, to get informed, and also  
 2 to be supportive of when people in your life  
 3 might be experiencing sexual violence.  
 4 A daughter. You know I'm a mom of three  
 5 kids. And I think every day about the fact  
 6 that this can happen to my kids and all of the  
 7 children in our community.  
 8 But also, about how can we as a community  
 9 be coming together to prevent this on a systems  
 10 level.  
 11 So we're grateful that you have us here  
 12 tonight.  
 13 What I would say is if you can remember --  
 14 if this is something that is surprising to you,  
 15 you're passionate about, if you can remember  
 16 only three things, there's three calls to  
 17 action that we'd like to offer and invite you  
 18 to.  
 19 All of them begin with going to our  
 20 website to learn more so that I don't bore you  
 21 with all the details here.

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1 If you are in youths' lives and you are  
 2 concerned about risk of predation for youth, go  
 3 to our website. We have a course that we've  
 4 developed that you can take on your own time.  
 5 Should take, you know, an hour or two if you do  
 6 it straight through.  
 7 But it's all about developing healthy  
 8 relationships for tweens and teens and  
 9 discussion guides for the adults in their  
 10 lives, whether you're an educator, whether  
 11 you're a mentor, you're a parent, you're a  
 12 faith leader, you're a coach.  
 13 We say the hard things so that you can  
 14 watch it together, and three, five-minute  
 15 video, and then give you the discussion guide  
 16 to have a real frank conversation about it.  
 17 If you are in hospitality, if you have any  
 18 relationship, restaurants, bars, hotels, and  
 19 you want to do your part, we also are launching  
 20 a SIPS safe aware certification course so that  
 21 you can learn about drug and

Page 22	<p>1 alcohol-facilitated sexual assault. Something</p> <p>2 we started last year. It's happening with</p> <p>3 increasing frequency. And so we wanted to do</p> <p>4 something about that.</p> <p>5 If you are aware of either something</p> <p>6 happening to yourself that's sexual violence or</p> <p>7 something that's happening to someone you love,</p> <p>8 it doesn't matter who you are, know that For</p> <p>9 All Seasons does not sleep. Our hotline</p> <p>10 operates 24 hours a day. Our advocates respond</p> <p>11 to hospitals, law enforcement, courts 24 hours</p> <p>12 a day, not that the courts are overnight.</p> <p>13 We're here and the number one thing we want you</p> <p>14 to do is educate yourself, reach out, and feel</p> <p>15 like it's okay to get help.</p> <p>16 MS. AHLSTROM: And I also want to</p> <p>17 emphasize that our rape crisis services are</p> <p>18 free. And anyone who has suffered this</p> <p>19 experience, they can call, even if they're not</p> <p>20 sure what to do, if they're not sure what the</p> <p>21 steps are. Our services are free. Any</p>	Page 24	<p>1 how important that is and appreciate what you</p> <p>2 are doing in raising that public awareness and</p> <p>3 making sure that we can all play our roles.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: It's tragic that sexual</p> <p>6 assault has become such a topic in recent</p> <p>7 years.</p> <p>8 And it's so good to know that your</p> <p>9 organization and others are on top of it and</p> <p>10 want to make people aware and also be helpful.</p> <p>11 So thank you for all you do.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: So working with young girls,</p> <p>13 this is certainly a topic that we focus on and</p> <p>14 work with them greatly on.</p> <p>15 But truly appreciate the work that you do,</p> <p>16 but also the awareness that you bring to the</p> <p>17 public and the education and the preventive</p> <p>18 measures as well that can be enforced or</p> <p>19 initiated to make people aware that this is</p> <p>20 definitely going on in our community.</p> <p>21 So thank you.</p>
Page 23	<p>1 forensic exam and support at a hospital</p> <p>2 emergency room is free here in the State of</p> <p>3 Maryland. And I want to make sure people are</p> <p>4 aware of that because it makes a difference.</p> <p>5 But we are here to support those who have</p> <p>6 experienced this, and we are here for this</p> <p>7 community always, not just in April.</p> <p>8 So thank you, again, for recognizing this</p> <p>9 month and this very important issue.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.</p> <p>11 Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: Yeah. Obviously very tough</p> <p>13 topic. Very important to not only just</p> <p>14 recognize but address. And like I said, I</p> <p>15 appreciate the resources that you guys are</p> <p>16 bringing not only just in response, but just in</p> <p>17 proactiveness. So thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHER: As a scout leader, I get</p> <p>19 trained, retrained on a frequent basis to do</p> <p>20 what we can to prevent, to recognize, and to</p> <p>21 report. And I understand, I understand what --</p>	Page 25	<p>1 MS. AHLSTROM: Thank you.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. So we have a</p> <p>3 proclamation for you, if you want to come on</p> <p>4 up.</p> <p>5 MS. KILMON: All right. Ready? One, two</p> <p>6 three. Let me get one more on this guy.</p> <p>7 MS. AHLSTROM: Thank you.</p> <p>8 MS. KILMON: There we go.</p> <p>9 MR. WEBER: Thank you.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, guys.</p> <p>11 Appreciate it.</p> <p>12 Okay. We have one more proclamation to</p> <p>13 honor Kelley Callaghan. So Madam Secretary,</p> <p>14 could you go ahead and read that into the</p> <p>15 record.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Proclamation honoring Kelley</p> <p>17 Callaghan.</p> <p>18 Whereas, communities are strengthened by</p> <p>19 individuals who demonstrate extraordinary</p> <p>20 compassion, leadership, and an unwavering</p> <p>21 commitment to serving others.</p>

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<p>1 And whereas, Kelley Callaghan of Talbot                  2 Goes Purple, has distinguished herself as a                  3 dedicated advocate for the wellbeing of the                  4 residents of Talbot County, Maryland. And                  5 through her leadership and involvement with                  6 Talbot Goes Purple, Kelley has advanced                  7 substance abuse prevention efforts by                  8 empowering youth and families to make healthy                  9 and informed choices.</p> <p>10 And whereas, through her work with Teen                  11 Court, a peer-led recovery community                  12 organization, Kelley has supported restorative                  13 justice practices that guide young people                  14 toward accountability, growth, and positive                  15 futures.</p> <p>16 And whereas, her work with Grace Street                  17 has exemplified innovative and compassionate                  18 care, including the use of peer support                  19 specialists, individuals with lived experience                  20 who provide understanding, mentorship, and hope                  21 to those facing hardship.</p>	<p>1 Talbot County, do hereby recognize and honor                  2 Kelley Callaghan for her exceptional service,                  3 compassion, and commitment and contributions to                  4 the people of Talbot County, Maryland, and that                  5 her actions stand as an inspiring example of                  6 community leadership, reminding us all of the                  7 power of service, empathy, and unwavering                  8 dedication.</p> <p>9 Given under our hands and the great seal                  10 of Talbot County this 28th day of April in the                  11 year of our Lord, 2026.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Madam                  13 Secretary. Good job.</p> <p>14 So --</p> <p>15 MR. STEPP: Mr. President, I make a motion                  16 as read to enter this in the record, please.</p> <p>17 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and                  19 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the                  20 vote.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p>
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<p>1 And whereas, Grace Street has become a                  2 vital resource in Talbot County under Kelley's                  3 leadership, offering a safe, welcoming                  4 environment for individuals in need of                  5 connections, support, and basic necessities.</p> <p>6 And whereas, in times of severe cold and                  7 urgent community need, Kelley demonstrated                  8 extraordinary personal commitment by keeping                  9 Grace Street open at her own expense, ensuring                  10 that vulnerable individuals had a safe place to                  11 go. And through this selfless action, Grace                  12 Street was transformed into a 24-hour warming                  13 center, providing lifesaving refuge, dignity,                  14 and care to members of the community during                  15 critical conditions.</p> <p>16 And whereas, Kelley's tireless dedication,                  17 generosity, and innovative leadership have made                  18 a profound and lasting impact on the lives of                  19 countless individuals and families throughout                  20 Talbot County.</p> <p>21 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome, Sheriff.</p> <p>11 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: How you doing?</p> <p>13 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you for having us                  14 here.</p> <p>15 So I also have an award that I would like                  16 to give Kelley.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Go ahead.</p> <p>18 SHERIFF GAMBLE: It's a Sheriff's Salute.                  19 About 12 years ago, I got elected. Two                  20 weeks later, this woman walks in, wants to talk                  21 to me.</p>

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1 And we developed a relationship over those  
 2 first few months. I learned a lot.  
 3 She's been my right and left hand for the  
 4 last ten years with Talbot Goes Purple. She's  
 5 also been the driving force behind Teen Court,  
 6 which is very unique in the State of Maryland,  
 7 that we can defer youth for non-violent  
 8 offenses to Teen Court. She spearheaded that.  
 9 And then now with Grace Street.  
 10 There's not a week that goes by that I  
 11 don't hear on the police radio an Easton  
 12 officer, one of my guys, one of my deputies or  
 13 a State Trooper calling to drop somebody off  
 14 there because she also, through Grace Street,  
 15 runs our county Safe Station that used to be at  
 16 911 Center and it kind of died. Nobody was  
 17 using it.  
 18 And now 24 hours a day, their staff is  
 19 available for people that are suffering from  
 20 addiction issues that are seeking help. And  
 21 the homeless population, you name it, Kelley

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1 has conquered it.  
 2 So this is just a small token of our  
 3 appreciation from the Sheriff's Office for all  
 4 you've done for our community.  
 5 MS. CALLAGHAN: Thank you.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 7 Go ahead, Kelley.  
 8 MS. CALLAGHAN: Oh. Gosh. Thank you so  
 9 much. Thank you, Council, for recognizing the  
 10 work of all these different programs.  
 11 It's an honor and a privilege as a native  
 12 of Easton and Talbot County to work for people  
 13 like Joe Gamble for years.  
 14 And this kind of not just recognizes the  
 15 work of these programs, but also helps bring  
 16 awareness to the importance of these  
 17 opportunities and services for our communities  
 18 most underserved and most vulnerable.  
 19 So Joe and I are -- we stay away from  
 20 politics. It's pretty funny. He always talks  
 21 about me being the only non-right leaning

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1 person in the office. But we stay away from  
 2 all of that.  
 3 SHERIFF GAMBLE: We're about as far as you  
 4 can get.  
 5 MS. CALLAGHAN: Yeah. But I support him  
 6 wholeheartedly.  
 7 And in my line of work, people will  
 8 sometimes say, you know, tell me all about that  
 9 Sheriff, is he the real deal. And I know that  
 10 he is because he's kept programs like Teen  
 11 Court alive and started programs like Talbot  
 12 Goes Purple.  
 13 So this means a great deal to me. I like  
 14 to be in the background counting things and  
 15 organizing things. And I certainly just am  
 16 really honored to be here. So thank you.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 18 Mr. Stepp.  
 19 MR. STEPP: Kelley, there's just, there's  
 20 probably not many people in this room, if not  
 21 anyone, who hasn't been touched by at least one

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1 of the aspects of things that you address. My  
 2 family and I, we're right there, too.  
 3 What else can I say but just a heartfelt  
 4 thank you. You know, like I said, you're  
 5 solving for not just one need, but many needs  
 6 in our community.  
 7 Like I said, when you see folks who are  
 8 struggling or vulnerable. And, you know, we've  
 9 lost good people in this community, too. Just  
 10 for you to step in and do what you're doing,  
 11 it's commendable is not even the word. So  
 12 thank you. And I'll leave it there.  
 13 MR. LESHAR: Well, if there's anybody  
 14 here, and there are a lot of folks here, who  
 15 exemplify volunteerism here in Talbot County,  
 16 but you certainly do, and for such vital causes  
 17 for this community. So thank you.  
 18 MS. MIELKE: I've known Kelley for so  
 19 long, even before she started getting involved  
 20 with Talbot Turns Purple or whatever.  
 21 Anyway, so I'm so proud to have watched

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1 you all these years develop all these options  
 2 for people who suffer from addictions and  
 3 substance abuse. And it's just good to see  
 4 that you've been so dedicated and so  
 5 successful, too.  
 6 So thank you for all you do.  
 7 MS. HAYTHE: Well, it's good to finally  
 8 put a face to a name. I see the name all the  
 9 time.  
 10 But yes, you know, all that you do in the  
 11 community. And as Councilman Stepp said, a lot  
 12 of us in this room probably have been touched  
 13 in one way or another by some of the efforts  
 14 that you have at Grace Street, and that is  
 15 true. And addiction is tough for many in our  
 16 community.  
 17 So thank you for serving the underserved  
 18 population. Continue doing what you're doing,  
 19 and we appreciate you here in Talbot County.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, Kelley, we really do  
 21 appreciate you. Thanks so much.

