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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

August 9, 2022; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Corey W. Pack

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2

3 MR. CALLAHAN: I want to welcome

4 everybody. If everybody could please stand for

5 the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag. And

6 Mr. Leshner is going to do the prayer for us

7 tonight.

8 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,

10 Mr. Leshner. Appreciate that. Okay.

11 Go over tonight's agenda. We have the

12 agenda before us of August 9th before us. Are

13 there any additions, deletions, or corrections

14 to the agenda? Okay. Hearing none, the chair

15 moves that the agenda be accepted as unanimous

16 consent. Okay.

17 Moving on to the minutes of July 12th and

18 July 26th. Council has had a chance to review

19 the minutes. Is there any additions,

20 deletions, or corrections to the minutes?

21 Hearing none, the chair moves that the minutes

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1 be accepted as unanimous consent.

2 Disbursements of August 2nd and

3 August 9th. Council had a chance to review

4 them. Is there any additions, deletions, or

5 corrections to the disbursements? Okay.

6 Hearing none, the chair moves that the

7 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.

8 Okay.

9 S we're excited tonight to introduce

10 Sharon.

11 MR. LESHNER: Dr. Pepukayi.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go. Doctor, yes.

13 So if you could come on up, we'd be glad to

14 hear from you and see and introduce you.

15 DR. PEPUKAY: Well, good evening,

16 everyone. Apologies to my back.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome.

18 DR. PEPUKAY: Yes, thank you. Thank you

19 for having me. This is a meeting I have not

20 been to yet in my 30 days.

21 Those of you may know or not know, I'm a

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1 from here, come back here. So I did grow up

2 here, St. Michaels graduate. And so I'm just

3 delighted and humbled to be back here working

4 in the role of the superintendent for the

5 school district.

6 I'm currently in my listening and learning

7 tour. So 30 days been in the role, and I have

8 covered a plethora of ground. Meeting people,

9 some of you right here in the room. Been

10 attending different meetings. And most

11 importantly, I got to be with the kids in the

12 summer during summer school. So that was

13 important for me to start being out there,

14 talking with students.

15 So I'm excited to continue this journey

16 through this month as well, August. So I have

17 a long list. My calendar is full. And I'm

18 just out and about in the community, like I

19 said, listening and learning and meeting

20 everyone that's pertinent to the school

21 district to make it successful.

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1 So thank you for having me.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.

3 Mr. Pack.

4 MR. PACK: Yes, Dr. Pepukayi, welcome. And

5 it's good to be a from here, come back here

6 situation. So I know this means a lot to you

7 to come back to your home county and to be in

8 such a prestigious role.

9 I was very excited to see you on the

10 agenda this evening, gives me the opportunity

11 to meet. I think the last time they had

12 something at the school, I wasn't able to

13 attend to meet you personally. So it's great

14 to meet you face to face and hopefully we can

15 sit down just for a chit-chat, coffee maybe,

16 just to get to know each other a little bit

17 better. So welcome aboard.

18 The school system is growing. It seems

19 like every year they're either adding or

20 subtracting students. So a lot of fluidity

21 there in our school system. A lot of

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<p>1 diversity, too. The school system has changed</p> <p>2 a lot probably since the last time you were</p> <p>3 here going to school. So a lot of changes to</p> <p>4 grab onto.</p> <p>5 But again, congratulations and welcome</p> <p>6 back home.</p> <p>7 DR. PEPUKAY: Thank you.</p> <p>8 MS. PRICE: Welcome. Can you fill in the</p> <p>9 in between of the from here, back here?</p> <p>10 DR. PEPUKAY: Yes, yes. So when I left</p> <p>11 and graduated from St. Michaels High, I then</p> <p>12 went to North Carolina to school. From North</p> <p>13 Carolina, I went out to Ohio to teach fifth</p> <p>14 grade, and then came over to Delaware, where I</p> <p>15 spent most of my time in Delaware; Wilmington,</p> <p>16 New Castle, and Middletown. So I kind of</p> <p>17 worked my way down the state. And I spent most</p> <p>18 of my years there in Delaware as a teacher and</p> <p>19 an administrator.</p> <p>20 And then I commuted for a year. So while</p> <p>21 I moved back here in July, I was still making</p>	<p>1 leadership. And know -- and trust that you are</p> <p>2 learning all the needs in our schools and how</p> <p>3 best we can address them.</p> <p>4 And as a member of this community,</p> <p>5 welcome.</p> <p>6 DR. PEPUKAY: Thank you.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: And same with my</p> <p>8 colleagues. Welcome. We've seen each other a</p> <p>9 couple of times.</p> <p>10 DR. PEPUKAY: Yes.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Starting to get to know you</p> <p>12 now. That's a good feeling.</p> <p>13 I'm excited. I'm excited for the School</p> <p>14 Board, the community, the kids.</p> <p>15 I'm sure it's great being back here now.</p> <p>16 DR. PEPUKAY: Yes.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Getting settled in. I</p> <p>18 can't imagine how that feels. And I'm sure</p> <p>19 with your history over the last 30 years, you</p> <p>20 know, it's got to be great to come back here.</p> <p>21 DR. PEPUKAY: It is.</p>
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<p>1 that commute to Middletown for a year now. So</p> <p>2 it's nice to have it cut down by an hour, my</p> <p>3 drive.</p> <p>4 MS. PRICE: Very nice. A few of us won't</p> <p>5 be working with you for very long, but I'm</p> <p>6 looking forward to the four months that we</p> <p>7 have. And hopefully get everything, good</p> <p>8 relationship set up for your at least three new</p> <p>9 members of the County Council come December.</p> <p>10 But I think that's good, to have some</p> <p>11 fresh faces within the school system and the</p> <p>12 county. But very much looking forward to</p> <p>13 getting a chance to know you between now and</p> <p>14 the end of the year.</p> <p>15 DR. PEPUKAY: Likewise. Thank you.</p> <p>16 MS. PRICE: So welcome.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHER: As a Council member, I look</p> <p>19 forward to working with you.</p> <p>20 As a parent of an Easton Middle School</p> <p>21 student, I thank you for your service and your</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: And to be able to do your</p> <p>2 thing here.</p> <p>3 And we're really very happy to have you.</p> <p>4 DR. PEPUKAY: Well, thank you. I look</p> <p>5 forward to your partnership.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Us, too. Thanks a</p> <p>7 lot.</p> <p>8 DR. PEPUKAY: Thank you.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Come to us anytime.</p> <p>10 DR. PEPUKAY: Okay. I will.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: I know you will. You'll be</p> <p>12 back here. Here we go.</p> <p>13 Okay. That was great. Okay.</p> <p>14 Let's move on to introduction of numbered</p> <p>15 resolutions. Madam Secretary, could you go</p> <p>16 ahead and get us started on that.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: A resolution to approve</p> <p>18 amended rules of procedure of the Talbot County</p> <p>19 Board of Appeals.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Thomas.</p> <p>21 MR. THOMAS: Yes. So this is actually</p>

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<p>1 something that's been in the works for some</p> <p>2 time. The Board of Appeals wants to update</p> <p>3 their existing rules of procedure. Under the</p> <p>4 Charter and the Code, this needs to be approved</p> <p>5 by a resolution of the County Council.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>7 MR. THOMAS: They've approved in form, the</p> <p>8 rules that are attached as Exhibit A to the</p> <p>9 resolution. So once the Council approves it,</p> <p>10 then they will become effective.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good.</p> <p>12 Council, would there be a raise of hands for</p> <p>13 introduction?</p> <p>14 MS. PRICE: Questions?</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p> <p>16 MS. PRICE: Or you want to introduce</p> <p>17 first?</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: I was going to ask for</p> <p>19 introduction, raise of hands for introduction.</p> <p>20 Then we can do it. Okay.</p> <p>21 Council questions?</p>	<p>1 I don't think it will result in any radicle</p> <p>2 changes, either.</p> <p>3 MS. PRICE: Thank you.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Any other questions? Okay.</p> <p>5 Madam Secretary, could you please announce</p> <p>6 the number and the public hearing date and</p> <p>7 time, please.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Yes. This will be known as</p> <p>9 Resolution Number 333, and the public hearing</p> <p>10 will be held on Tuesday, September 13th, at</p> <p>11 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. 333. Okay. We</p> <p>13 got our lotto number now. That's good.</p> <p>14 Perfect.</p> <p>15 Next, introduction of legislation.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Okay. A bill to amend Chapter</p> <p>17 190 of the Talbot County Code, zoning,</p> <p>18 subdivision, and land development, to add a</p> <p>19 definition of country club and to provide for</p> <p>20 the expansion and major modification of a</p> <p>21 nonconforming country club in the resource</p>
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<p>1 MR. LESHER: By all four of us present.</p> <p>2 MS. PRICE: So is this all brand new or</p> <p>3 are there -- I was looking for like underscores</p> <p>4 and things like that. Is this all brand new</p> <p>5 that we didn't have before or are there changes</p> <p>6 and I'm just seeing a clean copy?</p> <p>7 MR. THOMAS: You're seeing a clean copy.</p> <p>8 If I gave you the redline, it would just be</p> <p>9 very hard to follow. There were a lot of</p> <p>10 revisions.</p> <p>11 MS. PRICE: Was there a specific thing or</p> <p>12 things, if you had to pick three items or</p> <p>13 something like that, that really prompted this</p> <p>14 change?</p> <p>15 MR. THOMAS: I think a lot of it was to</p> <p>16 reflect existing or desired practices to clear</p> <p>17 up things that were inconsistent or outdated</p> <p>18 that didn't make sense, like some language</p> <p>19 about rehearings versus reconsideration.</p> <p>20 So I think the Board felt that this</p> <p>21 version is a better, better way to operate, but</p>	<p>1 conservation, RC, district.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Thomas, you want</p> <p>3 to go ahead and tell us a little bit about</p> <p>4 that.</p> <p>5 MR. THOMAS: Sure. This was, you may</p> <p>6 recall, initiated by a request of Burry Parker.</p> <p>7 I believe he came and spoke about some of the</p> <p>8 rationale for it.</p> <p>9 Essentially it would allow for expansion</p> <p>10 of -- define what a country club is and then</p> <p>11 allow for expansion of nonconforming country</p> <p>12 clubs, similar to how nonconforming golf</p> <p>13 courses can currently expand.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>15 MR. THOMAS: The draft ordinance that's</p> <p>16 being introduced is in the form as proposed and</p> <p>17 approved by the Planning Commission.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Do you need</p> <p>19 to add anything, Brennan?</p> <p>20 MR. TARLETON: No. We didn't have</p> <p>21 anything additional to add to that.</p>

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Council,  
 2 a show of raise of hands for introduction?  
 3 MR. LESHER: By Mr. Pack, Ms. Price, and  
 4 myself, Mr. Leshner.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Any questions, Council?  
 6 MR. PACK: I don't have any questions,  
 7 just an observation that we didn't have a full  
 8 definition of country club already in the Code.  
 9 So I'm really appreciative that this is before  
 10 Council so we can at least have something.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 12 MR. PACK: To work from. I don't know  
 13 whether it was an oversight or whether it was  
 14 something that previous Councils never came  
 15 across, but I think this is good to actually  
 16 have a definition in the Code to work from.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Anything  
 18 else? Okay. Ms. Price, you good?  
 19 MS. PRICE: I assume when we have a public  
 20 hearing, we'll get much more detailed  
 21 explanation.