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1 We all had a tough winter. And the  
 2 partnership that you've shown with the  
 3 Neighborhood Service Center and all the  
 4 surrounding food pantries and all that stuff,  
 5 you were a huge part of that.  
 6 So I really want to personally thank you  
 7 because you worked very, very hard to find  
 8 places for these people. And, you know, you're  
 9 in the business of saving lives. And I  
 10 appreciate that.  
 11 And appreciate everything you do, too,  
 12 Sheriff, you know.  
 13 So come on up.  
 14 SPEAKER: Come on, Steve.  
 15 SHERIFF GAMBLE: She bothers Steve as much  
 16 as she bothers me.  
 17 MS. KILMON: All right. Ready? We're  
 18 good, we're good. One, two, three.  
 19 SPEAKER: You're like a perfect window.  
 20 There we go.  
 21 MS. MIELKE: Congratulations.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's move on to  
 2 presentation of the Waterfowl Festival, the  
 3 impacts. You guys want to come on up. Yes,  
 4 come on up.  
 5 MS. D. KILMON: Hi, everybody. Thanks for  
 6 having me.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.  
 8 MS. D. KILMON: This is a great night for  
 9 good news for everybody. So I'm just bringing  
 10 some more.  
 11 MR. LESHER: Indeed you are.  
 12 MS. D. KILMON: All right. So thank you  
 13 so much for having us again.  
 14 This is a record-breaking Waterfowl year,  
 15 and we just wanted to share some good news, a  
 16 little bit about the future.  
 17 First, just to give somebody general  
 18 awareness if you're new to the community or  
 19 you're not aware of what we do. We're a  
 20 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to support  
 21 Chesapeake waterfowl and wildlife conservation,

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1 and we've been doing that for 55 years. The  
 2 way we do it is we raise money with the  
 3 Waterfowl Festival.  
 4 Our priorities this year, this is new.  
 5 Our Board of Directors just established these  
 6 specific priorities for us for the next three  
 7 to five years. To establish a clear year-round  
 8 organizational identity so you'll know more  
 9 about what we do throughout the year.  
 10 Transform Easton's historic Armory into a  
 11 vibrant center for learning, wildlife  
 12 conservation, cultural heritage, and community  
 13 engagement. And you'll hear a little bit more  
 14 about that. Celebrate the Festival as a  
 15 premier wildlife and sporting heritage and  
 16 event in support of conservation. And we have  
 17 been that for 55 years, but we are going to  
 18 reclaim the east coast crown as we get going  
 19 here.  
 20 Who runs the Festival? People ask that  
 21 all the time. And I wanted to clarify we have

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1 a paid staff of three. Again, we try to be  
 2 very thrifty with our resources. There's me,  
 3 Deena Kilmon, Assistant Director Sammy Adams  
 4 Mercer, and our administrator and volunteer  
 5 coordinator Annie Miller. And that is our  
 6 entire paid staff.  
 7 Other Board of Directors is currently now  
 8 actually 15 members of awesome people in the  
 9 community that give endless hours to support  
 10 it. And of course, we have our chairmen of all  
 11 our myriad of committees and over 1,000  
 12 volunteers every year, including last year over  
 13 300 student volunteers. It was huge last year  
 14 with the kids.  
 15 And one of the things I wanted to share  
 16 with you tonight was our actual economic impact  
 17 on the community. This, maybe I'll submit this  
 18 paid study here, this 33 pages, unless anyone  
 19 wants to read it. But this is by the Institute  
 20 for Service Research out of Virginia. This is  
 21 the actual study we commissioned last year to

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1 find out exactly what that economic impact  
 2 looked like. It was five to \$6 million on  
 3 average in the county over those few days of  
 4 the Festival. But a \$9 million Statewide  
 5 impact when you look at all the auxillary  
 6 expenditures of everyone coming in from all  
 7 over the United States and several foreign  
 8 countries.  
 9 We had about 32,400 attendees. And that's  
 10 verified with some cell phone and placer data  
 11 that was provided to us by Easton Economic  
 12 Corporation.  
 13 We had about 13,000 tickets purchased this  
 14 year. And the message on the tickets is that  
 15 your ticket is a donation. We love to say that  
 16 we're here for everybody, but we can't do it  
 17 for free.  
 18 So when you buy that ticket, you're  
 19 helping us out. If you can't afford that  
 20 ticket, you're welcome to volunteer. And that  
 21 is open to everybody as well.

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1 We had a positive impact. Like I said,  
 2 this is a brief synopsis of this massive  
 3 report. 62 percent of people traveled from  
 4 outside Talbot County. So that's great for  
 5 tourism. 25 percent of our visitors come from  
 6 out of State each year. There's lots of  
 7 excellent statistics there. And I won't read  
 8 them all, but bear in mind that there's a lot  
 9 of money being spent that weekend.  
 10 And this is inclusive of the Festival, but  
 11 also, as you know, the John Deeter auction, the  
 12 Guyette & Deeter auction made over 6 million  
 13 that weekend. So there's so much going on that  
 14 isn't even really captured here. This was just  
 15 specifically Festival numbers.  
 16 This is my favorite little diagram here.  
 17 This is our VIP ticket buyers and our general  
 18 admission ticket buyers and where they come  
 19 from across the United States. So it's really  
 20 fun to look at that each year and see how our  
 21 presence is growing.

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1 Who funds the Festival? People ask that  
 2 every year, too. Like how do we do this. The  
 3 Maryland State Arts Council. We give big, big,  
 4 big props to them. They are one of our biggest  
 5 supporters. And just yesterday, I found out  
 6 they did award \$105,000 for this year's  
 7 Festival. So we are thrilled to announce that  
 8 right here and right now.  
 9 General admission ticket sales, again,  
 10 funds all the things that are not only the  
 11 ticketed venues but also the non-ticketed  
 12 venues, of which there are many for our  
 13 education of our children and for our  
 14 community. The rapture exhibits, the library,  
 15 all the things at the high school, those are  
 16 all free. So those ticket purchases do fund  
 17 that.  
 18 We do, of course, rely on our corporate  
 19 sponsors and then VIP ticket sales and private  
 20 donations.  
 21 Why do we work so hard? So since 1971,

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1 we've donated over \$6 million to education and  
 2 conservation all over the nation but, of  
 3 course, primarily here. There's a list right  
 4 here of the things we have supported locally.  
 5 The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, Blackwater,  
 6 Adkins, Pickering Creek. You can read the  
 7 list. It's endless. We've donated to dozens  
 8 and dozens of organizations over the years.  
 9 And of course, our running total for  
 10 scholarships to our kids is over \$300,000. And  
 11 we are thrilled that number is going to jump to  
 12 367 in a couple of weeks with all the awards of  
 13 this year's class.  
 14 Other nonprofits that benefit during the  
 15 Festival. Again, you've seen them. They're  
 16 selling you crab cakes. They're selling you  
 17 soft crabs. They're running the ticket booths.  
 18 A lot of the other nonprofits that benefit and  
 19 truly count on the Festival for one of their  
 20 largest fundraisers of the year are listed  
 21 here. The Academy Arts Museum, the Elks, Boy

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1 Scouts and the Girl Scouts, some of our  
 2 churches, our Lion's Club, of course. All  
 3 these organizations count on this Festival as  
 4 one of the main ways they put money back into  
 5 the community themselves. So we are  
 6 appreciative of them, but they also do need  
 7 this Festival. If it ever crosses your mind,  
 8 it's not just our organization that benefits.  
 9 It is a multitude of organizations.  
 10 New this year. We had free and  
 11 non-ticketed events all over the Festival.  
 12 Again, that's to support our educational  
 13 objectives, and there's something for everyone  
 14 all over the city.  
 15 Easton High School was one of our free  
 16 spaces this year. And that is our conservation  
 17 corner. And all the free children's activities  
 18 in art related are either at the high school or  
 19 the library. So if you're looking for that  
 20 next year, that's where they are.  
 21 We also, you may or may not know this, we

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1 host the World Waterfowl Calling Championships  
 2 every year and we have for over 50 years. So  
 3 that is something that people, they come from  
 4 all over to participate in and watch. But the  
 5 live stream was all over the United States,  
 6 people were live streaming that and watched our  
 7 incredibly talented callers. And the champion  
 8 of champions was crowned in Easton, Maryland,  
 9 and has been for 50 years. And people do  
 10 recognize that all over the United States. So  
 11 that's pretty cool.  
 12 Looking to fall 2026, the Armory is going  
 13 to be cultural and heritage center. Again,  
 14 some of the fine art is going to move back to  
 15 the Tidewater Inn in the Gold Room. And the  
 16 Armory will return to something that is going  
 17 to really feel like the '70s and '80s with the  
 18 giant carvings and the outlaw gunners stuff and  
 19 the big boats and all the fun stuff that people  
 20 look to the Festival to, you know, explain the  
 21 heritage and the cultural heritage of the

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1 Festival.  
 2 And that's going to be really amazing  
 3 exhibits. I'm finalizing that today. We are  
 4 almost full, and you'll get some more  
 5 information about that soon.  
 6 Speaking of the Armory, so I wanted to  
 7 thank you guys so much for your support. I  
 8 spend most of the winters, last two winters  
 9 writing grants for this building. It is a  
 10 community resource. I mean we do use it a few  
 11 days a year. The rest of the community  
 12 benefits from this incredible building the rest  
 13 of the year.  
 14 So we really appreciate your letters of  
 15 support and your good thoughts when you talk to  
 16 everyone at the State level. We did receive  
 17 some additional funds for the roof. Again, the  
 18 Maryland Historic Trust has given us almost  
 19 \$200,000. And I found out we had another  
 20 \$50,000 private donation given last week to  
 21 finalize the cost of the roof. So we are

Page 46	<p>1 thrilled to share that with you guys because                  2 this is a true community resource.                  3 We are the current stewards. But going                  4 into the future, you know, we hope it's there                  5 for everybody for another 100 years. It will                  6 be 100 years next year.                  7 Community partners. Again, I just wanted                  8 to give you that list of a bunch of people who                  9 helped us out this year and will continue to.                  10 BAAM, Leadership Maryland, Shore Leadership,                  11 Main Street Maryland, the Easton EDC, the                  12 Interfaith Shelter, the Factory Arts Project,                  13 the Groove Factory. All these people used the                  14 Armory this year. So that is an extensive                  15 list. That's not even everybody on the list.                  16 But we had an incredible array of                  17 programming this year from the State level with                  18 Jay Day to Main Street Maryland to local people                  19 having theater productions and art shows and                  20 everything across the board. So we thank you                  21 for your support of that building.</p>	Page 48	<p>1 but there is an incredible video about the                  2 Armory restoration. It tells the history of                  3 the Armory, which is amazing. We had Doug                  4 Sadler from The Pocket Media Group do that.                  5 And he is a local Eastonian, did an incredible                  6 Hollywood-level job on the history of the                  7 Armory and in its future. So if you have time,                  8 I do hope that everyone can go check that out.                  9 And then last but not least, happy 55th                  10 birthday, Waterfowl. We are coming up on the                  11 55th year, and we hope everyone will be                  12 downtown and joining us.                  13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great job. Good                  14 job.                  15 Mr. Stepp.                  16 MR. STEPP: Awesome job, as always.                  17 MS. D. KILMON: Thank you.                  18 MR. STEPP: I mean this is our marquee                  19 event every year in the fall. I mean this                  20 is -- thanks, Ms. Deena.                  21 MS. D. KILMON: Of course, of course.</p>
Page 47	<p>1 Takeaways. The Festival has had a                  2 substantial positive financial impact on the                  3 city, state, and the country, and the county                  4 for over 50 years. We are growing and costs                  5 are rising.                  6 We are requesting support for                  7 infrastructure improvements. You'll see that                  8 as you come out into the next couple of years                  9 as we really struggle with the Armory and how                  10 do we keep it going for everybody.                  11 We do have a lot of support. But, you                  12 know, of course, we are going to look to all of                  13 us in the community to help us continue those                  14 capital improvements on that building.                  15 Supporting the Festival allows us to grow                  16 but also perform our mission, supporting the                  17 cultural heritage of our community and the                  18 education of our children, creating a lasting                  19 legacy for everyone in the community. So we                  20 thank you for your support there.                  21 I don't have the time to do this for you,</p>	Page 49	<p>1 MR. LESHAR: Well, of course, we get to                  2 see and experience the impact that you have                  3 every year, but it is really nice to be able to                  4 quantify it in this way. So well done --                  5 MS. D. KILMON: I'll leave this for you,                  6 Pete.                  7 MS. MIELKE: The Festival has come a long                  8 way from the Scott Beatty days when they wanted                  9 to establish something for the wives to do                  10 while the husbands came here hunting.                  11 And of course, I'm always proud of it                  12 because it's always scheduled around my                  13 birthday.                  14 MS. D. KILMON: Oh, perfect.                  15 MS. MIELKE: So I mean it's just, it's                  16 just wonderful for the county, for the town,                  17 and, you know, I enjoy volunteering here and                  18 there over the years.                  19 And what you're doing with it over the                  20 years has been just fabulous. Thank you so                  21 much.</p>

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1 MS. D. KILMON: Thank you.  
 2 MS. HAYTHE: So I echo what my colleagues  
 3 said, Deena.  
 4 I mean first met you in Anne Arundel  
 5 County when you were working for The Ark,  
 6 right?  
 7 MS. D. KILMON: Right.  
 8 MS. HAYTHE: And you did a spectacular job  
 9 there.  
 10 Then Easton EDC, spectacular job there.  
 11 But the Waterfowl, you have taken it  
 12 really over the top. I mean the community  
 13 engagement, the providing the data and the  
 14 statistics, and really showing the economic  
 15 impact to the community is just so valuable.  
 16 And so truly appreciate the outreach to  
 17 the various other nonprofits and organizations  
 18 in the community.  
 19 And Julie is just a blessing, too, to be  
 20 on your board as well. So kudos to you, your  
 21 staff --

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1 MS. D. KILMON: Thank you.  
 2 MS. HAYTHE: -- the team, the Board of  
 3 Directors. Great job, and truly appreciate  
 4 what you've put together.  
 5 MS. D. KILMON: Thank you so much.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job, Deena. I  
 7 appreciate it.  
 8 Next on the agenda, just an update for the  
 9 Talbot County Police Accountability Board.  
 10 Welcome back.  
 11 MR. ETTINGER: Thank you.  
 12 Good evening. Mitch Ettinger, the chair  
 13 of the PAB and the ACC. Thank you for inviting  
 14 me back to give you just a quick status report  
 15 on the two organizations.  
 16 I'd like to start by confirming for you  
 17 that both the PAB and the ACC are operating I  
 18 believe effectively and are doing so with the  
 19 support of all the LEAs in this county.  
 20 Yesterday I attended a statewide summit of  
 21 all PAB chairs and ACC chairs in Baltimore. It

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1 was hosted by the Baltimore City PAB.  
 2 And at that meeting, the representatives  
 3 from counties across the State described their  
 4 programs and all the challenges that they are  
 5 facing.  
 6 I'm pleased to report that the Talbot  
 7 County PAB and the ACC do not face any of the  
 8 headwinds that were the subject of much of the  
 9 discussion yesterday. In fact, there were  
 10 points where they were asking us how do we do  
 11 what we do to avoid those headwinds.  
 12 I give a lot of that credit to our LEAs  
 13 and I give a lot of that credit to the  
 14 administrative support that we receive from  
 15 Patrick Thomas and from Victoria Bradley.  
 16 So I came away from the summit with  
 17 confidence that we're operating both the PAB  
 18 and the ACC in a constructive and efficient  
 19 manner.  
 20 So one area in which we can improve is to  
 21 engage with the community in a better and more

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1 constructive way to ensure that it understands  
 2 the role of the PAB and the ACC, how each can  
 3 be helpful in addressing issues that arise with  
 4 the LAAs, and the public nature of the PAB  
 5 meetings and the information that's available  
 6 at those meetings.  
 7 We really rarely have the public attend  
 8 our PAB meetings, which are open. And I think  
 9 that's on us to make sure we get the word out  
 10 so that they can understand what's happening at  
 11 these meetings and the availability of it.  
 12 I just want to address a couple of  
 13 practical housekeeping matters that affect the  
 14 Council directly.  
 15 We currently have six members on the PAB,  
 16 which originally operated with seven. You  
 17 recently appointed Bill Building to serve on  
 18 the ACC to fill the slot that was opened up  
 19 with the passing of Connie Hope. We welcome  
 20 Bill Building. He's finishing up his training  
 21 this week and will be available for our

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<p>1 session.</p> <p>2 So that leaves open a spot on the PAB.</p> <p>3 And what I would say to you, if you want to</p> <p>4 fill it, great. If you don't, we can operate</p> <p>5 with six. There are many PABs around the State</p> <p>6 that are operating with five to seven. And</p> <p>7 some have more. We can operate with six. If</p> <p>8 you want to fill it, we're happy to take</p> <p>9 another member.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great.</p> <p>11 MR. ETTINGER: Two members are finishing</p> <p>12 up their terms, John Gilbert from Easton and</p> <p>13 Connie Webster from Sheriff Area One. Their</p> <p>14 terms are set to expire this August.</p> <p>15 Ms. Webster has indicated that she does</p> <p>16 not wish or plan to ask for reappointment. So</p> <p>17 that is one that will come to you in the summer</p> <p>18 for reappointment.</p> <p>19 I'm hopeful that Mr. Gilbert will request</p> <p>20 to be reappointed. And I wholeheartedly</p> <p>21 support him serving another term if you all</p>	<p>1 pertained to the Easton Police Department.</p> <p>2 Of the 15 investigations submitted to the</p> <p>3 ACC, ten of those complaints were filed in</p> <p>4 2024. So I want to be clear. We didn't handle</p> <p>5 15 complaints from 2025 in 2025. There's a lag</p> <p>6 time that's associated with the time required</p> <p>7 for the LEAs to investigate, prepare the</p> <p>8 report, and submit it to the ACC together with</p> <p>9 body camera film. And that just takes time.</p> <p>10 Okay.</p> <p>11 Of the 15 complaints that we resolved in</p> <p>12 2025, only three resulted in administrative</p> <p>13 charges against the officers. So about</p> <p>14 80 percent of the cases were found either to be</p> <p>15 unfounded or the officer was exonerated.</p> <p>16 The officers accepted the disposition</p> <p>17 adopted by the ACC in all three cases where the</p> <p>18 administrative charges were implemented. As a</p> <p>19 result, there were no trial boards in 2025.</p> <p>20 That I believe is a sign that the ACC is</p> <p>21 working well.</p>
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<p>1 agree.</p> <p>2 So at the end of the day, for housekeeping</p> <p>3 matters, you're going to have two to three to</p> <p>4 appoint over the next few months.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>6 MR. ETTINGER: With respect to the ACC,</p> <p>7 with the addition of Bill Building, we now have</p> <p>8 a full house. We have five members.</p> <p>9 Greg Wilson's term has expired, but he</p> <p>10 continues to serve under the terms of the</p> <p>11 statutory constructs. The PAB appointed</p> <p>12 Mr. Wilson, and he has requested to be</p> <p>13 reappointed. And the PAB will address that in</p> <p>14 the next term, the next meeting. Okay.</p> <p>15 Just a couple more things and I'll finish</p> <p>16 up.</p> <p>17 In 2025, we handled at the ACC 15 actions,</p> <p>18 meaning 15 completed investigations came to the</p> <p>19 ACC for disposition. Eight of those matters</p> <p>20 pertained to complaints filed against the</p> <p>21 Sheriff's Office deputies, while seven</p>	<p>1 To date in 2026, we've resolved seven</p> <p>2 matters, all of which were the result of</p> <p>3 complaints filed in 2025. Right? So we have</p> <p>4 yet to hit the beginning of the 2026</p> <p>5 complaints. At the rate we're going, we expect</p> <p>6 we'll have 15 to 18 complaints through the</p> <p>7 course of this year.</p> <p>8 With respect to these matters, three</p> <p>9 pertained to the Sheriff's Office, three</p> <p>10 pertained to the Easton Police Department, and</p> <p>11 one pertained to the Oxford Police Department.</p> <p>12 Two of the seven cases resulted in</p> <p>13 administrative charges. No discipline was</p> <p>14 recommended in the Oxford matter because the</p> <p>15 former chief of police had already disciplined</p> <p>16 the officer.</p> <p>17 And with respect to matter 26004, we've</p> <p>18 been advised by Sheriff Gamble that the officer</p> <p>19 has elected to take a Trial Board. So we'll</p> <p>20 have the first Trial Board in the four years</p> <p>21 that I've been serving sometime this year or</p>

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1 early next year, depending on how long it takes  
 2 to get it there.  
 3 And I want to highlight one matter for you  
 4 just to give you an example of how well the ACC  
 5 works. In matter 26005, a citizen, while  
 6 driving on Route 50, reported that an Easton  
 7 Police Department officer was surveilling  
 8 traffic at night in the left-hand turn lane, so  
 9 he was watching traffic coming toward him, with  
 10 all his lights off on his car.  
 11 And as the citizen passed the officer, the  
 12 officer eliminated his lights to begin a  
 13 traffic stop, and it startled the motorist  
 14 because he didn't see the officer previously.  
 15 And he filed a complaint requesting that  
 16 the police department look at this of whether  
 17 or not it's a safety issue, whether it  
 18 presented a risk that could be abated.  
 19 The police department looked at it and  
 20 said send it to the ACC and said there's no  
 21 violation of any policy because we're allowed

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1 to sit in those lanes and we do it routinely.  
 2 The ACC looked at it and agreed but made a  
 3 recommendation to the police department to  
 4 change their policy, to require officers  
 5 sitting in active lanes of traffic to have  
 6 their backup lights on, to have their tail  
 7 lights on. And the police department changed  
 8 their policy. Right.  
 9 That's exactly what is supposed to happen  
 10 in these types of situations. A citizen raised  
 11 an issue. The police department was not going  
 12 to do anything because their policy did not  
 13 require them to do anything. But the oversight  
 14 from the ACC said no, I think we can do this  
 15 better. And Chief Lowery, to his credit,  
 16 agreed with us.  
 17 So just to give you a sense, it's not all  
 18 disciplining officers and problems. Right?  
 19 There's some things that end up very, very  
 20 positive. Okay.  
 21 Finishing up. Yesterday Sheriff Gamble

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1 gave an interview to the Talbot Spy. I'm sure  
 2 you all have watched it ten times. It's ten  
 3 minutes long. I ask that take a moment to  
 4 watch it. Okay. The article is entitled  
 5 Sheriff Gamble on Police Oversight, from  
 6 Skepticism to Acceptance. Boy, did that warm  
 7 my heart, thinking that Sheriff Gamble actually  
 8 accepts the ACC. Not true.  
 9 But during this relatively brief  
 10 interview, Sheriff Gamble acknowledged that the  
 11 ACC more often than not is closely aligned with  
 12 the discipline that he would impose or the  
 13 decisions that he would have reached  
 14 independently. That's a far cry from four  
 15 years ago when I met with him and said I really  
 16 don't need you and don't want you. He still  
 17 doesn't need us or want us, but at least he's  
 18 acknowledging. And I think he would say that  
 19 there's some positives that come out of this  
 20 independent review.  
 21 And what I took away, from my perspective,

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1 is his recognition that the independent  
 2 oversight offered by the ACC enhances citizen  
 3 confidence in the outcomes in which the  
 4 complaints are handled. That is the benefit,  
 5 truly. Because we don't veer that often from  
 6 the LEAs in the way that they would approach  
 7 discipline.  
 8 So lastly, as I explained to Mr. Stamp  
 9 last week, I'm going to tender my resignation  
 10 from the PAB and ACC at the end of this year.  
 11 I urge the Council to again make a  
 12 concerted effort, a concerted effort to ensure  
 13 that the individual appointed to chair the PAB,  
 14 which is likely going to be your ACC chair as  
 15 well, that he has the requisite or she has the  
 16 requisite experience and time to commit to this  
 17 endeavor. Hiring a lawyer with background with  
 18 criminal law is really helpful. I promise you  
 19 it's really helpful. It's a good thing to do.  
 20 And I've agreed to work with Clay in  
 21 identifying possible replacements, but fully

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1 appreciate the process followed by the Council,  
 2 having gone through it once.  
 3 You need to do it again because this is  
 4 really, it's important that you have the right  
 5 makeup of this body so that you can get the  
 6 decisions done properly.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Okay.  
 8 MR. ETTINGER: That's all. Happy to  
 9 answer any questions you may have.  
 10 We're in a good place.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Any discussion or anything,  
 12 Council?  
 13 MS. MIELKE: No.  
 14 MS. HAYTHE: No. I just think that the  
 15 update is great. I mean I thank you and the  
 16 committees for all their work. And, you know,  
 17 glad that we have moved from being sceptic  
 18 about it to acceptance a little bit.  
 19 So Sheriff is standing back there. He's  
 20 smiling.  
 21 But yeah. Thank you for all your hard

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1 work and all that you do and the board. And  
 2 seems like everybody is on the right track. So  
 3 thank you.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yeah. Thank you.  
 5 One thing, one more thing.  
 6 MR. LESHER: Just a question or two.  
 7 One, I want to thank you for work that you  
 8 did in the report of recognizing the police and  
 9 challenges and learning about the police and  
 10 challenges with our immigrant community. And  
 11 the challenge of how do you build trust in that  
 12 community between officers and members of that  
 13 community and recognizing the work that the  
 14 Easton Police Department has been doing in  
 15 finding bilingual officers and putting them  
 16 into, into those places where they can sort of  
 17 open those doors.  
 18 I am sure -- are you seeing from where you  
 19 sit challenges of community trust? And what's  
 20 the trajectory on that front?  
 21 MR. ETTINGER: Well, we only hear

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1 anecdotally issues about individuals being  
 2 afraid to reach out to the LAAs for fear that  
 3 if they are not documented, that they cannot do  
 4 that. Right.  
 5 And that's exactly what the Easton Police  
 6 Department and the Sheriff's Department is  
 7 trying to explain, that they're there to answer  
 8 the calls. They're not there to make calls on  
 9 whether or not you're there legally or not.  
 10 Right.  
 11 So that's the kind of message if people  
 12 came to the PAB meetings, if the community  
 13 would come.  
 14 And we're talking about trying to get in  
 15 some guest speakers to address issues exactly  
 16 like that. I mean that's exactly the type of  
 17 issue that could be addressed publicly.  
 18 The LAAs come to every PAB. That's why  
 19 they're there. And they address these topics.  
 20 And it's really kind of an open forum for it.  
 21 I think it's great for the PAB to hear it, but

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1 it would be much better for the community to  
 2 hear it.  
 3 MR. LESHER: And I -- you have such a  
 4 remarkably light caseload for this small rural  
 5 jurisdiction.  
 6 And so this -- within that caseload, are  
 7 you, are you seeing patterns from particular  
 8 officers? You don't have -- do you have  
 9 frequent flyers, as it were?  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: So two points.  
 11 Yesterday we learned that Baltimore City  
 12 on average has 20 to 25 cases a week. Okay.  
 13 So we have 15 to 18 cases a year.  
 14 The cases that we have are not bad actors.  
 15 They're human beings maybe occasionally making  
 16 a bad judgment call or having a bad day. Even  
 17 the conduct that we're seeing when it is  
 18 administratively charged, is on the lower end  
 19 of the matrix. Right. We're talking about  
 20 category A and B in the matrix where the  
 21 maximum punishment is a day or two of loss of

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<p>1 pay. It's really bad judgment.                  2 We've only had one case in the four years                  3 where I've been here where we recommended that                  4 the officer be terminated, and that was a                  5 criminal case. So Talbot County is blessed                  6 with the force they have.                  7 And the cases that we get, I mean I got to                  8 be honest with you, we have some interesting                  9 search and seizure issues that come up, some                  10 detainment issues that come up. They're really                  11 interesting from the legal perspective. But                  12 they're not, they're not use of force cases,                  13 they're not cases involving violence, they're                  14 not cases involving, you know, someone stopping                  15 another's rights.                  16 So we are very, very lucky with the forces                  17 that we have here.                  18 MR. LESHER: Well, thank you for the work                  19 that you've done, and particularly the tone                  20 that you have set in building that trust                  21 between this new body and the law enforcement</p>	<p>1 Heikes, Kenneth R. Adami and Beth Adami, and                  2 the Harry G. Broadman Family Trust.                  3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam                  4 Secretary. All right.                  5 MR. CLARKE: Council, Ray Clarke, county                  6 engineer.                  7 We've here to just answer any questions                  8 you might have.                  9 We had I think at the public hearing a                  10 change in the map. So we're looking at an                  11 introduction of an amendment that includes a                  12 revised map.                  13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions,                  14 Council?                  15 MR. LESHER: No. Just thank you for                  16 dotting the Is and crossing the Ts on this one                  17 so that we can make sure that this goes forward                  18 as recommended in the Public Works Advisory                  19 Board meetings.                  20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a motion?                  21 MR. LESHER: Well, I will start by</p>
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<p>1 agencies in the county.                  2 MR. ETTINGER: You're welcome. Thanks.                  3 Thank you all.                  4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay.                  5 Madam Secretary, could we move on to                  6 eligible votes, Resolution 392.                  7 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 392, a                  8 resolution to amend the Talbot County                  9 comprehensive water and sewer plan to                  10 reclassify and remap six parcels of real                  11 property located at 25516 Bushey Heath Road,                  12 25520 Bushey Heath Road, 25524 Bushey Heath                  13 Road, 25533 Bushey Heath Road, 25575 Bushey                  14 Heath Road, and 25608 Bushey Heath                  15 Road/Solitude Road and shown on tax map 40 as                  16 parcels 98, 86, 2, 82, 4, and 110,                  17 respectively. From unprogrammed to S-1,                  18 immediate priority status. Pursuant to                  19 applications filed by Daniel D. Haley and Dawn                  20 A. Haley, Jacqueline H. Smith, and Federal QTIP                  21 Residuary Trust of Jerry B. Hook, Katherine A.</p>	<p>1 introducing amendment one.                  2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  3 MR. LESHER: To Resolution 392 as prepared                  4 by staff.                  5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  6 MS. HAYTHE: Second.                  7 MR. LESHER: And...                  8 MR. THOMAS: Show of hands for                  9 introduction.                  10 MR. LESHER: Do we want a show of hands                  11 for introduction?                  12 So introduced by Council.                  13 And if you want to, if there's any                  14 discussion on that. If not, you can call for                  15 the roll.                  16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Madam Secretary,                  17 could you call the vote.                  18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  20 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.                  21 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p>