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1 But it is, even though it is a text  
 2 amendment that would apply to all country clubs  
 3 in rural conservation areas, there is only one  
 4 that actually fits in that category. And they  
 5 are the ones who are proposing the text  
 6 amendment, I assume, for some type of expansion  
 7 that didn't fit their current zoning. Is that  
 8 correct?  
 9 MR. THOMAS: That would be my  
 10 understanding, yes.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,  
 12 could you go ahead and give this a number and  
 13 then let us know what the time and date is,  
 14 please.  
 15 SECRETARY: Yes. This will be known as  
 16 Bill Number 1523, and the public hearing will  
 17 be on Tuesday, September 13th, at 6:30 p.m.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Appreciate that.  
 19 Thank you.  
 20 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 190 of  
 21 the Talbot County Code, zoning, subdivision,

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1 and land development, regarding solar energy  
 2 systems.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Again, Mr. Thomas.  
 4 MR. THOMAS: Sure. As Council will  
 5 recall, on April 26th, Council adopted  
 6 Resolution 329, which imposed a temporary  
 7 moratorium on processing of large scale solar  
 8 energy systems. This was to give the county  
 9 attorney and staff and the Planning Commission  
 10 time to work through some proposed amendments  
 11 that would chiefly address mitigation on  
 12 agricultural lands for large scale solar energy  
 13 systems better than what's currently in the  
 14 Code.  
 15 So what you have before you reflects the  
 16 Planning Commission's recommendations to  
 17 achieve that and address some other related  
 18 issues.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good. Brennan, you  
 20 want to? Yeah, come on up.  
 21 MR. TARLETON: So the language that you

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1 have in front of you for the amendment to the  
 2 Code accomplishes several smaller things that  
 3 weren't originally addressed when we adopted I  
 4 guess the solar energy systems language into  
 5 the Talbot County Code. You'll see those  
 6 reflected throughout that language and  
 7 strike-throughs. Some of them are fairly  
 8 minor.  
 9 But the larger, more extensive changes to  
 10 the mitigation requirements were large scale  
 11 solar energy systems on agricultural land  
 12 specifically.  
 13 The proposal here includes an actual  
 14 offset of a dollar figure amount for acreage  
 15 that's taken out of agricultural production to  
 16 facilitate large scale solar energy systems.  
 17 And that dollar amount that's collected by the  
 18 county would then be put towards the  
 19 contribution of the matching funds for the  
 20 MALPF program, along with what the Council  
 21 allocates every year for the MALPF program.

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1        So it's a resolution that will hopefully  
 2        create a more competitive nature to allow  
 3        additional farms to be preserved within Talbot  
 4        County to offset the acreage that's being used  
 5        for large scale solar energy systems in the  
 6        future and down the road.

7        The previous language that was in the Code  
 8        only allowed for a reservation of development  
 9        rights on those properties that were proposed  
 10       to be used for large scale solar energy  
 11       systems, which would just preserve the  
 12       development rights on the property or allocate  
 13       them to the county for the period of time that  
 14       the solar energy system was in operation. So  
 15       the applicant would essentially gain those  
 16       development rights back after the solar energy  
 17       system was removed from the property.

18       In further discussion with staff, the  
 19       Planning Commission, and several applicants and  
 20       experts throughout the state, the Planning  
 21       Commission came before you with the idea of

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1        doing this offset in hopes and understanding  
 2        that obviously green energy is something that's  
 3        being pushed widely throughout the State of  
 4        Maryland now, and preservation efforts through  
 5        the county is something that's highlighted  
 6        throughout our Comprehensive Plan. So it's  
 7        very consistent with what we're currently  
 8        doing, and it allows us to contribute more to a  
 9        program that preserves farms in perpetuity.

10       MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Council?  
 11       MR. PACK: I have no questions.  
 12       MS. PRICE: I have no questions at this  
 13       time.  
 14       MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 15       MR. LESHER: And this also, there's a  
 16       provision in here also preventing the removal  
 17       of topsoil?  
 18       MR. TARLETON: That's correct. So that's  
 19       one of the revisions that I talked about that  
 20       would be applicable to all solar energy system  
 21       projects proposed.

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1        There was concern I guess previously  
 2        voiced when the language was originally  
 3        adopted, and it was of the understanding that  
 4        that would not be permitted as part of the  
 5        process.

6        However, in staff evaluation of the Code,  
 7        that language was left out of the Code. So  
 8        putting that in allows us the safeguard of  
 9        knowing that if a solar energy system is  
 10       proposed on agricultural property, that prime  
 11       soil would not be stripped off the top of the  
 12       property before the solar energy system is  
 13       installed. That way it would still provide  
 14       some means of use of the property once that  
 15       system is removed if somebody were to revert  
 16       back to an agricultural use or use it for some  
 17       other type of development that would need more  
 18       than desirable grade of soils.

19       MR. PACK: Well, where do you expect them  
 20       to hold this topsoil?  
 21       MR. TARLETON: So likely, and what you see

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1        with most of these solar energy developers,  
 2        they look for flat land that they don't  
 3        necessarily have to grade because grading is  
 4        obviously expensive. So the least amount of  
 5        grading possible is obviously more desirable  
 6        for a project proposal.

7        But if it was necessary to relocate any  
 8        sort of that topsoil that's in that area, I  
 9        assume or presume it could be used for, you  
 10       know, any type of storm water management that  
 11       needs to be addressed on site or anything that  
 12       would require dirt to be compacted, such as an  
 13       access road or something of that nature.

14       If another portion of the farm is still  
 15       going to be utilized for farming, it could be  
 16       used within that area for other agricultural  
 17       practices.

18       But the idea and the intent is to not  
 19       allow that soil to be stripped off and then  
 20       sold off site and taken away from that  
 21       property.

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1 MR. PACK: Well, if you're using it for a  
 2 base for a roadway, then you are using it. I  
 3 mean that's just like selling it. If you're  
 4 stripping the topsoil off and then using it  
 5 elsewhere on the site for a road compacting or  
 6 ditch compacting, then you're basically, you'll  
 7 be better off just selling it. Well, let me  
 8 not say you're better off selling it. But it's  
 9 not going to be repurposed back as topsoil.  
 10 I thought I read somewhere, and again, I  
 11 haven't read this completely, but I thought I  
 12 read somewhere that it had to remain on site.  
 13 MR. TARLETON: Yes, that's correct.  
 14 MR. PACK: So my thinking in reading that  
 15 was that it would be stored somewhere in a pile  
 16 or in a barn on site.  
 17 MR. TARLETON: I mean you can certainly  
 18 propose to store it there, but I don't think  
 19 there's anything within that provision that  
 20 would require them to utilize it in a specific  
 21 manor or leave it in a holding storage area.

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1 MR. PACK: So it can be used elsewhere, it  
 2 can be repurposed, I should say, elsewhere on  
 3 the site?  
 4 MR. TARLETON: That's correct.  
 5 MR. PACK: But it just can't be sold off  
 6 site?  
 7 MS. PRICE: Right. But it says it shall  
 8 remain on site.  
 9 MR. TARLETON: Yes.  
 10 MR. PACK: I thought it said that, too.  
 11 MS. PRICE: Yeah. 1E.  
 12 MR. PACK: 1E.  
 13 MS. PRICE: Says the removal of topsoil  
 14 shall be minimized to the maximum extent  
 15 practicable and all topsoil should remain on  
 16 site unless otherwise addressed in a  
 17 decommissioning plan.  
 18 So I guess there's some kind of other  
 19 decommissioning --  
 20 MR. TARLETON: Yes. So --  
 21 MR. PACK: What is that? Explain that.

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1 MR. TARLETON: For the decommissioning  
 2 plan, if they were, I guess you could say if  
 3 they were proposing to use it for something  
 4 that would be an improvement for the solar  
 5 energy project, part of that decommissioning  
 6 plan could be to require them to, you know,  
 7 grade back out that soil for whatever it was  
 8 used for.  
 9 So if there was an access road on the  
 10 property and it was used as a base for that  
 11 access road, part of the decommissioning plan  
 12 could be to remove the access road and reuse  
 13 the soil or regrade the soil to a point where  
 14 it could be utilized for farming again.  
 15 MR. THOMAS: And that ties into one of the  
 16 proposed amendments regarding the  
 17 decommissioning plan, which requires for  
 18 agricultural land, there needs to be a plan for  
 19 how the land will be restored to a condition  
 20 suitable for permitted agricultural uses once  
 21 the system is taken down and decommissioned.

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1 MS. PRICE: So there's already several  
 2 amendments being proposed. Can they be put up?  
 3 Because we're going to have a public hearing,  
 4 and some of these amendments might be, you  
 5 know, really change some things based on what  
 6 people may have to say.  
 7 I haven't even -- they're not yet in our  
 8 computer.  
 9 MR. LESHER: Ms. Price, if I may. I think  
 10 tonight our goal is to simply introduce what  
 11 the Planning Commission has approved without  
 12 amendment.  
 13 It is my intention at our next meeting to  
 14 introduce one amendment. I'm not aware of  
 15 others. Maybe there are others that are in the  
 16 pipeline, but I intend to, at our next meeting  
 17 and, therefore, prior to the September hearing,  
 18 so that this will be in the public record  
 19 before our September hearing, introduce an  
 20 amendment that has come up since the  
 21 recommendation by the Planning Commission

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1 approval or recommendation that would further  
 2 protect our best crop lands and direct large  
 3 scale solar installations to the fields with  
 4 lower quality soils within the county.  
 5 MS. PRICE: That sounds great. So I would  
 6 hope that any Council member who is looking to  
 7 introduce an amendment, would do it as you are  
 8 doing it so that it is in the public domain  
 9 prior to our public hearing in September.  
 10 MR. LESHHER: And I will do so at the  
 11 August 23rd meeting prior to that September  
 12 meeting, yes.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions  
 14 from Council? Okay.  
 15 MR. LESHHER: Just a further comment, which  
 16 is we made this moratorium on large scale solar  
 17 just as short as we thought we feasibly could.  
 18 I want to thank the staff and the Planning  
 19 Commission for working through this issue and  
 20 bringing forward the recommended legislation.  
 21 They made I think quick but thorough work of

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1 this. And I just want to express my  
 2 appreciation for their efforts in getting us to  
 3 this point.  
 4 I think this is a really important move  
 5 for Talbot County going forward. We know the  
 6 importance that Maryland is putting on  
 7 renewable sources of energy, the pressure that  
 8 that is going to put on Eastern Shore farmland,  
 9 including in Talbot County, for the conversion  
 10 of farmland to solar. And we want to make sure  
 11 that it is done right.  
 12 We're not going to stop this, but we can  
 13 direct it and we can make sure that it's done  
 14 appropriately, and that I believe is the  
 15 intention here.  
 16 And I want to thank all involved for their  
 17 diligent efforts in bringing us to this point.  
 18 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Go ahead, Mr. Pack.  
 20 Thank you, Mr. Leshher.  
 21 MR. PACK: Brennan, maybe you or

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1 Mr. Thomas can help me with this. If I  
 2 remember correctly, when we drafted the solar  
 3 legislation, there was language in there the  
 4 solar field had to, I wouldn't say about, but it  
 5 had to be in proximation of a transmission  
 6 line.  
 7 Is that still standing, that it had to be  
 8 near a transmission line for approval?  
 9 MR. TARLETON: To my knowledge, that  
 10 language doesn't exist within the current  
 11 ordinance. And it's not proposed as part of  
 12 this.  
 13 I think Queen Anne's did something similar  
 14 to that with a trunk line mapping area of where  
 15 they would propose solar to be located.  
 16 And I think the idea and the intent of  
 17 this is just as Mr. Leshher had stated. Not to  
 18 necessarily control like the actual siting of  
 19 where solar can exist, but to ensure that it  
 20 doesn't, you know, take place on areas, where  
 21 prime farmland areas that we have in the county