Page 70	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.                  2 MR. LESHNER: Aye.                  3 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.                  4 MS. MIELKE: Aye.                  5 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.                  6 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.                  7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  8 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.                  9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.                  10 MR. LESHNER: We now have Resolution 392 as                  11 amended. And if there's no discussion on that,                  12 you can call the vote on 392.                  13 MR. CALLAHAN: Any discussion, Council?                  14 MS. HAYTHE: No discussion.                  15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,                  16 could you call the vote on 392.                  17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  19 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.                  20 MR. STEPP: Aye.                  21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p>	Page 72	<p>1 Debbie Walsworth, who is my chairperson,                  2 is away on vacation. She is a public                  3 accountant and always takes a vacation after                  4 the season is over. And Debbie walked with us                  5 every step of the way, as did Ted, through this                  6 process.                  7 And I'll introduce the team as well. Ryan                  8 Snow and Kristen Goller also walked every step                  9 of the way on this Strategic Plan, 219 pages.                  10 This is an important moment, but it is not                  11 a final one. It's just a step forward. For                  12 more than 18 months, this department, together                  13 with Economic Development Commission and                  14 Tourism Board, has done the work.                  15 We listened carefully, we engaged                  16 stakeholders across Talbot County, we held a                  17 work session where our consultant presented to                  18 you on February 24th, and you gave us clear,                  19 thoughtful direction.                  20 The public offered input, and we took that                  21 input seriously.</p>
Page 71	<p>1 MR. LESHNER: Aye.                  2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.                  3 MS. MIELKE: Aye.                  4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.                  5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.                  6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good.                  7 All right. Next on the agenda is                  8 development and tourism. Cassandra, you want                  9 to come on up?                  10 MS. VANHOOSER: Yes, sir.                  11 MR. CALLAHAN: With your whole team there.                  12 MS. VANHOOSER: Hey, we got hail, hail,                  13 the gang's all here.                  14 MR. CALLAHAN: I see you got the team                  15 here.                  16 MS. VANHOOSER: Mr. President, Members of                  17 the Talbot County Council, thank you so much                  18 for having us here this evening.                  19 Let me introduce my guest. Mr. Ted Bautz,                  20 member of the Economic Development Commission,                  21 is here with me this evening.</p>	Page 73	<p>1 The plan before you reflects that process,                  2 and it is stronger because of it.                  3 The document before you tonight is a                  4 Strategic Plan. It sets direction, it                  5 establishes priorities, it provides a framework                  6 for decision-making. It is not an operational                  7 plan. Nothing in this document authorizes                  8 specific projects, expenditures, or policy                  9 changes without coming back before you. Any                  10 material actions that flow from this strategy                  11 will be brought to the Council for discussion                  12 and approval.                  13 We will not work in a vacuum. We do not                  14 work in a vacuum. We will continue to work in                  15 partnership with you, with our municipalities,                  16 and with the broader community.                  17 You've had this plan for two months now.                  18 So I won't walk through it line by line. But I                  19 do want to briefly ground us in what it does.                  20 It focuses our work in five priority                  21 areas, building on our regional innovation</p>

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1 anchors, strengthening business services,  
 2 cultivating a strong small business ecosystem,  
 3 growing and sustaining a tourism economy built  
 4 on excellence, and supporting a more resilient  
 5 workforce. Together these priorities give us a  
 6 clear disciplined framework for  
 7 decision-making.  
 8 This plan also provides alignment. It  
 9 recognizes that Talbot County's character is  
 10 both a legacy and an asset, something to be  
 11 preserved and thoughtfully advanced.  
 12 It acknowledges the importance of our core  
 13 industries, while also identifying where we  
 14 have opportunities to grow in ways that are  
 15 consistent with our values.  
 16 You asked for clarity and balance, and we  
 17 made those adjustments. You asked us to more  
 18 fully reflect the role that Waterfowl Festival  
 19 and traditions like that play in shaping Talbot  
 20 County's identity, and we strengthened that  
 21 language accordingly. You asked us to sharpen

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1 our focus on business attraction, and the plan  
 2 now clearly identifies sectors where Talbot  
 3 County is well positioned to compete, while  
 4 reinforcing support for industries that are  
 5 already defining our economy.  
 6 And importantly, this plan is scaled to  
 7 our capacity. It is practical. It's intended  
 8 to guide actions, not overextend it.  
 9 If approved, this plan gives us a shared  
 10 roadmap. It allows us to move forward with  
 11 greater coordination and purpose while ensuring  
 12 that you remain fully engaged in the decisions  
 13 that matter most.  
 14 Your leadership has shaped this document.  
 15 You were all interviewed, and this was from the  
 16 beginning. You were among the first  
 17 interviews.  
 18 We had vast public engagement, and I  
 19 sincerely appreciate your engagement and the  
 20 public's, your questions, your guidance  
 21 throughout this process.

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1 And Ted, I'll turn it to you if you have  
 2 anything you want to say before we ask for  
 3 final approval.  
 4 MR. BAUTZ: Well, on behalf of the  
 5 Commission and all of the volunteers, thousands  
 6 of hours I dare say were put into this plan to  
 7 offer you a sound Strategic Plan, sound  
 8 guidance for setting policies related to  
 9 economic development and tourism.  
 10 And we ask for your continued support and  
 11 approval.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council.  
 13 Mr. Stepp, you good?  
 14 MR. STEPP: I'm good. Thank you for all  
 15 the work that went into this behind the scenes.  
 16 MS. VANHOOSER: It was a labor of love.  
 17 MR. LESHER: This is clearly a well vetted  
 18 report. I can't tell you how infrequently it  
 19 happens that we are given a document like this  
 20 for approval two months in advance of when  
 21 we're actually asked to approve it. So

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1 appreciate all that review time. And it did  
 2 allow me to digest this.  
 3 I know that you really touch, well, those  
 4 five priority areas, you really touch on quite  
 5 the breadth of Talbot County. And maybe with  
 6 the strong presence of the agricultural  
 7 community in this room, you might not -- how  
 8 that remains really vital to your plan.  
 9 MS. VANHOOSER: Absolutely. Working open  
 10 space is just integral to who we are. It is --  
 11 you know, it adds to our tourism product, but  
 12 really is the foundation for the economy here.  
 13 And we would support all of the things that  
 14 bring innovation and excellence to that sector  
 15 as well.  
 16 And you probably know this, but I grew up  
 17 on a dairy farm, having grain and agriculture.  
 18 So I'm more than supportive of agriculture and  
 19 believe in the future of agriculture.  
 20 And also, building on that, the agro tech  
 21 that we have invested in, you as a County

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<p>1 Council have invested in the F3 Tech biotech                  2 manufacturing facility, really believe that the                  3 future of agriculture includes innovations that                  4 come from biology and not just from chemicals.                  5 So absolutely, it's 100 percent in this                  6 plan and supported by this plan.                  7 And we had engagement. Shannon Dill                  8 represents the agriculture community on our                  9 Strategic Plan, also on the Economic                  10 Development Commission. So we've had a lot of                  11 engagement from the community as well.                  12 Ted, you want to jump in?                  13 MR. BAUTZ: I think you said it.                  14 MS. VANHOOSER: You good?                  15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  16 MR. LESHER: Well, I'll move approval of                  17 the Economic Development Strategic Plan.                  18 MR. CALLAHAN: You want to say anything                  19 else?                  20 MS. MIELKE: No.                  21 MS. HAYTHE: Yes, I do. You know I do.</p>	<p>1 Camoin &amp; Associates for all of the community                  2 players that were involved in the interviews.                  3 So great plan. I love it.                  4 I'll second Councilman Leshler's approval                  5 for this plan.                  6 MS. VANHOOSER: It means a lot that you                  7 say that about economic development.                  8 One of the things that I will point out,                  9 and this is for everyone to know, and we will                  10 post this online now hopefully it's about to be                  11 approved. But there is a strong data package                  12 in here.                  13 And if you want to know anything about                  14 Talbot County numbers related, it's probably in                  15 here. So I would encourage the public to take                  16 a look at the data package that goes with the                  17 Strategic Plan as well.                  18 So thank you for your comment.                  19 MS. HAYTHE: Yup.                  20 MR. CALLAHAN: And I just want to say one                  21 thing. Thanks so much.</p>
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<p>1 MR. LESHER: I'm sorry.                  2 MR. CALLAHAN: That's all right.                  3 MS. HAYTHE: I have to say something about                  4 the Economic Development Strategic Plan. I                  5 can't not say anything.                  6 So not serving on the Economic Development                  7 Board but serving on the Tourism Board, this                  8 economic development strategy certainly has a                  9 clear path for the focus and vision of economic                  10 development. And I mean I do believe it gets                  11 to the very core of what Talbot County is and                  12 also charting a course for economic development                  13 in the future, particularly addressing the                  14 attraction piece.                  15 And totally agree that we have an                  16 opportunity with F3 Tech.                  17 This is one of -- I mean this is a good                  18 plan. I mean I've read many. I read the whole                  19 thing, 200 and some pages of it, and had my                  20 little sticky notes, as Clay will attest to.                  21 But all for it. Great job to the team, to</p>	<p>1 I serve on that board. And you guys have                  2 done such a phenomenal job. And I'm talking                  3 this is years.                  4 MS. VANHOOSER: It's taken a lot longer.                  5 MR. CALLAHAN: Of putting together.                  6 And, you know, you reaching out to me and                  7 saying Chuck, we got a meeting. All right, I                  8 got it, I got it, you know.                  9 So you've kept me straight and you've kept                  10 a lot of people straight. And you've led all                  11 this.                  12 And you've had a phenomenal team behind                  13 you.                  14 And Ted, thanks for hanging in there.                  15 MR. BAUTZ: Absolutely.                  16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. And just so much                  17 work is involved.                  18 And staff, too. Going from town to town                  19 to town to town.                  20 MS. VANHOOSER: Absolutely.                  21 MR. CALLAHAN: So I mean there was a lot</p>

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1 into this. And you've done a phenomenal job.  
 2 Just taking a look at it, you can just  
 3 tell how much time and effort and, you know,  
 4 the professionalism that you put into this  
 5 really makes us look very good. So I really  
 6 appreciate that, all of you guys.  
 7 So Mr. Stamp.  
 8 MR. STAMP: Well, as your county manager,  
 9 I'm very proud of our director of Economic  
 10 Development and Tourism and the team, Ted and  
 11 the team and Debbie. They worked tirelessly.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.  
 13 MR. STAMP: And yes, I did get that review  
 14 with all those sticky notes.  
 15 MS. HAYTHE: You sure did.  
 16 MR. STAMP: From our resident economic  
 17 development specialist who sits on the Council.  
 18 But no. Kudos. We're very proud of the  
 19 work that you all do.  
 20 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you.  
 21 MS. HAYTHE: It's a good plan. I mean it

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1 really is.  
 2 And I'm very happy to sit here and approve  
 3 it. Proud of it.  
 4 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.  
 6 MR. STEPP: I heard a motion. I did not  
 7 hear a second.  
 8 MS. MIELKE: She seconded it.  
 9 MR. STEPP: She already seconded it?  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. We got a motion --  
 11 MS. HAYTHE: How can I not?  
 12 MR. STEPP: I figured you did, but I was  
 13 going to give you an opportunity.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. We got a motion  
 15 and second. Madam Secretary, could you call  
 16 the vote.  
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 20 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

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1 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 3 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 6 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you very much.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job, guys. Good job.  
 8 Okay.  
 9 Next on the agenda, let's do a  
 10 presentation of Home Start Housing Fair. Yup.  
 11 How is it going, guys?  
 12 MR. TARLETON: Good evening, Council. For  
 13 the record, Brennan Tarleton, your planning  
 14 officer. With me tonight, I've got Bryce  
 15 Yelton and Sarah Kilmon.  
 16 And we're here just to introduce to you  
 17 Talbot County's very first free first time  
 18 homebuyers fair that will be taking place  
 19 May 2nd from noon to three p.m. We'll be  
 20 hosting that in partnership with the Talbot  
 21 County Health Department at the 510 Cadmus Lane

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1 building for the Health Department.  
 2 This is something that was I know near and  
 3 dear to Council Member Haythe's heart. And her  
 4 first time talking to me about this was  
 5 probably about two years ago. We were  
 6 contemplating and talking about some ideas of  
 7 how to bring some resources to the community,  
 8 really identifying and centering around the  
 9 housing needs, particularly in our community.  
 10 So we discussed at length how to put on an  
 11 event for the public where we can bring  
 12 resources together to allow individuals from  
 13 the public to come and attend and talk with  
 14 resources that they may not be as familiar with  
 15 or may not be aware of in hopes of educating  
 16 them and bringing them the things that they  
 17 need and the tools that they need in their  
 18 toolkit to hopefully pursue being a first time  
 19 homebuyer here in Talbot County.  
 20 And we believe that's a very important  
 21 feat for a lot of individuals. Living and

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1 working in the community is something very  
 2 important that we realize from a planning  
 3 perspective. It creates a lot of community  
 4 resilience here.  
 5 So we're very happy to bring this forward  
 6 to the community. We've got a lot of great  
 7 vendors lined up to be here and a few  
 8 presenters that I'll let Bryce kind of dive  
 9 into now.  
 10 MR. YELTON: Thank you, Council. We're  
 11 really excited about this because I think I  
 12 just want to give a basic outline of what's  
 13 going to occur on that day.  
 14 So at noon, I think we're going to start  
 15 about 50 minutes after the turn of the hour.  
 16 We're going to have a short presentation from a  
 17 couple of different people that provide housing  
 18 resources in local government. So -- or in,  
 19 you know, State and federal government.  
 20 We have presentations lined up from the  
 21 United States Department of Agriculture on all

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1 of their programs that they do for first time  
 2 homebuyers. We also have presentations lined  
 3 up from the Maryland Department of Housing and  
 4 Community Development, DHCD. They're going to  
 5 be doing a presentation shortly about their,  
 6 you know, products and different loans that  
 7 they give out.  
 8 And then we also have, locally we have the  
 9 Midshore Board of Realtors doing a presentation  
 10 shortly after that to talk about their local  
 11 housing initiatives.  
 12 It's really awesome the overwhelming  
 13 amount of response we've gotten from a lot of  
 14 our local realtors, lenders, banks, and other  
 15 home improvement contractors. We put out a  
 16 sign-up, and we've got so far 18 different  
 17 vendors that are going to be vending for this  
 18 event.  
 19 So we're really looking forward to it and  
 20 hoping that if you're looking to purchase a  
 21 house anytime in the near future and you're

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1 looking, you know, for where to go and how to  
 2 start, this is really that event for you.  
 3 So we're really excited to welcome the  
 4 community out on Saturday at the Health  
 5 Department at noon.  
 6 And I'll throw it to any of you guys if  
 7 you have anything else.  
 8 MR. TARLETON: Sarah, do you have anything  
 9 to add?  
 10 MS. KILMON: I don't have much to add  
 11 other than I would say that I did recently go  
 12 through the house buying process. And there  
 13 was so much that I didn't know. Right? And I  
 14 had a good realtor that helped me through, you  
 15 know, talking through all the steps and the  
 16 process.  
 17 And that's why we're doing this fair, to  
 18 give you the opportunity to talk with the  
 19 experts, see the presentations, get the flow of  
 20 how it feels to buy a house and the process you  
 21 can go through.

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1 And I also would say, you know, home  
 2 ownership is not -- it felt so unattainable.  
 3 Right? And then when you start to actually  
 4 talk to people, you realize that okay, maybe  
 5 this is a possibility.  
 6 So I would hope everyone that is, you  
 7 know, like we said, looking to purchase a home  
 8 or is maybe thinking about it, to at least come  
 9 out and see the resources that are available  
 10 right here in our community.  
 11 MR. YELTON: Yeah. And so the last final  
 12 plug. We've got some flyers outside the  
 13 courthouse today, if you know anybody that's in  
 14 the audience or anybody watching online. You  
 15 can go to our website at  
 16 talbotcountymd.gov/housingfair for more  
 17 information.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds good.  
 19 Good job.  
 20 Any discussion on this, guys?  
 21 MS. MIELKE: No.

Page 90	<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: No discussion. I just have a</p> <p>2 comment, though.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>4 MS. HAYTHE: Kudos to you guys for pulling</p> <p>5 this off.</p> <p>6 You know, housing has been at the top of</p> <p>7 my list forever, I'm telling you. As a first</p> <p>8 time homebuyer myself in this community, just</p> <p>9 like Sarah said, sometimes it can feel so</p> <p>10 overwhelming.</p> <p>11 But I tell you, USDA should be paying me</p> <p>12 to tout their program because that program is a</p> <p>13 really good way to purchase a home in Talbot</p> <p>14 County. And so I'm excited to be there and</p> <p>15 share some tips as well.</p> <p>16 So thank you so much for the hard work</p> <p>17 that you guys have put in. And hopefully the</p> <p>18 community will come out and see that it is</p> <p>19 within reach to purchase a home here in Talbot</p> <p>20 County.</p> <p>21 So thank you for all the work.</p>	Page 92	<p>1 and had made a favorable recommendation to pass</p> <p>2 the text amendment with the amendment that</p> <p>3 we -- that the corporate flag fly with at least</p> <p>4 one governmental flag.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good. Okay.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHHER: It is our charge now to</p> <p>7 direct staff from the dais to draft this?</p> <p>8 MR. THOMAS: Yes, that is correct.</p> <p>9 MR. LESHHER: I will move that we request</p> <p>10 that we do that.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHHER: With the amendment as</p> <p>13 recommended by the Planning Commission.</p> <p>14 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>16 MR. STEPP: I join in that as well.</p> <p>17 MR. STAMP: Motion and second.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>19 call the vote.</p> <p>20 Do we have to vote?</p> <p>21 (Crosstalk.)</p>
Page 91	<p>1 And Clay, thank you, too, for your</p> <p>2 support.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, guys. Good luck</p> <p>4 Saturday.</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda,</p> <p>7 Council's consideration of recommendation of</p> <p>8 the Planning Commission. We got a text</p> <p>9 amendment on some signs.</p> <p>10 Yup. There we go. Okay.</p> <p>11 MS. DeFLAUX: Good evening.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.</p> <p>13 MS. DeFLAUX: I wanted to let you know</p> <p>14 that the Planning Commission --</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Could you introduce</p> <p>16 yourself, please?</p> <p>17 MS. DeFLAUX: Oh, sorry. Elisa DeFlaux,</p> <p>18 Planning &amp; Zoning.</p> <p>19 I wanted to let you know that the Planning</p> <p>20 Commission had reviewed the text amendment to</p> <p>21 add the corporate flags to the sign ordinance</p>	Page 93	<p>1 MR. STEPP: I don't think we need a vote.</p> <p>2 MR. THOMAS: I think it's fine. Really</p> <p>3 any one member can direct me to prepare it. So</p> <p>4 we're covered.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: You got what you need,</p> <p>6 then.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good. Okay. That</p> <p>9 sounds good. Thank you, guys.</p> <p>10 MS. DeFLAUX: Thank you.</p> <p>11 MR. TARLETON: Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: We're good. Okay.</p> <p>13 Next on the agenda is a discussion on the</p> <p>14 priority list of Maryland Department of</p> <p>15 Transportation. Ray and Josh.</p> <p>16 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir. We're back.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>18 MR. CLARKE: Well, I think, Council, I</p> <p>19 guess back in March, we presented to you I</p> <p>20 guess the road priorities.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p>

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1 MR. CLARKE: As discussed with the Public  
 2 Works Advisory Board.  
 3 At that time, there was no -- the 2025  
 4 road priorities did not have anything listed as  
 5 the Rails to Trails that was associated with  
 6 the Frederick Douglass building. And I guess  
 7 we had talked with the Council about that.  
 8 And I believe it was added back to the  
 9 list. Apparently it was on the list in 2024.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 11 MR. CLARKE: So again, when we met with  
 12 the Public Works Advisory Board, we had not  
 13 even looked at adding or it was not on our  
 14 list.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.  
 16 MR. CLARKE: At the time. So there was no  
 17 recommendation from the board to having this  
 18 added on. I think it was through our  
 19 discussion with you all at that meeting.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: So at this time, it's on  
 21 the list?

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1 MR. CLARKE: It is on the list. It's  
 2 actually number ten on the road priority list  
 3 at this point in time.  
 4 We currently have I think 11 items. And  
 5 so it was added as number ten. It was my  
 6 understanding, and we can -- that it was there  
 7 before in 2024.  
 8 I do know that there was a meeting in  
 9 2024. I think the SHA had a public meeting  
 10 talking about a Rails to Trails, and I know  
 11 there was a lot of concerns that was raised by  
 12 the farming community at that meeting.  
 13 And at that point, like I said, I was  
 14 under the impression that it was not added to  
 15 the list possibly for that reason.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Right, right. Okay.  
 17 Council, discussion?  
 18 MR. STEPP: I'll be glad to add a few  
 19 points.  
 20 So back on that meeting, I'm still unclear  
 21 on how this got added to that. I have the list

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1 here in front of me from the March 24th meeting  
 2 that showed going through number nine, number  
 3 nine being Cordova Road and the transfer to  
 4 SHA. But that was just for that .14-mile  
 5 stretch. That's the only conveyance that I saw  
 6 that was in there.  
 7 I was at the -- the only thing I know we  
 8 added during public comment at that meeting,  
 9 Mr. Riggin had represented Easton Club East and  
 10 mentioned extending the left-hand turn lane  
 11 heading eastbound on Route 50 onto Dutchmans.  
 12 And we, as Council, added that. Again, I'm  
 13 still unclear on how the Rail Trail got in  
 14 there.  
 15 But I think it was last week we were out  
 16 to Queen Anne Hillsboro Fire Department and  
 17 they had the public session that was there. It  
 18 was heard loud and clear that the residents up  
 19 and down 309 were not in favor of this for a  
 20 myriad of reasons, anywhere from just possible  
 21 incidents with farming, farming operations, to

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1 you know, just safety concerns and who is  
 2 liable for this, who is liable for that. I  
 3 know there was discussion about that.  
 4 But, you know, it was heard loud and clear  
 5 that the communities out there along 309  
 6 between Easton and Queen Anne did not want  
 7 this.  
 8 I don't know what our formal process here,  
 9 but I'm sure anyone else might have any  
 10 additional comments.  
 11 I'd like to make a motion that we remove  
 12 that from this priority listing to MDOT.  
 13 MS. HAYTHE: I guess I have a question in  
 14 regards to whether it was a clerical error or  
 15 an administrative error where it wasn't carried  
 16 over to 2025. Because if the Council voted in  
 17 2024 to have it on the list, then it should  
 18 have been on the list for 2025 for us to  
 19 review, correct?  
 20 MR. CLARKE: And it was not on the 2025  
 21 list. So that's -- I don't know how it got

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1 removed or whatnot at that point. We'd have to  
 2 go back and look. I have no --  
 3 MR. STAMP: We did research it. And the  
 4 only thing we could come up with, it was  
 5 inadvertently dropped from the list.  
 6 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. That's what I was  
 7 thinking.  
 8 MR. STAMP: We could not find any action  
 9 of Council to drop it from the list.  
 10 That's why this year, although it wasn't  
 11 on the initial list, draft list that you had in  
 12 your packet, we brought it back for your  
 13 consideration as to whether you wanted to add  
 14 it or not.  
 15 And certainly, tonight you can remove it  
 16 and we would make due notice to the Department  
 17 of Transportation following such.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you for clearing that  
 19 up.  
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah, thank you.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Any

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1 other?  
 2 MR. LESHER: My inclination, having been  
 3 at the meeting at Queen Anne Hillsboro and  
 4 heard the concerns from adjacent property  
 5 owners is rather than remove this from the list  
 6 and just be silent on the issue, would be to  
 7 add a little bit of language there that would  
 8 say something along the lines of as project  
 9 planning takes its next steps, adjacent  
 10 property owners must be engaged to address  
 11 concerns regarding the capability of the trail  
 12 to agricultural and related activities. And  
 13 make sure that that concern is registered in  
 14 our priority listing to the Department of  
 15 Transportation.  
 16 And I know that we're past the deadline  
 17 for DOT. But whether or not a late action at  
 18 this point will make it across their desks, if  
 19 it can, I would rather add language than take  
 20 it away.  
 21 MS. HAYTHE: I agree.

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1 MR. STEPP: I mean we're -- I mean it  
 2 is -- I mean I can tell you that it wouldn't  
 3 get the attention anyway. But I mean they've  
 4 moved on.  
 5 They've informed us that they spent  
 6 \$800,000 already on just a map to draw a  
 7 potential red line.  
 8 It's interesting how they have funding for  
 9 this. I know they said it's coming in from a  
 10 grant. But, you know, when we're in a State  
 11 situation where we're in, but we somehow find  
 12 resources to put in this trail that our  
 13 community clearly doesn't want. So it's  
 14 definitely a little concerning.  
 15 But yeah. So my motion still stands to  
 16 remove it from the list altogether.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, go ahead.  
 18 MS. HAYTHE: I have another question. So  
 19 in 2024, when we added -- I hate to go back to  
 20 2024.  
 21 In 2024 when we added it to the list,

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1 these concerns were out there at that time as  
 2 well? I don't recall.  
 3 MR. STEPP: We hadn't had any public  
 4 session on it. The first one we had was --  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Over to the library.  
 6 MR. STEPP: Keep me honest here. Last  
 7 summer over at the library. And it was a  
 8 packed house in opposition of, in addition to  
 9 last week a packed house in opposition of.  
 10 Like I said, the community is --  
 11 MR. LESHER: In fairness, there were  
 12 plenty of supporters in the room as well.  
 13 MR. STEPP: There were, there were.  
 14 But, you know, like I said, those who are  
 15 residents that spoke up, I didn't hear anyone  
 16 who was a resident that said, you know, that  
 17 this would impact their property line, that  
 18 said that they would like this to come to that  
 19 area.  
 20 MS. HAYTHE: I did receive, you know, some  
 21 emails from various constituents on both sides.

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1 And I, you know, I think that what  
 2 Councilman Leshner is proposing is potentially a  
 3 way to move forward because everybody should be  
 4 heard because you could have people on the side  
 5 that says they would like to see a trail for  
 6 health reasons, walking, biking, whatever the  
 7 case may be. And then on the other side, you  
 8 know, there are questions that, you know, I  
 9 agree with, too, regarding dust and some other  
 10 things as well.  
 11 But to have a solution for both sides, I  
 12 do think that there needs to be some type of  
 13 research and, you know, public information  
 14 session before they move forward with it.  
 15 And since it was on the 2024 list and  
 16 somehow was inadvertently removed, we did vote  
 17 to put it on there, this body, in 2024.  
 18 So I think keeping it on there and moving  
 19 forward with some type of research and making  
 20 sure that the public is informed and do a  
 21 public session would be the way to go as well.

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1 MS. MIELKE: The only thing I don't  
 2 understand about what Councilman Leshner is  
 3 saying is if you present both sides, and for  
 4 what purpose? I mean who is going to make the  
 5 decision?  
 6 MR. LESHER: Well, the point is to make  
 7 sure that those community concerns get  
 8 addressed in the planning process about traffic  
 9 safety around, around spraying, hunting, all of  
 10 the community concerns that were expressed at  
 11 that meeting.  
 12 MS. MIELKE: So you're saying everybody  
 13 has a voice. But in the final analysis, it  
 14 would pass?  
 15 MR. LESHER: I'm just saying that if it  
 16 were, that those concerns need to be, need to  
 17 be addressed.  
 18 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. Brought to the light.  
 19 Yeah.  
 20 MS. MIELKE: It doesn't, it doesn't really  
 21 provide for a resolution of what each side

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1 would say.  
 2 MS. HAYTHE: Well, the resolution may be  
 3 that due to health reasons and environmental  
 4 reasons, the trail can't be completed once the  
 5 research is done in regards to the concerns.  
 6 But I think, you know, having, you know,  
 7 research and data would help in making that  
 8 decision. I mean is it a health risk? Is it  
 9 an environmental concern? I mean because, you  
 10 know, right now it's just --  
 11 MR. STEPP: Right now it's bisecting  
 12 farms. And we have farmers that spray some  
 13 potent chemicals. That one concern alone, just  
 14 someone biking and then, you know, coming into  
 15 a drift from the combine would --  
 16 MS. MIELKE: What's the, the industry  
 17 that's there, Mountaire?  
 18 MR. LESHER: Mountaire.  
 19 MR. STEPP: Mountaire Farms.  
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Mountaire.  
 21 MS. MIELKE: Their concerns about the

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1 comings and goings --  
 2 MR. STEPP: Yeah. It's literally --  
 3 MS. MIELKE: It's out there, the --  
 4 MR. STEPP: -- about 30 feet off of  
 5 their --  
 6 MS. HAYTHE: Their property.  
 7 MR. STEPP: Their silos are about 20,  
 8 30 feet off.  
 9 MS. MIELKE: It is a hard issue. I  
 10 mean --  
 11 MR. LESHER: Sure.  
 12 MS. HAYTHE: It is, it is.  
 13 Mr. Stamp, were you able to find out any  
 14 information about our neighboring Queen Anne's  
 15 County?  
 16 MR. STAMP: I'm sorry. Could you repeat  
 17 yourself?  
 18 MS. HAYTHE: Did you find out any  
 19 information in regards to my question about  
 20 neighboring Queen Anne's County and their  
 21 trails --

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1 MR. STAMP: I have not been able to get a  
 2 response as of yet.  
 3 MR. LESHER: So Queen Anne's County just  
 4 did present their Bike and Pedestrian Safety  
 5 Master Plan at the, at our Talbot County  
 6 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
 7 meeting just this morning showing how they are  
 8 prioritizing connectivity and trails that  
 9 support county, the county Comprehensive Plan.  
 10 They do show ultimately a link in trails  
 11 down through Tuckahoe Park to 404.  
 12 MS. HAYTHE: I think my specific question  
 13 was if there was any common, commonality  
 14 between the trail that's already existing in  
 15 Queen Anne's County to the proposed here in  
 16 Talbot County, if there were some concerns if  
 17 there's anything in common that we could learn  
 18 from that.  
 19 MS. MIELKE: They're different areas. How  
 20 can there be?  
 21 MS. HAYTHE: Different areas. But there

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1 may be -- that was why I asked the question.  
 2 We can't assume. Assume nothing is my  
 3 motto.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 5 MS. MIELKE: I agree. Yeah.  
 6 MR. STEPP: Well, to hear that we've spent  
 7 \$800,000 of taxpayer dollars. Now, grant it,  
 8 it is grants, right, but grants are exactly  
 9 that. They're taxpayer dollars. To find out  
 10 we spent \$800,000 to put a red line on a map,  
 11 God knows what it's going to be for this  
 12 planning phase and how much more they would  
 13 waste on this project just for the planning  
 14 phase.  
 15 And then obviously, if it ever got to  
 16 construction, what that would cost for a  
 17 community that doesn't want this. That's why  
 18 I'm not for this.  
 19 And it's interesting, too. We go to MACo  
 20 every summer and we're asked to attend a  
 21 meeting with MDOT. And the meeting every year

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1 is the same thing. Hey, welcome every county.  
 2 One county comes in, next county comes out.  
 3 Just want to let you know we don't have any  
 4 funding for anything this year, next county.  
 5 You know, that seems to be the general theme of  
 6 that meeting every single summer.  
 7 So again, that being low on the priority  
 8 list, I don't see this happening anyway. But  
 9 I'd really like to carve that in granite here  
 10 by just removing it from the list altogether.  
 11 And again, that motion still stands if  
 12 anyone wanted to second it.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: I'll second it.  
 14 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.  
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 17 Well, we'll note it.  
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 19 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 21 MR. LESHER: Nay.