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1 that we've identified for preservation.  
 2 I think you can assume that most of them  
 3 are going to take place near a larger  
 4 transmission line just because of the sheer  
 5 cost involved in actually connecting into  
 6 transmission lines, and they have to do  
 7 significant amount of evaluation to see whether  
 8 or not the existing lines can take whatever  
 9 energy is being put in and transported into  
 10 those.  
 11 So I think you'll likely see most of the  
 12 proposals taking place within areas that  
 13 already have substantial utility improvements.  
 14 MR. PACK: I know there was much  
 15 discussion about that.  
 16 Maybe you're right. Maybe Queen Anne's  
 17 County's bill is what I'm remembering, but I  
 18 would have to look at the current bill.  
 19 Because that would kind of direct where these  
 20 larger solar arrays would need to go, is near  
 21 those transmission lines that can handle the

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1 amount of electricity that they're putting  
 2 through it.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 4 MS. PRICE: Well, I think what we have to  
 5 remember is we're really not controlling where  
 6 these things are going. It's the Maryland  
 7 Public Service Commission. And we hope that  
 8 they will consult with us. But at the end of  
 9 the day, they have all the decision-making  
 10 power.  
 11 So we can try to put these things in to  
 12 preserve our farmland and direct where they go.  
 13 But honestly, the counties do not have that  
 14 control at all, unfortunately.  
 15 MR. PACK: Under the zoning, you do have  
 16 some say where they go.  
 17 MS. PRICE: Why don't you try telling  
 18 Jason Stanek.  
 19 MR. PACK: I know --  
 20 MS. PRICE: Not so much.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: We're going to do our

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1 best --  
 2 MS. PRICE: We'll do the best that we can  
 3 knowing --  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: We're going to do our best  
 5 with language to make sure we put these on the  
 6 proper farms.  
 7 MR. PACK: Right.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: So to speak, so to speak.  
 9 Mr. Council, did you want to come up?  
 10 Are you good back there?  
 11 MR. COUNCELL: If you all have any  
 12 questions, I'm happy to answer them. But  
 13 otherwise I think --  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, like Mr. Leshner said,  
 15 we really appreciate the effort you guys have  
 16 put in there and working with this. So we  
 17 really appreciate it. Okay.  
 18 MR. LESHNER: Thank you.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
 20 MS. PRICE: Thank you.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you

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1 go ahead and give us the number to this and the  
 2 date and time, please.  
 3 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill  
 4 Number 1524.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 6 SECRETARY: Public hearing will be on  
 7 Tuesday, September 13th, at 6:30 p.m.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.  
 9 MS. MORRIS: You didn't introduce it.  
 10 SECRETARY: You need a show of hands.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. Show of  
 12 hands.  
 13 MS. PRICE: I got my hand up.  
 14 MR. LESHNER: By all Council present.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup. Okay.  
 16 Now we got the crew out here. Look at  
 17 her. She's coming up. Okay. Come on up,  
 18 everybody.  
 19 This is a presentation of the Talbot  
 20 County Economic Development Commission  
 21 recommendation of the funding that we're going

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1 to be getting for the Maryland Rural Economic  
 2 Development Fund.  
 3 So Cassandra is here. She's the director.  
 4 And she's got her side kick there, Reza.  
 5 Keeping her straight, Reza. How you doing  
 6 guys?  
 7 MS. VANHOOSER: Great.  
 8 MR. JAFARI: Very well. Thank you.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Good.  
 10 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you, Mr. President  
 11 and esteemed Council members. Give me just a  
 12 moment.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 14 MS. VANHOOSER: To get my -- oops. I  
 15 don't want a new slide. Now I've done it. Oh,  
 16 well. We'll just have a blank slide there.  
 17 Sorry. All right.  
 18 Good evening, Council. We are excited to  
 19 be here. This has been a long process, and we  
 20 have gone through a lot of trouble to try and  
 21 make a fair and open and equitable process so

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1 that we can take this source of funding and  
 2 distribute it to our partners so that it will  
 3 be invested in the best way possible for  
 4 economic development.  
 5 And I'm going to start by skipping this  
 6 slide and going over to the description of what  
 7 this project, what this funding source is. I  
 8 want to make sure that everyone listening  
 9 understands and that we are clear on where this  
 10 money came from.  
 11 Also, I will introduce my side kick here.  
 12 Mr. Reza Jafari is the Economic Development  
 13 Commission chairman. And Scott Warner has  
 14 joined us, as well as Amy (Inaudible) Kreiner,  
 15 who was on the committee that helped make these  
 16 decisions. And I don't see anyone else, but we  
 17 did have an in depth committee. I'll get to  
 18 that in just a moment.  
 19 So in February, the governor appropriated  
 20 \$50 million for rural economic development.  
 21 The Department of Commerce is administering

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1 this program, and it is being distributed  
 2 through the Regional Councils. There are five  
 3 Regional Councils in the State of Maryland. We  
 4 are part of the Mid-Shore Regional Council,  
 5 along with Caroline and Dorchester Counties.  
 6 Scott Warner is the executive director of the  
 7 Mid-Shore Regional Council. And you all know  
 8 him well. We work with him on a lot of  
 9 different projects.  
 10 So they have given us approximately  
 11 \$3.2 million to use for Talbot County projects.  
 12 And that was a decision made by the Regional  
 13 Council to distribute -- the way they would  
 14 distribute it to the counties. And so  
 15 basically we are making application for these  
 16 funds. Mid-Shore Regional Council will make a  
 17 final application to the Commerce Department.  
 18 And we had 23 applications that came in  
 19 for this. And the EDC, they went and ranked  
 20 and made funding recommendations. It was a  
 21 very in-depth process. So everyone who

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1 submitted an application was invited to give a  
 2 three to four-minute summary of their project  
 3 to the Economic Development Commission. And it  
 4 was actually a fantastic overview of all the  
 5 projects. And if you could listen to all of  
 6 those projects and not get a great view of  
 7 what's going on in Talbot County, then you  
 8 weren't listening to those. So --  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Cassandra. I want you  
 10 to make sure that everybody understands. So we  
 11 had 23 applications?  
 12 MS. VANHOOSER: Yes.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Because everybody is going  
 14 to ask well, I didn't know about it.  
 15 MS. VANHOOSER: Right.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: So it's very important that  
 17 it's been out there for a while.  
 18 MS. VANHOOSER: Right. So the governor  
 19 himself came to the Eastern Shore and announced  
 20 it.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. It's very

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1 important.  
 2 MS. VANHOOSER: Well, so let's go over the  
 3 guidelines on how this money was to be used.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: That would be great.  
 5 MS. VANHOOSER: And I'm going to read  
 6 directly from the guidelines that came from the  
 7 Department of Commerce.  
 8 The Rural Maryland Economic Development  
 9 Fund seeks to fund infrastructure projects that  
 10 will support economic development activity,  
 11 stimulate private investment, and grow jobs in  
 12 the state's rural economy.  
 13 So not every organization can qualify for  
 14 that because they don't function in that space.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 16 MS. VANHOOSER: And eligible uses include  
 17 developing public infrastructure, such as  
 18 utilities, transportation, and broadband to  
 19 support attractions, retention or expansion of  
 20 businesses, as well as infrastructure projects  
 21 related to specific industry sectors, such as,

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1 but not limited to, manufacturing, clean  
 2 energy, life sciences, cybersecurity, and agro  
 3 business. Funding can also be used for  
 4 workforce development and stimulating  
 5 entrepreneurship and innovation.  
 6 So we feel like we got a great number of  
 7 applications from people who are doing work in  
 8 this space. I sent it to -- I presented it at  
 9 the town counties meeting, or county towns  
 10 meeting, and sent the guidelines to all of the  
 11 town managers. So all of our towns had access  
 12 to the information.  
 13 We, of course, had access to the  
 14 information and submitted a number of  
 15 applications. And then many of our partners,  
 16 who are working in this space.  
 17 So you know, the word was out there that  
 18 we were taking applications for this project.  
 19 So was there a specific question that you  
 20 wanted me to address?  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: No. That was perfect.

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1 That was perfect. I just really wanted to  
 2 educate people really --  
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: Right.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: -- what this money is meant  
 5 to be for.  
 6 MS. VANHOOSER: Right. So yes. And there  
 7 was an article in Star Democrat. I presented  
 8 to the County Council prior to --  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.  
 10 MS. VANHOOSER: So we had a very thorough  
 11 process I believe.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: You did, you did.  
 13 MS. VANHOOSER: And you know, our Economic  
 14 Development Commission was part of it and the  
 15 Tourism Board. So --  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: This is just more for  
 17 people that are hearing it for the first time.  
 18 That's all.  
 19 MS. VANHOOSER: I completely understand.  
 20 And I also presented here on July 12th and  
 21 gave an overview of the program.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: And you did well.  
 2 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you.  
 3 So it does have a short timeline on it.  
 4 And you may be wondering why. And that's  
 5 because it was part of the governor's budget,  
 6 and that budget didn't pass until April. And  
 7 then Commerce had to put out the guidelines,  
 8 which I just read to you from.  
 9 So then we had to put together what we  
 10 were going to do because every county  
 11 approached it differently. And so what we did  
 12 was we opened it up and had an ecumenical  
 13 process or egalitarian process where we  
 14 invited, that's a \$3 word there, we invited  
 15 those people who are working in economic  
 16 development to make application, including all  
 17 of our towns.  
 18 So here is our timeline now. So I'm  
 19 presenting our recommendations to you tonight.  
 20 And those are made to you by the Economic  
 21 Development Commission committee who worked on

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1 this. And we must submit a ranked list of  
 2 projects with complete applications to the  
 3 Mid-Shore Regional Council by this Friday,  
 4 August 12th.  
 5 And then the Mid-Shore Regional Council is  
 6 going to assess the applications that they  
 7 receive. And so I will need a letter of  
 8 support from y'all after this meeting saying  
 9 that you agree with our recommendations. And  
 10 that will go to the Mid-Shore Regional Council.  
 11 And they have to submit by September 2nd  
 12 to the Department of Commerce. And that's the  
 13 September date that you see there.  
 14 And then by the fall, we should know who  
 15 is awarded a grant.  
 16 And again, we are making recommendations.  
 17 So again, it was \$3,233,333. And that's  
 18 one of the reasons you see some uneven numbers  
 19 in our recommendations because we wanted to  
 20 spend every dime that we possibly could that  
 21 was coming to us.