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1 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 2 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 4 MS. HAYTHE: Nay.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Next.  
 6 MR. STAMP: We'll make sure we get a  
 7 letter out to the Department of Transportation  
 8 tomorrow.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next is discussion  
 10 on Poplar Hill. Okay.  
 11 MS. HAYTHE: What are we discussing?  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: What?  
 13 MS. HAYTHE: What are we discussing with  
 14 Poplar Hill?  
 15 MR. STAMP: Council, I think -- that's  
 16 okay. Council Member Mielke had asked that we  
 17 put this on the agenda to have a conversation  
 18 about the Poplar Hill Park specifically related  
 19 to the Town of Easton's comprehensive planning  
 20 process and that -- I'll just hold for a  
 21 minute.

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's fine.</p> <p>2 MR. STAMP: So again, this is in</p> <p>3 relationship to how the Town of Easton is</p> <p>4 moving forward with their Comprehensive Plan</p> <p>5 update and specifically the Poplar Hill Farm.</p> <p>6 Council had directed staff to send a</p> <p>7 letter to the Town of Easton to make it clear</p> <p>8 that any mention of the Poplar Hill Farm at</p> <p>9 this point in time to leave things intact. And</p> <p>10 it's until such time the Council has an open</p> <p>11 and transparent session with the public to have</p> <p>12 a debate on what the farm would be used for.</p> <p>13 We forwarded that to the Town of Easton</p> <p>14 and also indicate in that letter, we indicated</p> <p>15 that any verbiage that they plan to use, that</p> <p>16 they send it back to the Council for their</p> <p>17 review.</p> <p>18 I think Council Member Mielke's concern is</p> <p>19 that in the updated Comprehensive Plan, there</p> <p>20 are certain sections that talk about the</p> <p>21 property. In particular, there is one section</p>	<p>1 depending on the interest of the town, perhaps</p> <p>2 a new indoor facility should be installed on</p> <p>3 the Poplar Farm. And I think that's something</p> <p>4 that needs to be addressed and investigated by</p> <p>5 us.</p> <p>6 There's also in a section it talks about</p> <p>7 growth projections for the property, that they</p> <p>8 retain or consider residential development</p> <p>9 design, which was prepared by Urban 3, which</p> <p>10 has helped draft this thing. And if you look</p> <p>11 at the Comprehensive Plan itself, it has a</p> <p>12 drawing, which was the original residential</p> <p>13 development that was proposed that that</p> <p>14 developer sold to us.</p> <p>15 And there are other aspects of it that I</p> <p>16 think are interspersed among it that we should</p> <p>17 address each one. And I know there is some,</p> <p>18 there is some objection to the Tristin Road</p> <p>19 going through.</p> <p>20 I mean actually there are two provisions.</p> <p>21 That's Tristin that's an entrance from 33 just</p>
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<p>1 that refers to Tristin Drive, which is a road</p> <p>2 that is shown in a dotted line that goes</p> <p>3 through that property from one end of the</p> <p>4 property to the other, exiting on Oxford Road.</p> <p>5 And Council Member Mielke, if that tees it</p> <p>6 up for you hopefully, take it from here.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: There were several --</p> <p>8 throughout the Comprehensive Plan that's</p> <p>9 proposed, there are a number of references to</p> <p>10 Poplar Farm. And one of them, you have to read</p> <p>11 the whole, the whole draft of the Comprehensive</p> <p>12 Plan.</p> <p>13 And one of the issues is, as I said, the</p> <p>14 Tristin Road that is in one section, that it's</p> <p>15 recommended that it goes right through the</p> <p>16 property, comes out across Clubhouse Drive in</p> <p>17 Easton Club onto 333. And that's suggested.</p> <p>18 And I think that that needs more</p> <p>19 consideration than we've given it as to what</p> <p>20 effect that could be.</p> <p>21 There's also a provision in there that</p>	<p>1 at the tip end of Poplar Farm so that you could</p> <p>2 access the Woodland Park. That doesn't seem as</p> <p>3 objectionable as what they have, what they have</p> <p>4 displayed as a full road that goes directly</p> <p>5 through the property.</p> <p>6 So I think that there are several things</p> <p>7 that need to be addressed and considered, and</p> <p>8 we should have an opinion on that. That's all</p> <p>9 I'm saying.</p> <p>10 I don't think it's enough to say oh, we'll</p> <p>11 just keep it as it is in the original because</p> <p>12 it's not really clear what the use was in the</p> <p>13 original.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>15 MR. STAMP: I think the letter conveyed</p> <p>16 that since acquiring the farm, what we're</p> <p>17 asking the Town of Easton to do is acknowledge</p> <p>18 that until such time the County Council has an</p> <p>19 open and transparent process with public input,</p> <p>20 that they echo that through their plan as</p> <p>21 appropriate and not reference things that are</p>

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1 old and outdated.  
 2 And if that's not sufficient, if we want  
 3 to do more, that's --  
 4 MS. MIELKE: Well, my concern is if, on  
 5 the proposed plan, it shows Tristin Road going  
 6 all the way across and we don't speak up about  
 7 that, that it's of concern to us, are we then  
 8 sort of giving a rubber stamp to the plan  
 9 because we don't -- even if we say well, we  
 10 want to consider these things, I mean are we  
 11 not raising the issue. That's just the way I  
 12 look at it and I think that we need to.  
 13 And I think, also, there is some, there is  
 14 some information out there, we'll know more  
 15 when we have the award meetings, that maybe the  
 16 town isn't going to even include that. So, you  
 17 know, why should we endorse something that  
 18 they're not going to endorse?  
 19 I mean there's a lot of opposition to it.  
 20 In fact, if you look historically on back in  
 21 the day when the developer was going to develop

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1 it, they did a traffic study. And  
 2 coincidentally, they never did a traffic study  
 3 of what the effect of Tristin Road would be on  
 4 Clubhouse Drive. So I mean that's a big  
 5 question.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So understand a  
 7 little bit of where you're coming from. But,  
 8 you know, the town at one point passed a  
 9 development. That development was going to go  
 10 in.  
 11 MS. MIELKE: Well, not -- no.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. That's --  
 13 MS. MIELKE: I didn't think that it was  
 14 passed.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I think it was. And  
 16 it just didn't go to fruition and it was done.  
 17 That's what made this property extremely  
 18 valuable. That's why we bought it.  
 19 So why would we start messing around and  
 20 start pulling things out when we don't even  
 21 know what we're going to do with it? So I'm

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1 just trying to --  
 2 MS. MIELKE: Well, that's my point, that  
 3 we shouldn't --  
 4 MS. HAYTHE: And I don't --  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: So I'm just trying, I'm  
 6 just trying to put, I'm trying to put a little  
 7 bit of logic on what you're trying to ask us to  
 8 do because we're developing a problem. There  
 9 is no problem. There isn't any problem.  
 10 We own this property.  
 11 MS. HAYTHE: The county owns it. Right.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: The county owns this  
 13 property.  
 14 MS. HAYTHE: And it's up to the county to  
 15 decide what the future holds on that particular  
 16 property.  
 17 That's just like anybody that owns  
 18 property. I mean based upon the zoning and the  
 19 permitted use of that said property.  
 20 So the county is the owners. The Town of  
 21 Easton can put anything in their plan, but the

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1 zoning and the permitted use is still  
 2 applicable to that property that the county  
 3 own. And the county in a future time will  
 4 decide what goes there.  
 5 MS. MIELKE: Okay. My point is this. Let  
 6 me cut to the case.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.  
 8 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah, cut to the chase,  
 9 please.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Please, please.  
 11 MS. MIELKE: The town has put out a  
 12 Comprehensive Plan with a suggestion here, a  
 13 suggestion there, suggestion here.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 15 MS. MIELKE: And we have to respond to  
 16 that. Why not?  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: We did.  
 18 MS. MIELKE: No, no, no, no. We didn't  
 19 say --  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: We did.  
 21 MS. MIELKE: No. We didn't say --

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: We wrote them a letter.  
 2 MS. MIELKE: We didn't say that we had --  
 3 that we didn't agree with some of their plans.  
 4 We did say we should sit down and talk  
 5 about it and the town should get the input from  
 6 the county, but we didn't say, you know, we  
 7 question, we question the Tristin Road. We  
 8 question, you know, the use that they want,  
 9 that they mention about the new indoor sports  
 10 facility, a future park, and all their  
 11 suggestions of things. That's all I'm saying.  
 12 MS. HAYTHE: But they can suggest  
 13 anything. It's up to the property owner.  
 14 That's just like if you own property and  
 15 the county suggested something, a use for your  
 16 property, it's up to you as the property owner  
 17 to put whatever is defined in the zoning and  
 18 the permitted use for that property.  
 19 To me, it's a moot point because we've  
 20 sent the letter expressing how this board feels  
 21 about the property.

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1 MS. MIELKE: It was vague. Just saying.  
 2 MS. HAYTHE: Well, when they go to vote on  
 3 the Comprehensive Plan, we can make sure that  
 4 the letter is attached in the public comments  
 5 and then --  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: I don't see any fear.  
 7 We're talking about a road that's probably  
 8 never going to be there and it's not there now.  
 9 I mean it's just at --  
 10 (Crosstalk.)  
 11 MS. MIELKE: I don't understand what that  
 12 means.  
 13 MS. HAYTHE: They would have to have  
 14 permission.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: There's nothing there but  
 16 land.  
 17 MS. HAYTHE: They would have to have  
 18 permission.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: We've got a plan. I mean  
 20 at one time, I mean the county is probably  
 21 blessed, all of us, because it was going to be

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1 a hospital there and there was going to be a  
 2 development there. Now there's zero there.  
 3 So that was the whole point to do all  
 4 this.  
 5 MR. STEPP: Can I just put a bow on this?  
 6 MS. HAYTHE: Please.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Please.  
 8 MS. HAYTHE: By all means.  
 9 MR. STEPP: Right now this is just a piece  
 10 of property.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.  
 12 MR. STEPP: That is being farmed that is  
 13 owned by Talbot County for future use by Talbot  
 14 County. That's it.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: That's it.  
 16 MR. STEPP: Nothing else.  
 17 There's a lot of people who have opinions  
 18 on things, and as they should. Right? This is  
 19 a county-owned property. Right. It is the  
 20 citizens' property. They should have  
 21 opinions.

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1 Right now, it is our intent as a county to  
 2 not do anything with that property but to  
 3 continue to farm it and retain it in our  
 4 inventory for future county purposes.  
 5 MS. MIELKE: But the town should tell us  
 6 what (audio interference).  
 7 MR. STEPP: The town shouldn't tell  
 8 anything. The town shouldn't tell us anything.  
 9 Right. We are the owners of that property,  
 10 period.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm not sure --  
 12 MS. HAYTHE: I'm not following the --  
 13 okay.  
 14 Can we move on to county manager's  
 15 comments because the bow has been put on the  
 16 present, the property. The bow is on the  
 17 property.  
 18 MR. STEPP: Bow on the present. Let's  
 19 move on.  
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. Can we please move on?  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: You're very quiet.

Page 122	<p>1 MR. LESHER: I...</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: That's unusual.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: It's all been said.</p> <p>4 MS. HAYTHE: That's two meetings in a row.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Do we have to</p> <p>6 do anything with this? This was just a</p> <p>7 discussion.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: And it was -- I just want to</p> <p>9 close it by saying that we cannot take a, we</p> <p>10 could not take a position until we have a</p> <p>11 sit-down with the town, as we've said in the</p> <p>12 letter.</p> <p>13 MR. STEPP: There's nothing to do right</p> <p>14 now.</p> <p>15 MS. HAYTHE: Right.</p> <p>16 MS. MIELKE: Excuse me?</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: This requires no action.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>19 MR. STEPP: Right now we're property</p> <p>20 owners and that's it.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. And in the future</p>	Page 124	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: That's all right.</p> <p>2 SPEAKER: I swear I haven't touched</p> <p>3 anything.</p> <p>4 MS. HAYTHE: It just started. Yeah.</p> <p>5 MR. STAMP: I don't know what it is.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: It was like that this</p> <p>7 afternoon when I was in here by myself just</p> <p>8 putting the name plates.</p> <p>9 MR. STAMP: Okay. Excuse me.</p> <p>10 Council, the first item I have is under</p> <p>11 Board of Electrical Examiners. We're</p> <p>12 requesting the reappointment of Mr. Tim</p> <p>13 Fluharty representing the Talbot County</p> <p>14 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association to the</p> <p>15 board.</p> <p>16 MR. STEPP: So moved.</p> <p>17 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>19 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>20 vote.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p>
Page 123	<p>1 we all want to sit down right down here and</p> <p>2 talk about that property, we can do that.</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: But right now, it's being</p> <p>4 farmed.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: That's right.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: And that's the way it's going</p> <p>7 to stay for right now.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>9 MS. MIELKE: We've only extended that</p> <p>10 contract for a year.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm ready for Clay's stuff.</p> <p>12 How about you?</p> <p>13 MR. STAMP: Okay, Mr. Council President.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>15 MR. STAMP: County manager report this</p> <p>16 evening. Thank you.</p> <p>17 The first item we have are boards and</p> <p>18 commitment appointments.</p> <p>19 The first one is the Board of</p> <p>20 Electrical -- one day we're going to get this</p> <p>21 system working right.</p>	Page 125	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>10 MR. STAMP: And the next would be</p> <p>11 requesting the reappointment of Mr. Chuck</p> <p>12 Powers to represent the Fifth Election District</p> <p>13 on the Public Works Advisory Board.</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.</p> <p>15 MR. LESHER: Second.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>17 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>18 vote, please.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p>

Page 126	<p>1 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>8 MR. STAMP: Council, next I have a request</p> <p>9 from our facilities maintenance to award Bid</p> <p>10 25-18, roofing sections, to the Talbot County</p> <p>11 Circuit Courthouse and State's Attorney</p> <p>12 building, 11 North Washington Street, Easton,</p> <p>13 Maryland.</p> <p>14 As you read in your agenda packet, they</p> <p>15 are requesting approval to award this bid to D</p> <p>16 Project of Glen Burnie, Maryland, in the amount</p> <p>17 of \$231,260. Base bid of \$224,300 and add</p> <p>18 alternate of \$6,960.</p> <p>19 A total of seven bids were received.</p> <p>20 There are sufficient funds in the budget for</p> <p>21 this project.</p>	Page 128	<p>1 that is to replace all the air handlers, which</p> <p>2 have exceeded their life I would say.</p> <p>3 Go ahead and I'll fill in where you need</p> <p>4 me to.</p> <p>5 MR. HUGHES: Joe Hughes, director of</p> <p>6 corrections.</p> <p>7 We have four units on the third floor.</p> <p>8 But the design of the building, we have to have</p> <p>9 a crane that picks them up and then we have to</p> <p>10 take out a vent to bring all of them in. It's</p> <p>11 more, it makes more sense to do all four of</p> <p>12 them while we can.</p> <p>13 I have one of them down right now. Air</p> <p>14 handler number three is not working.</p> <p>15 And by doing all four of them, we'll save</p> <p>16 over \$40,000 by doing it just at one time.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>18 MR. STAMP: So this would be, this would</p> <p>19 be an approval to award contract to Johnson</p> <p>20 Controls utilizing a source well contract for</p> <p>21 the replacement and installation of air</p>
Page 127	<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the</p> <p>2 request.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: Second.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>5 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>6 vote.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>14 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>16 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>17 MR. STAMP: Next I'll invite Joe Hughes,</p> <p>18 our director of the corrections facility, up.</p> <p>19 He has a request for the installation of</p> <p>20 air hander units one through four for the</p> <p>21 Department of Corrections. This is a project</p>	Page 129	<p>1 handlers one through four at the Corrections</p> <p>2 Center for a total of \$348,980.</p> <p>3 There are sufficient funds in the capital</p> <p>4 budget for this project.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>6 MR. STEPP: I make a motion.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>9 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>10 vote.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>14 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>16 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>20 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>21 MR. HUGHES: Thank you.</p>

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Good 2 job. 3 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council. 4 And I would invite your finance director, 5 Ms. Sparks, up. She's here this evening to 6 offer your consideration to approve fourth 7 quarter budget transfers. 8 MS. SPARKS: Good evening, Council. 9 Martha Sparks, finance director. 10 In accordance with Section 615 of the 11 Talbot County Charter, which states transfers 12 between agencies of the county government and 13 within the same fund of the current expense 14 budget may be made only during the last quarter 15 of the fiscal year and only on the 16 recommendation of the county manager and with 17 the approval of Council. 18 So I have provided you with a list of 19 fourth quarter transfers that focus on the 20 purchase of capital outlay items that we 21 reviewed during the FY27 budget work sessions</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 4 MR. STEPP: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 6 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 8 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, good job. 12 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council. 13 And the final item I have this evening is 14 requesting to enter into a contract for 15 transfer and acquisition of real property by 16 and between 500 Beaver Road, LLC and Talbot 17 County, Maryland. 18 This is to gain your approval to enter a 19 contract regarding Cedar Point Road in the 20 amount of \$0 for the transfer of 3,870 square 21 feet.</p>
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<p>1 that we had with you and which our department 2 heads determined that these could be purchased 3 in FY26. 4 So that amounts to about \$486,800. 5 And the other fourth quarter transfers are 6 operating expenses and capital outlay expenses 7 that had been previously approved by Council 8 using contingency throughout the year. And 9 that's \$102,815. And those are being adjusted 10 from our contingency reserve line. 11 I'm not going to go through every single 12 item unless you have any questions. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 14 MS. HAYTHE: No questions. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Any discussion? 16 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the 17 request. 18 MR. STEPP: Second. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 20 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 21 vote.</p>	<p>1 And just to add some context, this is a 2 triangle on Oxford Road. Many people know it 3 as a park and ride. This is a privately-owned 4 property. 5 The owner of the property would like to 6 convey the cut-through road to the county for 7 \$0 where we will firm up the road, add a fence 8 on each side of it, and allow the safe access 9 and egress from Cedar Point Road by doing so. 10 We will also seed and cover the area that was a 11 parking area as the owner of the property no 12 longer would like to use it as a park and ride. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 14 MR. STEPP: So moved. 15 MR. LESHNER: Second. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 17 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 18 vote. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p>

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1 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.  
 3 MR. LESHHER: Aye.  
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 5 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 7 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 8 MR. STAMP: And that completes the county  
 9 manager report for this evening. Thank you,  
 10 Council, for your support.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Good job. All  
 12 right.  
 13 We got a few names.  
 14 MR. LESHHER: We have several people signed  
 15 up for public comment tonight.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yup.  
 17 MR. LESHHER: The first one is Ginda  
 18 Simpson.  
 19 MS. PALMER: Could I move above Ginda just  
 20 to kind of paint the picture?  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Sure. Come on up.

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1 MS. PALMER: (Indiscernible.)  
 2 MR. LESHHER: So first we have Wendy  
 3 Palmer, then.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 5 MS. PALMER: Good evening. My name is  
 6 Wendy Palmer. I am the director of health  
 7 interventions for the YMCA of the Chesapeake.  
 8 What a full house tonight, and I'm really  
 9 grateful for the time to speak to you this  
 10 evening.  
 11 I am here today in strong support of the  
 12 YMCA's proposed land swap of 1180 South  
 13 Washington Street for the 15.66 acres on the  
 14 plot that is located behind the temple off of  
 15 the bypass so that we can build, the YMCA of  
 16 the Chesapeake can build a health intervention  
 17 center that will serve this community for  
 18 decades to come.  
 19 But more importantly, I am here on behalf  
 20 of the people behind me, some of them have  
 21 already left this evening because of the length

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1 of our meeting.  
 2 So could I have all of my participants  
 3 that are involved in our Parkinson's exercise  
 4 programming and their caregivers raise their  
 5 hand to show the number of folks that have come  
 6 out this evening? Thank you for being here.  
 7 At the YMCA, we're more -- we're a  
 8 community not-for-profit with 169-year  
 9 tradition in Talbot County. That's right,  
 10 1857. The county and the Y have a history of  
 11 trailblazing, creating the first YMCA senior  
 12 center model that's located in our YMCA in  
 13 St. Michaels. That model has also been  
 14 replicated in Queen Anne's County, and it's  
 15 been highlighted as a model for others in the  
 16 State. The Maryland secretary of aging has  
 17 mentioned our facilities and that success.  
 18 We are a health intervention partner.  
 19 Across Talbot County and the surrounding  
 20 region, we deliver evidence-based health  
 21 intervention programs that support individuals

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1 living with chronic disease at no cost to the  
 2 participants. These include cancer  
 3 survivorship programs, the Live Strong at the  
 4 YMCA, Tandem, which is a program to support  
 5 families and individuals living with dementia  
 6 and Alzheimer's, blood pressure self  
 7 monitoring, diabetes prevention, our falls  
 8 prevention program, which is called Enhance  
 9 Fitness, and critically our Parkinson's  
 10 exercise programs.  
 11 Here is a chance to support the Y's effort  
 12 to build the first ever health interventions  
 13 center in the State.  
 14 Our Parkinson's community is here tonight.  
 15 You've seen them. These are individuals who  
 16 show up with courage, determination, and hope,  
 17 fighting back against a progressive disease  
 18 through movement, connection, and community.  
 19 What they found at the Y is not just  
 20 exercise. It's a community, it's belonging,  
 21 it's improved quality of life.

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<p>1 Talbot County is aging. Nearly 30 percent                  2 of our population is over the age of 65. And                  3 that number is growing. With aging comes                  4 increased risk of falls, chronic disease,                  5 dementia, and social isolation. Our balance,                  6 our strength, and our stability programs are                  7 not just luxuries, they are essential. They                  8 are helping our residents maintain                  9 independence, avoid hospitalization, and age                  10 safely at home.                  11 We know the data, we know the outcomes,                  12 and most importantly, we see the impact in real                  13 lives.                  14 Our original plan, which we focused on                  15 about two years ago, was to renovate the                  16 current facility at 1180 South Washington                  17 Street that the YMCA acquired in 2016. At that                  18 time, we really discovered that taking the time                  19 to renovate that facility would be displacing                  20 some of these life-changing programs for up to                  21 18 months to two years. That time off from</p>	<p>1 partners beyond the clinical walls and into the                  2 community where prevention, connection, and the                  3 long-term wellness truly happen.                  4 This land swap is not just about a piece                  5 of property. It's about preserving and                  6 expanding access to these critical programs                  7 without interruption, without any barriers.                  8 Again, no fee attached to any of our programs.                  9 It's about building a future in a ready                  10 space where we can meet the growing needs of                  11 our aging population with dignity, innovation,                  12 and care.                  13 We are proud to be a trusted community                  14 partner, and we are ready to do even more. So                  15 on behalf of our participants, our families,                  16 and our future generations, I respectfully ask                  17 for your support.                  18 And I will leave additional letters from                  19 people who could not be here with you.                  20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. I                  21 appreciate that.</p>
Page 139	Page 141
<p>1 exercise would not work for our individuals in                  2 our programs.                  3 Trying to find the space at the other                  4 location would be next to impossible. I've                  5 done the spreadsheets. So 18 months would                  6 displace these programs. And at that location                  7 at Peach Blossom is already at capacity. So                  8 that's simply not an option anymore.                  9 And that's why we come before you tonight.                  10 The need is not slowing down in our county,                  11 it's actually accelerating. Parkinson's and                  12 dementia diagnosis are on the rise. Caregivers                  13 are stretched thin. Our health care systems                  14 cannot do this alone, and that's where we come                  15 in.                  16 The YMCA represents a community as                  17 medicine model, CAM. If you Google it, look it                  18 up, it talks a lot about where this is very                  19 effective in many states and many communities.                  20 It's being embraced across the country.                  21 We extend the work of our health care</p>	<p>1 MS. PALMER: Thank you.                  2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  3 MR. LESHNER: Next is Ginda Simpson.                  4 MS. PALMER: I will leave them all, yes.                  5 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome.                  6 MS. SIMPSON: Thank you.                  7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.                  8 MS. SIMPSON: My name is Ginda Simpson.                  9 And although public speaking gives me                  10 butterflies, I cannot not speak up. Please                  11 pardon the fact that I am reading from a                  12 prepared letter, but it was how I could                  13 organize my thoughts and express what is a                  14 deeply personal and emotional topic.                  15 My husband Mike was diagnosed four years                  16 ago with PSP, a very rare and progressive                  17 neurodegenerative disease that falls under the                  18 Parkinson's umbrella in that it shares many                  19 similarities with PD.                  20 It took many years to reach a diagnosis.                  21 But as soon as we learned what the mysterious</p>

Page 142	<p>1 and worrisome symptoms meant, we reached out to</p> <p>2 Wendy Palmer at the Y to see if Mike would</p> <p>3 qualify to participate in the programs they</p> <p>4 offer, starting with rock steady boxing.</p> <p>5 As soon as Mike healed from shoulder</p> <p>6 injury caused by the fall that finally led to</p> <p>7 his diagnosis, Mike was invited to the gym</p> <p>8 where his ability to participate was assessed</p> <p>9 by the rock steady boxing team. He was then</p> <p>10 welcomed to join an ongoing class, one of</p> <p>11 several that are being offered at the Easton</p> <p>12 YMCA free of charge to those diagnosed with PD.</p> <p>13 We knew that we were both at the beginning</p> <p>14 of a most challenging journey, for Mike as he</p> <p>15 fought to maintain his equilibrium, both</p> <p>16 physically and emotionally, in the face of the</p> <p>17 unknown, and for me as his care partner.</p> <p>18 What we both found was a community of</p> <p>19 deeply supportive friends and professionals who</p> <p>20 are dedicated to helping each of us stay</p> <p>21 strong, courageous, and giving, but always</p>	Page 144	<p>1 resources have given us.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot for sharing</p> <p>3 that story.</p> <p>4 MS. SIMPSON: My husband.</p> <p>5 MR. SIMPSON: Yeah. I was just going to</p> <p>6 comment on the fact that the rock steady boxing</p> <p>7 has made a change in my life.</p> <p>8 When I first went to Hopkins to see my</p> <p>9 doctor four years ago, at the end of the</p> <p>10 meeting he told me I had a score of 25. I said</p> <p>11 well, what's bad. He said well, 100 is bad.</p> <p>12 But he said one thing you got to do for</p> <p>13 Parkinson's is you've got to exercise.</p> <p>14 And that's been known for decades. And he</p> <p>15 knew I had just signed up for rock steady</p> <p>16 boxing. So they said you keep it up, keep it</p> <p>17 up.</p> <p>18 So I went back six months later for my</p> <p>19 follow-up. And the end of the class or the end</p> <p>20 of the session, the doctor looked at me and</p> <p>21 said this is incredible because your score,</p>
Page 143	<p>1 focused on what can be achieved when facing PD</p> <p>2 together.</p> <p>3 In the four years that my husband has been</p> <p>4 a member of this amazing community,</p> <p>5 participating five days a week in swimming,</p> <p>6 biking, and boxing classes, he has not only</p> <p>7 held steady in slowing the progression of PSP,</p> <p>8 but has actually managed a steady reversal of</p> <p>9 some of its biomarkers. He is better today</p> <p>10 than he was four years ago.</p> <p>11 As I look around me when I pick him up</p> <p>12 from his classes, I see others who are</p> <p>13 experiencing their own individual successes</p> <p>14 every day in every way.</p> <p>15 None of this would be happening without</p> <p>16 these incredible programs at the Y and the</p> <p>17 selfless commitment and trained professionalism</p> <p>18 of the individuals who work with our PD</p> <p>19 warriors.</p> <p>20 We are proud residents of Talbot County</p> <p>21 and are grateful for every better day these</p>	Page 145	<p>1 it's a progressive disease, right, but your</p> <p>2 score went from 25 down to 14. And the only</p> <p>3 thing I had done in six months was go to rock</p> <p>4 steady boxing. And three years later, I'm</p> <p>5 still at 14.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Good for you. Good for</p> <p>7 you.</p> <p>8 MS. SIMPSON: It's really unheard of.</p> <p>9 They said if he keeps it up, they're going to</p> <p>10 be doing a study on him.</p> <p>11 MR. SIMPSON: The Y has got a great</p> <p>12 program, and it needs to be supported.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.</p> <p>14 MR. SIMPSON: So we're hoping you'll help</p> <p>15 them out with it.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>17 MS. SIMPSON: Okay.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHNER: Next up is Harvey Bernstein.</p> <p>19 MR. BERNSTEIN: I don't have a lot to add</p> <p>20 to this except that there's so many tens of</p> <p>21 thousands of people that are coming down with</p>