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<p>1 And the EDC committee is recommending                  2 funding for 11 projects. I'm going to go over                  3 those projects for you and tell you the amount                  4 of dollars that we are recommending for each                  5 one.                  6 But first I want to say that the Economic                  7 Development Commission really performed                  8 admirably on this task. I put out a call to                  9 the EDC. Ten members volunteered and spent an                  10 enormous amount of time evaluating the                  11 applications, turning in their scores, they had                  12 a score sheet, based on what the Department of                  13 Commerce was recommending. And then after                  14 that, we had a full discussion, a two-hour                  15 discussion, and then an additional discussion                  16 to make our final recommendations. And then                  17 even more discussion after that.                  18 So we have worked on this, worked on this,                  19 and worked on this to refine it and do what we                  20 think is the best thing for Talbot County.                  21 And so I want to recommend or ask you to</p>	<p>1 (inaudible) representative on the ECD. And of                  2 course, yours truly.                  3 So thank you to our committee for all the                  4 work that they put into this.                  5 Now let's go through our projects.                  6 We are recommending funding for Chesapeake                  7 College. They submitted an application for a                  8 future workforce training. And this includes                  9 the marine trades and the welding programs.                  10 And they're expanding into entrepreneurship for                  11 people in the trades, which we do a lot of work                  12 in that area. We're very supportive of that.                  13 And then we had to cut out part of their                  14 application because they couldn't qualify for                  15 one part that they asked. They amended their                  16 application, and we are going to fund I believe                  17 a boat so that our marine tradespeople can                  18 train on that.                  19 So we're recommending -- they made the                  20 same request from all counties, all five                  21 counties that they represent, and I believe all</p>
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<p>1 acknowledge the committee members. Reza, of                  2 course, is the chairman, and we've already                  3 talked about him. He was a lion in this thing                  4 and he understands economic development as well                  5 as anyone I know. Ted Bouts, representing the                  6 Town of Easton. Dr. Coppersmith from                  7 Chesapeake College. Shannon Dill, of course,                  8 brought the ag perspective. And Ron Engle                  9 represents the Town of Easton on the Economic                  10 Development Commission. Amy, of course, is the                  11 executive director of the Talbot Chamber of                  12 Commerce. And Terenda Thomas is our workforce                  13 development person and from the Department of                  14 Labor and brought a great deal to it. And                  15 Debbie Walsworth, an accountant. She owns BFC                  16 Group, and she asked amazing questions that I                  17 would never have thought to ask. And Jackie                  18 Wilson at Provident State Bank. And one person                  19 I left off, unfortunately, is Margaret                  20 (Inaudible) North, also brought great                  21 perspective to this and serves as the</p>	<p>1 five are recommending support for them. And we                  2 are as well. They were our top ranked project.                  3 \$257,500 for that programming.                  4 The Maryland Broadband Cooperative. We're                  5 recommending funding for \$240,000 for the                  6 mid-shore optical broadband network upgrade.                  7 We have a point of presence in Wye Mills and it                  8 serves the mid-shore region. So all of the                  9 ISPs who function in this region should benefit                  10 from that.                  11 Also, Caroline and Dorchester received the                  12 same request. This is a regional project. We                  13 are recommending full funding.                  14 The Avalon Foundation. This is a tourism                  15 development project. They have a pavilion that                  16 they put up during the pandemic. It was very                  17 successful. And now they want to make that a                  18 permanent structure. So we are recommending                  19 full funding for them, \$500,000, to seed their                  20 fundraising efforts for this. They assure me                  21 they can use this within the two-year time</p>

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1 frame.

2 And this will make that a permanent

3 structure. It will support small businesses in

4 downtown Easton. And also, many of us,

5 including us, used that space during the

6 pandemic for public meetings. So \$500,000 is

7 our recommendation for that project.

8 The Town of Easton has requested money for

9 the Port Street improvement project. They are

10 proposing burying the power lines from Jowite

11 Street down to the public boat landing. And

12 that is an infrastructure project that will

13 support the development of the waterfront

14 there. And we're recommending \$501,700 because

15 I had an uneven number and this is where we put

16 it. So that is our recommendation for this

17 project.

18 MS. PRICE: Can you give a little more

19 detail on that one as far as the waterfront

20 because we don't know -- we have our landing

21 down there. And what all are they looking --

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1 what is this money to be used for specifically?

2 MS. VANHOOSER: Specifically to bury the

3 power lines between Jowite Street --

4 MS. PRICE: Okay.

5 MS. VANHOOSER: All the way down to the

6 boat landing. So it's infrastructure, utility

7 infrastructure in preparation for the

8 development that they are expecting down there.

9 So it's just the beginning of the things that

10 are going to happen there.

11 MS. PRICE: Thank you.

12 MS. VANHOOSER: We can come back to any of

13 these, by the way.

14 The Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center

15 has proposed an ag biotech manufacturing

16 project. This one is very exciting.

17 Speculative. They have several businesses that

18 they're working with in their incubator program

19 and are planning to put a manufacturing

20 facility here in Easton, if we support their

21 project.

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1 This is not the only money they need for

2 this. And this is partial funding for this

3 project. But what we're hoping is that this

4 will attract ag biotech businesses that F3 Tech

5 is currently working to support. And they have

6 a whole incubator program. F3 Tech is

7 supporting that, and we are recommending

8 \$400,000 for this project.

9 MR. LESHAR: This is at Mistletoe Hall?

10 MS. VANHOOSER: I don't believe this is at

11 Mistletoe Hall. I believe they're considering

12 Easton Technology Center.

13 But again, it requires funding to get to

14 that point. So that is their proposal.

15 MS. PRICE: Nothing exists, they have

16 nothing at this point? This is all brand new?

17 MS. VANHOOSER: Right. So Eastern Shore,

18 and this might be a better question for Scott

19 to answer, Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship

20 Center is housed with him. And this would give

21 them office space for F3 Tech and for their

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1 incubator program. And then they are going to

2 be building and furnishing, partially with this

3 money, the equipment that ag biotech businesses

4 need, particularly the manufacturing business

5 that has stated in a letter in their

6 application that they would consider Easton

7 after the incubation period.

8 So we're considering this as a real

9 attraction effort and an emerging industry for

10 us. Again, we can come back.

11 The Talbot County Free Library requested

12 money for equipment. They are proposing a

13 mobile lab that would have computers. We

14 agreed to pay for only the computers. And

15 they're working in the workforce development

16 space, but we are not funding that portion of

17 the program. We're funding equipment only with

18 the \$22,000 is our recommendation here.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: When you said mobile,

20 explain that.

21 MS. VANHOOSER: Laptops. And they'll be

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1 able to go set up a lab at a location outside.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Outside.  
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: Anything that's hardwired  
 4 into their, either of their library facilities.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, okay.  
 6 MS. VANHOOSER: So if they needed to go to  
 7 Trappe and set it up or if they needed to go to  
 8 Tilghman Island and set it up.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: I see.  
 10 MR. JAFARI: Or St. Michaels.  
 11 MS. VANHOOSER: Well, they have a library  
 12 in St. Michaels. But it would allow them to  
 13 take equipment out to other places.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: I see. Okay.  
 15 MS. VANHOOSER: Building African American  
 16 Minds is proposing a workforce development  
 17 program. It had a youth component in it, and  
 18 that's not what this money is for.  
 19 So we are proposing to fund their adult  
 20 program. And their proposal is that there are  
 21 young people who are coming out of high school,

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1 they go into the workforce, and they're not  
 2 prepared. And they're going to develop a  
 3 program that will help prepare these young  
 4 people to be employees of tomorrow. We're  
 5 proposing \$87,133.  
 6 Talbot County Economic Development and  
 7 Tourism, yours truly. We proposed an inclusive  
 8 ventures program, like the one they did in Anne  
 9 Arundel County and also in Charles County. And  
 10 it's training for minority woman and veteran  
 11 businesses. And this is only for the  
 12 programmatic portion of it. And we agreed to  
 13 fund two cohorts, which would be approximately  
 14 ten to 15 people in each cohort over two  
 15 different years. And we will be looking for,  
 16 hint, hint, grant money.  
 17 So this program typically gives a \$5,000  
 18 grant to the program participants upon  
 19 graduation to invest in their small business.  
 20 \$50,000 for that program.  
 21 These may be different -- I think I

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1 mis-numbered on your Power Point.  
 2 Talbot County Parks and Recreation. We  
 3 are proposing \$300,000 for the predevelopment  
 4 engineering and design on phase two of this  
 5 park. That is the extended walkways, the  
 6 pavilion, bathrooms, additional interpretation.  
 7 And so this is only for the engineering and  
 8 design on that.  
 9 Our master plan shows that that cost will  
 10 be significant, and the phase two portion of  
 11 this is a roughly, and this was last year's  
 12 numbers, \$2.1 million phase two construction.  
 13 But we're recommending the predevelopment  
 14 cost for that. This, again, is infrastructure  
 15 for tourism development.  
 16 This is where I changed the numbers I  
 17 believe.  
 18 Talbot County Economic Development and  
 19 Tourism. We will be doing a strategic plan.  
 20 Our strategic plan ends at the end of this  
 21 year. We had a five-year plan. We did it in

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1 '18, and it's time for us to do a new strategic  
 2 plan.  
 3 We're proposing hiring a consultant,  
 4 putting out an RFP, hiring a consultant with  
 5 this money, and recommending \$125,000.  
 6 And then finally, we are recommending  
 7 \$750,000 for Talbot County Public Works,  
 8 Goldsborough Neck culvert replacement project.  
 9 So as you know, we've gotten almost a million  
 10 dollars from the Rural Maryland Council to  
 11 widen that road from Mistletoe Hall to Glebe.  
 12 That, of course, is not the only part of that  
 13 project, but that is the part we're working on.  
 14 And Ray has indicated that the culvert  
 15 needs to be replaced there so that the rest of  
 16 that roadwork can continue down all the way to  
 17 Glebe. And we're recommending funding of  
 18 \$750,000 for that.  
 19 Altogether, that brings us to 3.233333.  
 20 And those are our recommendations.  
 21 Questions?

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council. Go ahead,  
 2 Corey.  
 3 MR. PACK: Yeah. Thank you all so much  
 4 for all your hard work. Reza and Scott, thank  
 5 you so much for doing this and the other  
 6 members of your committee.  
 7 As these are recommendations, I do have  
 8 one point that I would like to kind of focus  
 9 on. And that with the Town of Trappe.  
 10 A lot of these recommendations are  
 11 proposals. These entities are not in place  
 12 yet. They're ideas, but they're not actually  
 13 something that they are continuing on an  
 14 existing project.  
 15 We do know that the Town of Trappe is also  
 16 proposing an expansion and an upgrade of the  
 17 wastewater treatment plant. Of course, anyone  
 18 who has been around Talbot County in the last  
 19 six months, knows that has been a big  
 20 discussion of this Council.  
 21 And I saw here an opportunity to assist

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1 them with that with these dollars. And it  
 2 looks like the Town of Easton has several  
 3 projects on this list that they're going to  
 4 benefit from. And this was the only one that  
 5 looks on this list -- of course, anyone could  
 6 apply. I think that's the point that  
 7 Mr. Callahan made. We're not going to force  
 8 people to apply. Anyone can apply.  
 9 But I would have probably liked to have  
 10 seen that project assisted with some dollars.  
 11 I mean it's a \$500,000 request. It's going to  
 12 go towards an improvement at the ENR plant. We  
 13 do know that the Lakeside project is already  
 14 underway. We've heard much testimony about  
 15 that plant and their plans down there.  
 16 I would like to see a way to assist them  
 17 with some of these dollars. It just seems that  
 18 that's something that is certainly public good,  
 19 an existing wastewater treatment plant.  
 20 MS. VANHOOSER: Do you want to answer that  
 21 or do you want me to answer that?