Page 146	<p>1 Parkinson's every month all over the country.                  2 Everybody needs to take another look at this                  3 disease.                  4 It's been wonderful here at the Y. It's                  5 helped me. It's kept me single to take care of                  6 myself. I would have definitely had to have                  7 more health care if I wasn't into this program.                  8 And I would invite you all to come over                  9 and look at it just to see what this program                  10 really can do.                  11 But again, there's not a lot I can add.                  12 Wendy said it all, and the other people just                  13 mentioned more.                  14 But please take a look at what Wendy is                  15 proposing because this will help so many people                  16 that you don't even know that will come down                  17 with this disease in the next five years. And                  18 I thank you.                  19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.                  20 MR. LESHHER: Next is Jack Harrald.                  21 MR. HARRALD: Jack Harrald. And I've been</p>	Page 148	<p>1 Parkinson's, there is a caregiver that is                  2 totally consumed by whether she can do her work                  3 or his work or whatever. So we have (audio                  4 interference) number of people, and it's                  5 critical that we maintain a level of decorum.                  6 Thank you.                  7 MR. LESHHER: Next is Eileen Highsand.                  8 MS. PALMER: So Eileen had to leave. She                  9 can't drive after dark, but I left her comments                  10 with --                  11 MR. LESHHER: Thank you.                  12 MS. PALMER: -- Mr. Stamp.                  13 MR. LESHHER: And the last one that signed                  14 up in advance is Cindy Orban.                  15 MS. ORBAN: Thank you, Council. Cindy                  16 Orban, member of the Talbot 250 Commission and                  17 speaking in that role.                  18 Well, Talbot Day 2025 (sic.) has come and                  19 gone, but its memories will surely remain.                  20 Just to be clear, I was involved with the                  21 365th celebration, which was held just outside</p>
Page 147	<p>1 diagnosed with Parkinson's disease 13 years                  2 ago. And I was told at the time that there is                  3 no cure for Parkinson's and you just take                  4 medications that would calm symptoms.                  5 And what is changed is, as I mentioned,                  6 there's a revolution in seeing the treatment of                  7 Parkinson's through exercise. And our center                  8 went from I was one of the original four                  9 people. And we ended up with I think 100 and                  10 something at this point.                  11 As we get overwhelmed with the good news                  12 that we're doing, you have to step back and the                  13 comments that were made, this is a disease that                  14 is centered in the elder population.                  15 And the demographics of this county will                  16 show, if you lay that up against the                  17 Parkinson's incidents, that you've got a major                  18 problem coming down. We're not just solving                  19 today's problem, but we have to be ready for                  20 the expansion.                  21 And for every person that's got</p>	Page 149	<p>1 this chamber.                  2 I want to take this opportunity to                  3 recognize by name in this official space the                  4 Talbot County employees who represented their                  5 agencies, greeting those attending, sharing                  6 information, and offering giveaways.                  7 A reminder, I don't have to remind Council                  8 or anyone here this was a Sunday event, not one                  9 of their normal work days.                  10 From Economic Development and Tourism,                  11 Kristen Goller and her young helper. Brennan                  12 Tarleton and Bryce Yelton from Planning &amp;                  13 Zoning. Nancy Andrew representing Healthy                  14 Talbot. From the Department of Emergency                  15 Services, Geneva Schaffle, Madison Loker, and                  16 Katie Stafford, who deserve additional                  17 recommendation for the most popular brand and                  18 giveaway items at their table. Ellie Kilmon                  19 from Parks &amp; Recreation made sure to delight                  20 the young and young-at-heart keeping the                  21 bubbles flying and the games going.</p>

Page 150	<p>1 Representing the Sheriff's Department, Corporal                  2 Nixon and K9 Kiwi delighted the crowd and                  3 provided lots of photo ops.                  4 And I just do have to add, because I did                  5 get a question from the Sheriff, Kiwi was the                  6 most popular of the two of them for the photo                  7 ops. I won't reference the difference in the                  8 photogenic quality of either of them, but Kiwi                  9 was definitely a hit.                  10 The Easton Volunteer Fire Department                  11 offered full tours of their truck and fire                  12 helmets for future volunteers.                  13 The Easton Police Department provided                  14 timely, clearly-marked road closure, ensuring                  15 the safety of all.                  16 We are also grateful for support from                  17 community organizations. The St. Michaels Art                  18 League, who inspired young artists to create                  19 paintings, and to Working Artists Forum, who                  20 invited everyone to be a part of their quilt                  21 project, collecting memories from Talbot</p>	Page 152	<p>1 went off without a hitch.                  2 Facility staff Chris Divilio and Brent                  3 Geib made certain power was available for                  4 music, face painting, and, as we all know most                  5 importantly, for the Scottish Highland Creamery                  6 ice cream cart.                  7 They set up tables and chairs according to                  8 our map. Then they moved them. And then they                  9 moved them again as we rethought the space.                  10 But repeatedly they asked what else can we                  11 do to help, do you need anything else, and make                  12 sure you call us if there's anything we can do                  13 to help.                  14 Once the event ended, they were right                  15 there to take it all back down again.                  16 Mike Dulin and Dean Samuels of the county                  17 Roads brought their dump truck and were simply                  18 amazing. Arriving at 2 o'clock, they waited                  19 patiently until close to five when they could                  20 move into position. They were clear that this                  21 was not a touch-a-truck. This was a</p>
Page 151	<p>1 residents.                  2 And now, there are those who went above                  3 and beyond. And another reminder this was a                  4 Sunday event.                  5 The director of the Talbot County Free                  6 Library, Dana Newman, who got a call probably                  7 late morning that the ceremony would be moved                  8 from outside into the community room at the                  9 library. She drove in so that the room could                  10 be opened the community -- for the community                  11 and service awards. And the library's                  12 custodian Ken Healy came in, moving the tables,                  13 setting the room with chairs for the ceremony                  14 guests.                  15 Jessica Morris, assistant county manager,                  16 and Susan Moran, Council secretary, who are not                  17 just proficient at their day jobs I've learned,                  18 but also great at on-the-spot interior                  19 decorating, wrestling mylar balloons in gale                  20 force winds and purple pennant placement,                  21 everything needed to ensure the festivities</p>	Page 153	<p>1 climb-into, sit-in, sound-the-horn truck. And                  2 kids of all ages loved it.                  3 I have it on good authority that their                  4 truck was in full service through the week                  5 doing its necessarily messy, dirty roadwork                  6 job. But for Talbot Day 2026, that truck was                  7 showing their Talbot County road crew pride.                  8 It was shining outside and pristine inside. I                  9 have to tell you, there was not even a speck of                  10 pollen on that truck. Unbelievable. I don't know                  11 when I've ever seen a cleaner vehicle of any                  12 kind.                  13 Finally, there is the employee who had                  14 been looking forward to Talbot Day 2026 ever                  15 since the end of Talbot Day 2025, Sarah Kilmon.                  16 It's obvious and probably doesn't need to be                  17 said, Sarah leads with her spirit and gives her                  18 heart to the citizen and service awards. She                  19 makes sure that each and every nominee feels                  20 celebrated and valued, that we all recognize                  21 the breadth and depth of their commitment and</p>

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1 that their exceptional contributions to  
 2 individuals and communities make Talbot County  
 3 in its 365th year this place we are all  
 4 privileged to call our home. So thank you,  
 5 Sarah.  
 6 And thank you, Council, for your  
 7 indulgence.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.  
 9 MR. LESHER: That's the end of those who  
 10 signed up in advance.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Anybody else want to  
 12 come up? Okay.  
 13 MR. RIGGIN: Just a minute.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir.  
 15 MR. RIGGIN: Phil Riggin, 29736 Sullivan  
 16 Drive in Easton.  
 17 If you decided tonight to introduce and  
 18 pass an emergency appropriation for overtime  
 19 for you folks, I would lead a campaign to  
 20 support it.  
 21 I just wanted to update you on one issue.

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1 Several weeks ago, I was here and I asked you  
 2 to extend or to expand the priority list of  
 3 road projects that were being sent by the  
 4 county to Maryland Department of  
 5 Transportation, and you agreed to do that. I  
 6 want to thank you again for doing it.  
 7 To update you on a couple of things. You  
 8 may know some of these, you may know all of  
 9 them.  
 10 We have been told that the left-turn lane  
 11 onto Dutchmans heading south out of here will  
 12 begin in June. And we have also scheduled as a  
 13 speaker, a presenter for one of our community  
 14 meetings an official from the State Highway  
 15 Administration, who is going to tell us the  
 16 details of the project.  
 17 Now, I would assume if somebody is going  
 18 to come talk to us as a community, it had  
 19 better be good news or he's, he or she is in  
 20 trouble. So that would support the same sort  
 21 of thing.

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1 So I wanted to update you and thank you  
 2 for your support. And this will maybe save a  
 3 life or two. Again, thanks.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
 5 Okay. Anybody else like to say a few  
 6 words?  
 7 Okay. Council comments. Yup. Mr. Stepp,  
 8 you good?  
 9 MR. STEPP: I'll echo everything Ms. Cindy  
 10 said. It was -- appreciate you being there.  
 11 Appreciate all you do on the 250 Commission.  
 12 But I'll echo the staff for thanks for  
 13 Talbot Day, all of y'all. I mean it was a  
 14 wonderful event, both indoor and outdoor. It's  
 15 truly heartwarming to see where this has come,  
 16 you know, in the few years we've been doing it.  
 17 So just thank you to everyone that made  
 18 that part. And thank you to everyone who came  
 19 out to celebrate on our 365th birthday.  
 20 MR. LESHER: Well, if you'll pardon me,  
 21 I'll step into national news.

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1 Once again, we've had an incident calling  
 2 us to condemn political violence, as  
 3 un-American, unpatriotic, and unacceptable.  
 4 Whether the intended victim is Vice  
 5 President Mike Pence, Representative Gabby  
 6 Giffords, Representative Steve Scalise,  
 7 Governor Josh Shapiro, State Senator John  
 8 Hoffman, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, or  
 9 President Trump. This is not the way we  
 10 resolve our differences.  
 11 The incident must be properly investigated  
 12 and the perpetrator and anyone who aided and  
 13 abetted brought to justice.  
 14 But this kind of political violence needs  
 15 to be condemned at every level.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 17 MS. MIELKE: I just want to revisit  
 18 briefly the position on the Comprehensive Plan  
 19 and the effect that it potentially has on the  
 20 property that we acquired.  
 21 To quote from the plan, it says the

Page 158	Page 160
<p>1 transportation map illustrates key proposed                  2 enhancements to Easton's multimodal                  3 transportation network. And that includes                  4 Tristin that goes through our property. These                  5 improvements summarized below are conceptual at                  6 this stage. Exact designs, funding mechanisms,                  7 and construction timelines are largely                  8 undefined. Most projects are expected to be                  9 completed in conjunction with the adjacent                  10 property development or funded through the                  11 town's impact fees. These proposals are also                  12 subject to revision as the complete street                  13 study is finalized.</p> <p>14 And my only point was that I thought that                  15 we should make it a statement that we did not                  16 approve of this, that aspect of the                  17 Comprehensive Plan and that we wanted input.                  18 We didn't want it assumed that we agreed to it,                  19 that we wanted to discuss it and have it                  20 subject to our decision. That's all.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p>	<p>1 MS. MIELKE: I'll be there.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next                  3 meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5th,                  4 beginning at 1:30 p.m. We will hold two public                  5 hearings that day on Bill Number 1625 regarding                  6 the proposed fiscal year 27 budget, at                  7 2 o'clock p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room here                  8 and at 7 o'clock at the Easton Elementary                  9 School cafeteria.</p> <p>10 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn                  11 this meeting and reconvene as noted?</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.</p> <p>13 MR. STEPP: And a second.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and                  15 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the                  16 vote.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>20 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p>
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<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: I just want to thank Sarah                  2 and staff and everybody for a great Talbot Day.                  3 I think it was the best one yet. And me and                  4 Dave make a good duo.</p> <p>5 And just remind everybody to attend the                  6 housing fair on Saturday from 12 to three.                  7 And that's it. So that's all I have.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: The only thing I have,                  9 sorry I didn't make it, but I heard you guys                  10 did a phenomenal job.</p> <p>11 And Sarah, thanks so much, you know.                  12 You've done really a big job for a lot of                  13 people. It was a little bit of a tough day.                  14 So we really appreciate it.</p> <p>15 Lynn has got one more thing.</p> <p>16 MS. MIELKE: I just wanted to point out                  17 that on Saturday, there be a recognition of the                  18 100th anniversary of the Cordova Fire                  19 Department.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got you. Thank you                  21 for reminding us of that. Yup.</p>	<p>1 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Well, have a great                  7 evening. Thanks a lot for coming.                  8 (Meeting concluded at: 7:25 p.m.)</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p>

1 STATE OF MARYLAND  
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and  
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Talbot, do  
 4 hereby certify that the within named, Talbot County  
 5 Council Audio, personally appeared before me at the  
 6 time and place herein set according to law, was  
 7 interrogated by counsel.

8 I further certify that the examination was  
 9 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed  
 10 from my stenographic notes to the within printed  
 11 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription  
 12 in a true and accurate manner.

13 I further certify that the stipulations  
 14 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
 15 presence.

16 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
 17 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,  
 18 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
 19 interested in the outcome of this action.

20 AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 4th  
 21 day of May, 2026, \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Diane Houlihan  
 Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2029

<b>&amp;</b>	<b>16.9</b> 14:8	<b>2026</b> 1:7 6:14	<b>29736</b> 154:15
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[please - proactiveness]

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