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1 MR. JAFARI: You go ahead and I'll follow  
 2 you. Absolutely, yes.  
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: Okay. So we discussed  
 4 that at length with our committee.  
 5 And we felt like it was a \$14 million-plus  
 6 project and \$500,000 is a drop in the bucket.  
 7 And we did not feel that that was adequate  
 8 money to really help them.  
 9 We're also not clear where the other  
 10 \$14 million would come from from their  
 11 application and would they be able to do that  
 12 in a two-year time frame? That's not clear.  
 13 Also, that is residential development and  
 14 not economic development.  
 15 MR. JAFARI: We asked those questions, by  
 16 the way, if I may, Councilman. Add just a  
 17 couple more points to it.  
 18 In the first round, we went through the  
 19 entire kind of number of applications, as  
 20 Cassandra mentioned.  
 21 And the Town of Trappe had the

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1 representative presenting the case and saying  
 2 what needs to be done and what needs to be kind  
 3 of accomplished.  
 4 We asked these questions and we said if  
 5 you can help us to clarify to see what this  
 6 \$500,000 is going to do to you, if it's going  
 7 to help you to get the matching fund or if it  
 8 helps you to get other funds coming in.  
 9 Because as Cassandra mentioned, \$500,000 when  
 10 you have a 14-and-a-half-million-dollar project  
 11 in your hand is not going to help you unless  
 12 you have other areas already identified.  
 13 The answer was we don't know where it's  
 14 going to come from.  
 15 There are also other opportunities for  
 16 them to go for the funding because, as you  
 17 know, that is infrastructure that might be  
 18 under the new law that has been signed by  
 19 President Biden to come in, new infrastructure  
 20 fund that is coming up. That would be probably  
 21 more appropriate, as opposed to this small

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1 amount of funds that is available to a much  
 2 larger number of participants.  
 3 MS. PRICE: And that makes sense,  
 4 especially the two-year time frame. You said  
 5 two-year time frame like yeah, this isn't  
 6 happening.  
 7 MR. JAFARI: Precisely. They could not  
 8 confirm that they can get this done in two  
 9 years because that project is going to be  
 10 probably a three to five-year project for the  
 11 entire sewer system. Yes.  
 12 MR. PACK: So the money has to be spent  
 13 down in two years?  
 14 MR. JAFARI: In less than two years, yes.  
 15 Eighteen to 24 months, yes.  
 16 MR. PACK: Okay. So these dollars, they  
 17 did not specify these would be for design or  
 18 for engineering dollars? Were these soft  
 19 dollars?  
 20 You can spend engineering dollars in six  
 21 months.

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1 MS. PRICE: Maybe they've already done  
 2 that?  
 3 MR. PACK: I don't know. I mean I'm just  
 4 asking the question.  
 5 MR. JAFARI: They did not present it that  
 6 way. Because, again, we asked those questions.  
 7 They could not say that this is the part,  
 8 just like with other projects, they're saying  
 9 if you give us the money, we can start the  
 10 design process, we have the matching fund or we  
 11 would be starting a fundraiser. They could not  
 12 clarify whether that would be possible or if  
 13 it's part of their plan or not.  
 14 Their plan that we were asking, it is not  
 15 really in place yet. It is more of a concept  
 16 as opposed to a plan in place identifying  
 17 phases, identifying, again, what needs to be  
 18 done at the engineering side, design side, and  
 19 the rest of it.  
 20 So unfortunately, they were not able to  
 21 provide information just like the other groups

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1 have provided to be able to qualify themselves.  
 2 MS. VANHOOSER: So to be clear, the  
 3 projects that are not funded are not that we  
 4 don't support those. It's just that we felt  
 5 like this was the best investment at this time  
 6 of these resources.  
 7 MR. PACK: Sure.  
 8 MR. JAFARI: Matter of priorities and  
 9 matter of framework to see what can be  
 10 accomplished within this framework within the  
 11 time frame.  
 12 MS. PRICE: So my questions are about  
 13 Talbot County projects and Easton projects.  
 14 I don't know if the scoring, if people  
 15 recused themselves from certain things. I mean  
 16 I see some zeros and things like that. If you  
 17 kind of were part of that, you know, if you or  
 18 other people, they're part of Chesapeake  
 19 College and they were applying, they just took  
 20 themselves out of that.  
 21 There's also only seven people listed here

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1 and you had ten or so on your committee.  
 2 MS. VANHOOSER: Right. Not everyone  
 3 turned in scores.  
 4 MS. PRICE: Oh, okay.  
 5 MS. VANHOOSER: But they did come to the  
 6 meetings.  
 7 So to be clear, if you had a conflict of  
 8 interest, you either didn't score it or we  
 9 dropped yours. So we dropped the lowest score  
 10 on every one of them.  
 11 MS. PRICE: Okay. So that's what's in  
 12 yellow?  
 13 MS. VANHOOSER: Right. So if you're on  
 14 the committee and you didn't have a project or  
 15 you didn't have a conflict of interest, we  
 16 still dropped the lowest score, whatever it is.  
 17 MS. PRICE: Okay. Go ahead, Corey.  
 18 MS. VANHOOSER: To be fair.  
 19 MR. PACK: What about the Chesapeake  
 20 Maritime Welcome Center, that \$500,000, that  
 21 was not design money?

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1 MS. VANHOOSER: So Pete probably can  
 2 answer this better than I.  
 3 MR. LESHER: I think I shouldn't.  
 4 MS. VANHOOSER: I think you probably  
 5 should. So --  
 6 MR. PACK: I mean this just seems like  
 7 it's very centralized in and around greater  
 8 Easton, I mean when we had an opportunity to  
 9 spread the funds throughout the county.  
 10 MR. JAFARI: Well, there are two points  
 11 related. That's a very, very important  
 12 question that you're asking, Councilman.  
 13 One is Easton is the center of commerce  
 14 and the center of economics for the entire  
 15 county. We are not discounting the importance  
 16 of the other towns and other municipalities or  
 17 other groups inside the county.  
 18 But we wanted to know where is the best  
 19 impact that we can get for the amount of that  
 20 money that we are spending and the nature of  
 21 the project, although it might say Easton. But

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1 the impact of that project is for the entire  
 2 county.  
 3 Sometimes they bring projects that are  
 4 coming up from Trappe, St. Michaels, or other  
 5 municipalities may not have the same impact.  
 6 So that was one of the elements of the  
 7 discussion. Again, two hours of the  
 8 deliberation of the committee, the interviews  
 9 that we had, again, the other conversations.  
 10 And what is the best place that we can use this  
 11 fund to be able to get the best --  
 12 MR. PACK: You mean to tell me that the  
 13 St. Michaels Maritime Museum at \$500,000 would  
 14 be more of an impact, and it's not me picking  
 15 on BAAM, than a proposed workforce development  
 16 project that hasn't even been created yet?  
 17 MR. JAFARI: Well, the project of BAAM is  
 18 not only for Easton, although --  
 19 MR. PACK: I'm not saying it is. You're  
 20 talking about impact. The impact that  
 21 Chesapeake Maritime Museum, as far as the

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1 number of people that come annually to that  
 2 center.  
 3 MR. JAFARI: Yes.  
 4 MR. PACK: And that drive through, go down  
 5 33, stop at the restaurant, have something to  
 6 eat, gas their vehicles up --  
 7 MR. JAFARI: I --  
 8 MR. PACK: You mean that has less impact?  
 9 MR. JAFARI: I love this question because  
 10 I have a very special place in my heart about  
 11 Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. But there's a  
 12 difference between economic impact and economic  
 13 development.  
 14 Economic impact of the Chesapeake Bay  
 15 Maritime Museum has been proven through  
 16 economic analysis. The Waterfowl Festival the  
 17 same thing. Those have economic impact.  
 18 By impact, I meant was the use of this  
 19 fund, being able to deliver the result and the  
 20 outcome that we were expecting, that kind of  
 21 impact.

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1 Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum is playing,  
 2 again, a very, very significant role. We're  
 3 doing everything we can to get the funds that  
 4 the organization needs to be able to even do  
 5 more, not only for Talbot, even for the entire  
 6 Eastern Shore. But it is not going to be that  
 7 piece that is economic development that we are  
 8 focusing on, not economic impact.  
 9 MS. VANHOOSER: Another factor was that,  
 10 and I --  
 11 MR. PACK: Wait, wait. I'm sorry.  
 12 And you're going to have to maybe define  
 13 that. I got my slow hat on today.  
 14 So you're talking the difference between  
 15 economic impact and economic development?  
 16 MR. JAFARI: Yes.  
 17 MR. PACK: So if I am building a welcome  
 18 center, that's not economic development?  
 19 MR. JAFARI: That piece is separate.  
 20 MR. PACK: That's what I'm try to make  
 21 sure -- help me understand this.

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1 You're saying it's not economic impact,  
 2 it's economic development.  
 3 If I am building a welcome center, that's  
 4 not economic development, if I'm building a  
 5 center?  
 6 MR. JAFARI: It is not part of the  
 7 infrastructure. The economic development  
 8 becomes part of the infrastructure that is  
 9 available to multi users and multi places.  
 10 But the welcome center of CBM, that I also  
 11 happen to be a member of, the working group,  
 12 the working committee, that is focused for the  
 13 use of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.  
 14 That center is not going to be made available  
 15 to anybody who, just like the road, just like  
 16 the broadband, anybody can come and go ahead  
 17 and use it.  
 18 MS. VANHOOSER: So I do feel that this is  
 19 economic development, in deference to my  
 20 chairman.  
 21 MR. JAFARI: Oh, sure. Absolutely.

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1 MR. PACK: I'm still trying to figure it  
 2 out, too. If I'm building a welcome center,  
 3 that's development.  
 4 MS. VANHOOSER: Well, it's not the same  
 5 kind of development as infrastructure for roads  
 6 and utilities, etc.  
 7 However, it is tourism development, as  
 8 we've established. It's important.  
 9 And you can see I gave them a zero because  
 10 I was on their master planning committee.  
 11 MR. PACK: Okay.  
 12 MS. VANHOOSER: So we dropped me. So we  
 13 dropped my score.  
 14 But I believe they got a million dollars  
 15 in the governor's budget, and I felt that this  
 16 was double dipping.  
 17 MR. PACK: So now we're going into double  
 18 dipping.  
 19 So I mean let's look at the -- and no  
 20 disrespect to the Avalon Foundation. But let's  
 21 look at them. They want to expand their

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1 pavilion, right. That's their -- I haven't  
 2 read their proposal.  
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: Make it permanent.  
 4 MR. PACK: And maybe I should read that.  
 5 Okay.  
 6 So if you apply that same logic that you  
 7 just applied to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime  
 8 Museum, then why are they getting \$500,000?  
 9 MR. JAFARI: Again, that facility is  
 10 available to public to come. And as Cassandra  
 11 mentioned, holding meetings, holding, again,  
 12 conferences, holding, again --  
 13 MR. PACK: They hold meetings down there.  
 14 MS. PRICE: What Cassandra just said,  
 15 because the governor does have funds that you  
 16 can apply for, individual, nonprofits, other  
 17 businesses, who can apply to the governor's  
 18 budget usually about this time, between now and  
 19 October.  
 20 And if they've already gotten a million  
 21 dollars, I agree with you because they have

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1 another source of funding to do that. And I  
 2 think you do need to look at those other  
 3 things.  
 4 MS. VANHOOSER: Well, we certainly support  
 5 this. I am 100 percent supportive of this.  
 6 And again --  
 7 MR. JAFARI: Absolutely.  
 8 MS. VANHOOSER: I sit on their master  
 9 planning committee.  
 10 But you know, in this lineup, with these  
 11 parameters, that was what we decided.  
 12 And it was partially based on the fact  
 13 that they already got a million dollars in the  
 14 governor's budget.  
 15 MR. JAFARI: And Councilman, please don't  
 16 get --  
 17 MS. VANHOOSER: Is that --  
 18 MR. PACK: So they got penalized because  
 19 they have a good project and they got  
 20 additional funding.  
 21 I'm willing to bet if I go through all

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1 these projects, most of them have additional  
 2 money from elsewhere, most of them have  
 3 additional money from elsewhere.  
 4 MS. PRICE: So what I would say again, the  
 5 governor's money is the governor's money. If  
 6 they got it from other places, that's great.  
 7 But you're right. If you've already  
 8 gotten money in the governor's budget, I don't  
 9 know that we should award additional governor's  
 10 budget money when there's other projects.  
 11 There's a couple of others that I do  
 12 want --  
 13 MR. PACK: I mean was that written in your  
 14 procedures, you couldn't get --  
 15 MS. VANHOOSER: We did ask --  
 16 MR. PACK: -- you couldn't get money  
 17 twice?  
 18 MS. VANHOOSER: -- what other sources of  
 19 funding.  
 20 (Cross talk.)  
 21 MR. JAFARI: Yes.

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1 MS. VANHOOSER: Clearly --  
 2 MR. PACK: Did that make them ineligible  
 3 if they got other money --  
 4 MS. VANHOOSER: It did not make them  
 5 ineligible. They were fully considered.  
 6 That was a decision that we made.  
 7 MR. JAFARI: If more funds were available  
 8 to us --  
 9 MS. VANHOOSER: And who would you take it  
 10 away from?  
 11 MR. JAFARI: -- many of those projects --  
 12 MS. PRICE: Well, actually --  
 13 MR. PACK: You want me to go through the  
 14 list?  
 15 MS. VANHOOSER: Yeah.  
 16 MR. PACK: Give me a week.  
 17 MS. PRICE: Yeah. I don't know if we can  
 18 do this tonight.  
 19 MR. PACK: We can't do this tonight.  
 20 Give me a week. I'll figure it out.  
 21 MS. PRICE: There's a couple that I think

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1 are maybe too big.  
 2 I'm struggling with burying power lines.  
 3 Half a million dollars when there are other  
 4 projects. You know, that's a sixth or a  
 5 seventh of the entire, or whatever, that we  
 6 have. Burying power lines.  
 7 You know, and plus they just got their --  
 8 and I don't know whether they can use highway  
 9 user revenues, but the towns and municipalities  
 10 were -- when we went for the highway user  
 11 revenue bill this year, they're over and above  
 12 whatever they ever had. They were at 3.2 and  
 13 Anne Arundel 3.6 percent.  
 14 So I don't know whether you asked that  
 15 question, whether burying power lines is  
 16 eligible to use highway user revenues for, but  
 17 they also got twice as much money --  
 18 MR. PACK: \$19 million in ARA money.  
 19 MS. PRICE: Right. So that's the other  
 20 point that I was going to bring out, is that  
 21 the Town of Easton got twice as much ARPA

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1 money --  
 2 MR. PACK: 19 million.  
 3 MS. PRICE: -- that we got.  
 4 I have personally -- nothing about the  
 5 town. I know we had a big hubbub about the  
 6 town two weeks ago. But their highway user  
 7 revenues have been more than fully stored and  
 8 they got twice as much ARPA money as we did.  
 9 In my opinion, burying power lines is not  
 10 where I would put a half a million dollars.  
 11 MR. PACK: No, not when you've got these  
 12 other projects listed there --  
 13 MS. PRICE: Right. There's other things  
 14 that maybe you divvy that up a little bit more.  
 15 Again, I know that we have to do, you  
 16 know, culvert improvements and things like  
 17 that. And it's something that comes out of our  
 18 budget. I don't know if \$750,000 for our own  
 19 roads project -- and again, we didn't get our  
 20 roads money fully stored and we're still  
 21 struggling with that. So I understand.

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1 That's a big difference between the town  
 2 and the county. We didn't. But without --  
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: So you want to take  
 4 250,000 from both of those projects and give it  
 5 to the Maritime Museum?  
 6 MS. PRICE: Not necessarily because  
 7 they're going to go to the Maritime Museum  
 8 regardless. I mean you're going to have a  
 9 nice, pretty, shiny new building, but it's not  
 10 necessarily going to bring more people there.  
 11 They're already going. Right?  
 12 So I'm not saying that I would give them  
 13 half a million dollars.  
 14 But you know, maybe there's, you know,  
 15 just some conversation that we need to, you  
 16 know, consider reducing a couple and adding a  
 17 little bit.  
 18 I mean I don't know whether you go back  
 19 and talk to the committee some more or whether  
 20 we just hash it out up here and wait until  
 21 Frank is here to weigh in on whether we want to

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1 make any changes.  
 2 I mean I think generally you guys have  
 3 done a great job with the parameters you have.  
 4 But just based on a couple of questions that we  
 5 have talked about, again, like I said, is that  
 6 the town has got roads money and ARPA money.  
 7 And that's a big chunk.  
 8 MR. JAFARI: Those are, if I may, those  
 9 are very, very important questions.  
 10 And one element that Cassandra mentioned,  
 11 again, as a part of the process. These  
 12 recommendations are coming from the commission  
 13 and the work that the committee has done under  
 14 the leadership of Cassandra.  
 15 By the way, she did not give herself much  
 16 credit. She has done a phenomenal job. Again,  
 17 everybody who has been involved. But she's  
 18 done a great job of bringing this to where it  
 19 is today.  
 20 The decision is really yours, of the  
 21 Council. So you can drop any of those

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1 projects, you can add to any of those projects.  
 2 You have all the applications available to you.  
 3 So that final decision from you is going  
 4 to come to the Mid-Shore Council. And the  
 5 Mid-Shore Council is going to say this is now  
 6 being approved by the County Council of Talbot.  
 7 So that is what really the element of the  
 8 decision is.  
 9 And just making a quick comment in terms  
 10 of your comments, Councilman Pack, that is  
 11 extremely important.  
 12 It is not that we did not look at, again,  
 13 what money is available to the Town of Easton  
 14 and how much they have available to them to  
 15 make a decision.  
 16 Our recommendation was if this is going to  
 17 be something that is going to be built upon,  
 18 again, going back to the economic development  
 19 and multi users and multi tenants, so to speak,  
 20 that deserves to have some funding.  
 21 If I were sitting where you are sitting

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1 today, I would have looked at it and say  
 2 looking at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum,  
 3 if that is going to have more impact, not only  
 4 economic impact, which is still a separate  
 5 matter, but impact on tourism, impact on  
 6 attraction of other investments and our  
 7 businesses coming to town, they definitely  
 8 deserve some recognition.  
 9 And if they're going to take those funds  
 10 from Easton Point and give it to the Chesapeake  
 11 Bay Maritime Museum, that would be very logical  
 12 and reasonable.  
 13 MR. PACK: Well, if we could, Council  
 14 could take a couple of days and look at that.  
 15 There may be a particular project that we want  
 16 to look at to reallocate of funding.  
 17 I share Ms. Price's concern that you're  
 18 talking about building, digging a ditch and  
 19 laying power lines to an area that may not be  
 20 developed for the next ten years when we know  
 21 that the Maritime Museum is an existing

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1 attraction. Whether you're talking about  
 2 economic development or economic impact,  
 3 whatever way you want to phrase it, they're an  
 4 important part of the economy of Talbot County  
 5 of St. Michaels.  
 6 MR. JAFARI: Absolutely.  
 7 MR. PACK: So I would like to see how we  
 8 can sit down and see what we can do for that  
 9 project.  
 10 So if we could set this aside,  
 11 Mr. Callahan.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. So Scott, can you  
 13 help us with the timeline, please?  
 14 MR. WARNER: It's due --  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: So if we take two weeks and  
 16 come back the 23rd, that's not enough time; is  
 17 it?  
 18 MR. WARNER: Not acceptable.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 20 MR. WARNER: It's due to our Council on  
 21 Friday.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 2 MR. PACK: So you're going to bring this  
 3 to us Tuesday and we have to get this back to  
 4 you on Friday?  
 5 MR. WARNER: No. Excuse me. And I just  
 6 want to make sure you're all really clear.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Can you come on up, Scott,  
 8 just to make sure you can clarify?  
 9 MR. WARNER: And I'm not trying to be --  
 10 I'm just telling you what happened.  
 11 MR. PACK: I understand. The timing  
 12 stinks.  
 13 MR. WARNER: Yeah. No. So this was  
 14 supposed to be in initially in the beginning of  
 15 August. And I led that effort with all the  
 16 Regional Councils to try to push this off, and  
 17 I have the letter right here, with Commerce, to  
 18 try to push this off to December 31st because I  
 19 said you guys were already under a tremendous  
 20 amount of pressure, all 15 counties that have  
 21 to figure this out.

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1 And the five Regional Councils, not only  
 2 with your own budgets that are due by the end  
 3 of June, then you got ARPA money that's due,  
 4 you've got all this other money.  
 5 The response that the Regional Councils  
 6 got from the letter, I'll be more than happy to  
 7 share with you, was we'll give you until  
 8 September 2nd, not August 4th.  
 9 MS. PRICE: Okay. So --  
 10 MR. WARNER: To which I responded --  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Let him talk.  
 12 MR. WARNER: To which I responded can we  
 13 at least get another month, and they responded  
 14 no, I'm sorry, we need it by September 2nd.  
 15 So I backed off and talked to my exec  
 16 board. Mr. Callahan knows this. He was at  
 17 every meeting we had. And I've also  
 18 immediately, from the day I learned this and  
 19 all the other Regional Councils learned this, I  
 20 called all three county managers. So I  
 21 talked -- actually I did not touch base with

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1 Clay that day. I talked with Jessica that day  
 2 because Clay was out and you called me the next  
 3 day or Monday.  
 4 I backed -- once we got the September 2nd  
 5 deadline, I backed it as close as I could,  
 6 because our council ultimately has to submit  
 7 this. So we knew that we were only -- we  
 8 basically said that if we got this by this  
 9 Friday, we basically get two weeks, because the  
 10 other argument is you're all going to be in  
 11 MACo. And that's my board. So my board is not  
 12 going to meet at MACo to review three counties'  
 13 worth of projects. Right.  
 14 MS. PRICE: So can I ask a question?  
 15 MR. WARNER: Yes, ma'am.  
 16 MS. PRICE: If it's our decision, why do  
 17 you need to review it?  
 18 If we tell you it's these ten or 11 or 12  
 19 projects, why can't we give it to you on the  
 20 23rd of August and you just rubber stamp it,  
 21 because it is our decision?

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1 Are you going to change what we are giving  
 2 you?  
 3 MR. WARNER: This is a compliance issue.  
 4 And our board serves as a review and compliance  
 5 board. The money, the grant itself and the  
 6 organization that's on the hook for this is the  
 7 Regional Council. It is not a grant to any of  
 8 the counties. It is a grant from Maryland  
 9 Department of Commerce to the Mid-Shore  
 10 Regional Council.  
 11 We have to have that grant in by  
 12 September 2nd.  
 13 We are told by Commerce that they will  
 14 then turn around and write that grant once we  
 15 submit all the projects within a month. And we  
 16 will have to agree to that and we will then get  
 17 that grant and get the full 10 million or  
 18 whatever we apply for and then get that to you.  
 19 And what our council chose, our council is  
 20 actually being very different, to be quite  
 21 honest. Us, the lower shore, have been

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1 identical. We decided to divide it the three  
 2 ways and give it exactly. The Mid-Shore  
 3 Regional Council didn't have to do that. This  
 4 was Mr. Callahan's decision and the exec  
 5 board's decision, was let's give it to the  
 6 counties because that's what the governor  
 7 wanted and make it even and not try to make all  
 8 three counties get together and start -- you  
 9 can only imagine if it was all of you guys  
 10 trying to figure out where it was going. So we  
 11 said hey, we're just going to be the conduit.  
 12 But where we, meaning Mid-Shore, lies is  
 13 the compliance part. And it's only fair for my  
 14 board to be able to go through the compliance.  
 15 We have a whole checklist that actually has  
 16 been given to our economic development  
 17 directors, but they have a whole compliance  
 18 issue that my board, that are also made up of  
 19 elected officials, have to make sure that when  
 20 that grant goes from our desk with our  
 21 consultant to Commerce, that it's compliant.

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1 And it's unfair for us to give them one day to  
 2 look at it.  
 3 I'll be honest. That meeting is going to  
 4 be August 24th. It took me two and a half,  
 5 almost three weeks just to schedule one day in  
 6 that week of August. And they all picked  
 7 nine a.m. on August 24th. And I know Mr. Stamp  
 8 actually changed his calendar just to be there  
 9 that morning to kind of fit that.  
 10 I've got all three county managers and the  
 11 executive board that is going to just  
 12 compliance. And we're not -- I am not looking  
 13 for the board at all, to be honest with you,  
 14 Ms. Price, we're not looking to rearrange. It  
 15 will hopefully be just a rubber stamp.  
 16 We've been so transparent with Commerce.  
 17 Commerce liked what we're doing and what with  
 18 you. So we are looking to rubber stamp, as  
 19 long as it's under compliance. And that's what  
 20 I know this team has done.  
 21 But it's still, it's just the timeline.

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1 Because after that 24th is go, we then have  
 2 less than a week and a half, we meaning  
 3 Mid-Shore, to actually write the grant. I mean  
 4 literally put together over 20 something  
 5 projects in a grant form that Commerce hasn't  
 6 even given us exactly what's it's going to look  
 7 like, and submit that by September 2nd to make  
 8 sure we get the most money for our counties.  
 9 MS. PRICE: May I make a suggestion?  
 10 MR. WARNER: You're more than welcome.  
 11 MS. PRICE: Okay. So what if we thought  
 12 there might be two or three other things on  
 13 here, and I think that's really kind of all  
 14 we've talked about, two or three other things.  
 15 And we said but we left off the amount right  
 16 now. We said okay, these ten or 11, plus  
 17 possibly Maritime Museum, or could you then  
 18 talk about the compliance and then we might  
 19 drop one or two off?  
 20 Would something like that work? Let's say  
 21 we approve 14 and you check the 14 on

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1 compliance and then we whittle it down to 11 or  
 2 12 with different amounts.  
 3 MR. WARNER: I'll be more than happy to  
 4 work with Ms. Vanhooser and Mr. Stamp in trying  
 5 to figure out the best wiggle room we can get  
 6 for you.  
 7 MS. PRICE: Because I think it's just a  
 8 matter of we might, you know, want to change  
 9 the amounts and add maybe two other projects  
 10 in.  
 11 MR. WARNER: I can -- I purposely have not  
 12 gone to any of these meetings to not get sucked  
 13 into this. I'm going to be really honest with  
 14 you.  
 15 There's a meeting going on right now in  
 16 Dorchester, because they met and they're having  
 17 a special meeting. Ask any of your  
 18 counterparts. They met to meet last week.  
 19 They had to have a special meeting because they  
 20 had two or three projects I believe that they  
 21 were the same thing you're going through.

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1 So Mr. Vanhooser asked me to be here. And  
 2 the reason -- what I can tell you is I also  
 3 only sat in because she asked and he asked. I  
 4 did sit in on your review committees. I didn't  
 5 make a comment, other than if Reza asked me  
 6 compliance type issue.  
 7 Your committee did a heck of a job. And  
 8 these two people sitting here, and they know  
 9 this, did a heck of a job. And I can honestly  
 10 tell you they had the same questions a lot of  
 11 you had, but they had a committee they were  
 12 answering to. So I hear them justifying to you  
 13 on certain things that I know they didn't  
 14 necessarily agree with but they went with their  
 15 committee.  
 16 So with that said, you can do what you  
 17 want because it's all ultimately your --  
 18 whatever you give us in that letter.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 20 MR. WARNER: But we just need the time  
 21 frames for you, Mr. Callahan.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 2 MR. WARNER: To be able to take a look at  
 3 this and not walk in on one day, because you're  
 4 going to have a little homework to read other  
 5 counties as well just to make the compliance.  
 6 And we have a page and a half checklist.  
 7 But I'll work with you guys as much as we  
 8 can and maybe give you a couple of extra days  
 9 if I was promised to turn it around.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Stamp, you want  
 11 to say something?  
 12 MR. STAMP: Well, I was going to say,  
 13 Council, we can provide you with all the  
 14 projects. And if you could provide some  
 15 feedback to staff here with your opinions, we  
 16 can take a look at that and then flip it  
 17 around, turn it back to you, and see if we  
 18 can't come up with something that, through a  
 19 straw poll, you could agree to.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely.  
 21 MS. PRICE: Also, all the applications are

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1 blank. They were uploaded for each project,  
 2 but they're actually all blank applications.  
 3 So if we could get a redux on that.  
 4 SECRETARY: No.  
 5 MS. PRICE: Yeah. I clicked on every  
 6 single one of them. They're all blank.  
 7 SECRETARY: I checked them in Granicus, in  
 8 my Granicus. And I checked what I downloaded,  
 9 because Mr. Divilio said the same thing.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Look --  
 11 MR. PACK: Scott. I looked at the same  
 12 thing. They were all blank.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: So everybody understands,  
 14 Mr. Pack, just a couple of things.  
 15 First of all, when this come to council,  
 16 Regional Council, four months ago, so Scott was  
 17 put in a position on what to do. It was up to  
 18 the executive committee, like he said, for us  
 19 to come up with a game plan. So the game plan  
 20 was to give the three counties \$3 million.  
 21 So let's make sure we're appreciative of

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1 what we've done there. So we have give Talbot  
 2 County \$3 million. Okay. We didn't have to do  
 3 that. Because we could have come with  
 4 10 million, and it would have been all kinds of  
 5 craziness. It would have been.  
 6 MR. PACK: It would have been.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So let's think  
 8 about, just for a second, think about what we  
 9 asked the committee and Cassandra and Reza to  
 10 do. They've done their job. They've done  
 11 their job at 99 percent.  
 12 We might need to rearrange it. It's up to  
 13 us five Council to go ahead and tweak this  
 14 thing.  
 15 But I don't want to discourage anybody,  
 16 because you worked hard.  
 17 They did what we asked them to do.  
 18 MS. PRICE: We both said that --  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: I know, I know. And I  
 20 don't want --  
 21 MR. PACK: No one is discounting their

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1 efforts, Mr. Callahan. I said, my opening  
 2 statements were thank you very much for your  
 3 efforts.  
 4 But ultimately, it's the Council decision  
 5 on where these funds will go.  
 6 And thank you for your efforts as far as  
 7 being on the Mid-Shore Regional Council.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm with you.  
 9 MR. PACK: I'm just saying --  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: This feels like, me sitting  
 11 here listening.  
 12 MS. PRICE: No.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Me sitting here listening,  
 14 I want them to make sure they don't go away to  
 15 feel like they did work --  
 16 MR. PACK: Am I being tough on you?  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: -- a lot of work for no  
 18 reason. I'm just saying.  
 19 MR. PACK: Am I being -- I don't think I'm  
 20 asking tough questions. I mean people got to  
 21 stop coming here expecting this Council just to

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1 stamp things and send you on your way.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 3 MR. PACK: If you can't answer a few  
 4 questions, then I'm sorry. I mean I have -- my  
 5 job here is to ask questions.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm --  
 7 MR. PACK: That's part of my job, is to  
 8 ask questions --  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm saying how we got here.  
 10 MR. PACK: If it's a little tough, I  
 11 apologize.  
 12 MS. VANHOOSER: We asked all the same  
 13 questions.  
 14 MR. PACK: Let me speak softer. I  
 15 apologize.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go.  
 17 MR. PACK: Let me come down a couple of  
 18 octaves.  
 19 All I'm asking is that some of the  
 20 projects, how you came to those decisions, if  
 21 Council can get -- Ms. Price is right. They

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1 are blank. I don't know what happened.  
 2 They're blank.  
 3 So we need some time, Scott, to look at  
 4 this and come to a decision.  
 5 You're talking about being an unfair time  
 6 frame. You can't give us this on Tuesday and  
 7 say we need to get it back to you on Friday.  
 8 And I know you said that we have until  
 9 September the 2nd. So if we can get maybe just  
 10 a week to work on this and get it back to you  
 11 guys to look at, then that's all we're asking  
 12 for.  
 13 MR. WARNER: I'm fine with that, Mr. Pack,  
 14 to work with you on this.  
 15 But the one thing I do want to correct,  
 16 and I'm going to be very honest, that we didn't  
 17 come, Mid-Shore Regional Council didn't come to  
 18 you today and ask you for this.  
 19 An e-mail went out to my entire board,  
 20 which all of you sit on, on February 18th, five  
 21 hours after I got this word from when the

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1 governor announced.

2 A week later, another e-mail went to the

3 entire Mid-Shore Regional Council. And I've

4 got every copy here. And we've sent multiple

5 copies.

6 And my only point is we set it up as best

7 we could, and it wasn't us that put any kind

8 of -- I actually backed up to come -- all I

9 knew is that it had to come to my board by this

10 Friday close of business so I could get it to

11 my board. That's all.

12 Everything else has been however the

13 county wanted, any of the counties, not just

14 you, any of the counties wanted to do it. We

15 just had to give you a date, which was this

16 Friday. That's all.

17 MS. PRICE: This is not you. And you

18 know, you guys did a great job with the

19 committee, but we probably should have seen

20 this two weeks ago, to be honest.

21 It's kind of like that letter we talked

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1 about.

2 MS. VANHOOSER: So you were supposed to

3 see it two weeks ago, but we were not finished

4 with our committee deliberations.

5 MS. PRICE: And that's the problem, is

6 that you'll weren't finished. And again, you

7 had to go through the deliberations, no knock

8 on you guys at all, to be as thorough as

9 possible.

10 But we also have to be thorough. And this

11 is not enough time to have a weekend to go

12 through it and hear the presentation, right.

13 So we see it, we see a score and stuff like

14 that.

15 But for us to be able to ask you questions

16 and then think about, you know, what your

17 responses are and then come up with a decision

18 five minutes later I just don't think is being

19 thorough.

20 Think about how much time you all took

21 being thorough. We need that same opportunity.

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1 MR. PACK: Well said, Ms. Price. Well

2 said. I'm serious.

3 No. I'm serious. People don't --

4 MS. PRICE: Oh, my God. That's like two

5 meetings in a row that we agree.

6 MR. PACK: Okay. Yeah.

7 MS. PRICE: We are going to leave, we are

8 going to leave here friends.

9 MR. PACK: Don't start it, don't start it.

10 MS. VANHOOSER: Mr. Leshner, did you have a

11 question?

12 MR. LESHNER: Well, I was simply going to

13 ask, because we were getting into individual

14 applications, if -- but I think you've really

15 gotten there.

16 My question was to give a broader overview

17 of the scoring system and the decision process,

18 but I think that you've essentially answered

19 that question by addressing the more detail

20 application by application.

21 MS. VANHOOSER: Well, so just to be clear,

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1 every applicant that we had at the time of the

2 EDC meeting, which was July 16th, that's right.

3 I presented here July 12th.

4 Every applicant presented on the 16th. We

5 had two more, three more come in after that.

6 Presented a three to four-minute summary of

7 their project verbally and then submitted a

8 full application by a certain deadline. And

9 then the applications went to the committee for

10 review.

11 And then after we had all the scores, we

12 deliberated amongst ourselves in a negotiation

13 style to get to the recommendations that we

14 made.

15 So does that clarify our process?

16 MR. LESHNER: Thank you.

17 MS. VANHOOSER: It wasn't simply on scores

18 because there was a lot of --

19 MR. JAFARI: Give and take.

20 MS. VANHOOSER: There's a lot of

21 fluctuation in the scores. And we ultimately

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1 discussed every project at length to make sure  
 2 that we were doing the right thing or making  
 3 the right recommendation.  
 4 It's up to you to do the right thing.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
 6 So Council, so like Mr. Stamp suggested,  
 7 do we want to take a couple of days and go  
 8 ahead and try to sort of rearrange a few  
 9 things?  
 10 MS. PRICE: So when are we meeting to do  
 11 that?  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: We can meet tomorrow night  
 13 or Thursday night.  
 14 MS. PRICE: I don't know that we can.  
 15 MR. JAFARI: Mr. President, may I  
 16 recommend again, having gone through this  
 17 process, having seen everything.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.  
 19 MR. JAFARI: I'd like to put myself  
 20 available at your disposal and become a  
 21 volunteer, if you will, to participate in a

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1 deliberation and conversation, if it's okay  
 2 with you and I'm not crossing, again, any legal  
 3 lines or other matters.  
 4 Because I believe the best way and the  
 5 most effective way of doing this would be  
 6 having all members of the Council to look at it  
 7 again, almost like a work session. That  
 8 becomes another work session.  
 9 You turn it into taking these projects,  
 10 every single one of them.  
 11 And again, Councilman Pack asked all the  
 12 great questions, Councilwoman Price, yourself,  
 13 and Councilman Leshner.  
 14 So we will just put it all on the board, a  
 15 work session, roll up our sleeves, go through  
 16 these. And when you come out of the work  
 17 session by the end of the day, you will be  
 18 having what you feel comfortable that that  
 19 would be --  
 20 MS. PRICE: -- have time to do this work  
 21 session and get this all organized with all

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1 these people.  
 2 We do. We all leave for MACo next Tuesday  
 3 or Wednesday, whether it's something --  
 4 MR. JAFARI: I'm talking about the next 72  
 5 hours or so.  
 6 MS. VANHOOSER: We're available to answer  
 7 any questions.  
 8 MR. JAFARI: Any questions, absolutely.  
 9 MS. VANHOOSER: And we can do whatever  
 10 format --  
 11 MR. JAFARI: Whatever works for you.  
 12 MS. VANHOOSER: -- you see fit.  
 13 MR. STAMP: If Council wants to try to  
 14 hold a work session, that's fine. We can try  
 15 to figure that out.  
 16 Or if Council thinks you're 95 percent  
 17 there with the committee recommendations,  
 18 you'll look at the additional projects and you  
 19 want projects added, you can verbalize that  
 20 with staff, send it into county manager's  
 21 office. We'll assemble that together, work

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1 with Cassandra, and we'll try to get to a place  
 2 where there's comfort.  
 3 MS. PRICE: Right. Can we go back to my  
 4 suggestion of adding two or three projects, if  
 5 each of us has something else we'd like added?  
 6 That way you can check your compliance box,  
 7 Scott, and then we might only eliminate  
 8 something or change an amount.  
 9 And that really shouldn't matter. It's  
 10 either compliant or not, right? And then  
 11 finalize it.  
 12 MR. JAFARI: Come back here.  
 13 MR. WARNER: You're absolutely correct.  
 14 MS. PRICE: Would that work?  
 15 MR. WARNER: I'll be honest. I know one  
 16 county, not in this district, that's putting  
 17 one project in. Doesn't matter if it's  
 18 compliant. It doesn't matter if it's one  
 19 project or 20 from accounting.  
 20 All we're worried about at Mid-Shore is to  
 21 make sure that grant goes through as compliant.

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1 You're absolutely correct, Ms. Price.  
 2 MS. PRICE: So why don't we give us a  
 3 couple days to see if any of us want to add a  
 4 project, insert it in for compliance.  
 5 And then we can change the amount on the  
 6 23rd? If we said we want to take something  
 7 from 500,000 to 300,000 and if we -- something  
 8 like that? Would that work for you?  
 9 MR. WARNER: You're going to have enough  
 10 time, Mr. Callahan?  
 11 I mean it's my exec board has to review  
 12 stuff. So as long as they're fine and  
 13 Mr. Stamp, as long as they have enough time to  
 14 read the information.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, yeah, absolutely.  
 16 MR. WARNER: So they're good.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely.  
 18 MS. PRICE: Right. So what your board may  
 19 be reading is say 14 projects, right. But by  
 20 the 23rd, we may narrow it back down to 12. So  
 21 they would have read all 14, but we've changed

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1 an amount, so we've narrowed it down to 12, but  
 2 they've already done that reading work and all  
 3 we would be doing at that point is eliminating?  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Right, right.  
 5 MR. WARNER: I would just ask you to be  
 6 kind of considerate to my board and the fact  
 7 you're not the only county that has multiple  
 8 projects. You know, they also have to read  
 9 everybody else's. That's all I'm saying. They  
 10 get a couple more days, then one or two.  
 11 That's all.  
 12 MS. PRICE: Right. I don't think we're  
 13 turning this upside down. I think we have one  
 14 or two that we might want to reduce or  
 15 eliminate and one or two that we may want to  
 16 add. Generally, I think it's 90 percent there.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Council is  
 18 going to have to get together Thursday or  
 19 Friday.  
 20 MS. PRICE: Is Frank on vacation all week?  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. But he can do a

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1 call-in. We really need to take this to a  
 2 public vote.  
 3 MS. PRICE: Thursday night?  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thursday night. Want to  
 5 say what, four, five, six?  
 6 MR. PACK: Four, five.  
 7 MS. PRICE: Four or five.  
 8 MR. LESHHER: Well, here is my dilemma. If  
 9 we're going to put a certain project up for  
 10 consideration here, I simply have to recuse  
 11 myself from the process.  
 12 MR. PACK: (Inaudible).  
 13 MR. LESHHER: Because there's an applicant  
 14 that is my --  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.  
 16 MR. LESHHER: -- employer.  
 17 And so I think that, I think I need not to  
 18 be in the room for that discussion.  
 19 MS. PRICE: Well, when we're discussing  
 20 that particular project, you can leave. But  
 21 you don't need to recuse yourself from the

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1 whole process.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: It would be just that one.  
 3 MR. PACK: Yeah.  
 4 MR. LESHHER: We'll discuss the parameters  
 5 of recusal with staff.  
 6 MR. PACK: Yeah.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yeah.  
 8 MR. PACK: So what did we say,  
 9 Mr. Callahan? Thursday?  
 10 MS. PRICE: Five o'clock.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: So are you good for  
 12 five o'clock Thursday?  
 13 MR. STAMP: We'll make it happen.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Can we make it happen?  
 15 Okay.  
 16 MS. MORRIS: Is this going to be an  
 17 in-person meeting or a Zoom meeting?  
 18 I don't know what people's schedules  
 19 will...  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm thinking in person.  
 21 MR. PACK: I can come in.

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<p>1 MS. PRICE: I can come in on Thursday.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: You good?</p> <p>3 MR. LESHAR: Five o'clock on Thursday.</p> <p>4 All right.</p> <p>5 MS. VANHOOSER: You good with Thursday?</p> <p>6 MR. STAMP: And you would like Cassandra</p> <p>7 and Reza to be there?</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>9 MS. PRICE: Yes. And then just check with</p> <p>10 Frank, see if he can call in.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Maybe he can be on the</p> <p>12 phone.</p> <p>13 MR. STAMP: And we'll advertise the same</p> <p>14 so the public has notice of your meeting.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That would be great.</p> <p>16 That's the way to do it.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: Again, thank you all so much.</p> <p>18 We really appreciate it. Thank you.</p> <p>19 MS. VANHOOSER: So in retrospect, I wish I</p> <p>20 hadn't made the word questions quite so large.</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: That's right.</p>	<p>1 MR. JAFARI: Very grateful for all your</p> <p>2 service. Thank you.</p> <p>3 MS. MORRIS: I have to check the</p> <p>4 availability of the room first.</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: Maybe Bay Street.</p> <p>6 MR. STAMP: So Council, I did just get a</p> <p>7 text from Councilman Divilio, who will be able</p> <p>8 to attend that meeting.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Nice. Good. Perfect,</p> <p>10 that's perfect.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHAR: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Stamp, does</p> <p>12 this mean that we need to declare Thursday,</p> <p>13 August 11th, a special legislative day?</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: No. It's a work session.</p> <p>15 MR. LESHAR: It is a work session.</p> <p>16 MS. PRICE: But we're taking a vote.</p> <p>17 MS. MORRIS: I believe it's a meeting. It</p> <p>18 does not need to be a special legislative day.</p> <p>19 This is not --</p> <p>20 MR. THOMAS: You're not passing any</p> <p>21 legislation.</p>
<p>Page 107</p> <p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: You never know.</p> <p>2 MS. VANHOOSER: Actually, I would like to</p> <p>3 say that I am not offended by your questions.</p> <p>4 That the same deliberations and, you know,</p> <p>5 consternation that you feel over making these</p> <p>6 decisions, we've been feeling that same thing.</p> <p>7 It is totally legitimate. We want to do</p> <p>8 the right thing, and I appreciate your input</p> <p>9 and your attention to this.</p> <p>10 And I'm sorry it was a short time frame,</p> <p>11 but that's what we were saddled with. So would</p> <p>12 have normally done it in a different way.</p> <p>13 Also, I will say about a work session that</p> <p>14 as I was putting together the materials, I did</p> <p>15 say we should have had a work session. But</p> <p>16 that's in retrospect.</p> <p>17 So again, thank you very much for your</p> <p>18 input and for your time this evening for</p> <p>19 allowing us to present.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: We'll see you all Thursday.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you guys.</p>	<p>Page 109</p> <p>1 MS. MORRIS: It's just another meeting.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. Okay. So we're on</p> <p>3 board for Thursday here.</p> <p>4 MS. MORRIS: Possibly.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Or possibly here at five</p> <p>6 o'clock.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: Or Bay Street or wherever.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. At five o'clock.</p> <p>9 MR. STAMP: We'll square that away first</p> <p>10 thing in the morning.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That would be great.</p> <p>12 MR. STAMP: Hopefully it will be here</p> <p>13 five o'clock Thursday evening.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Thank you. Appreciate it.</p> <p>16 Thank you, Cassandra.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Cassandra.</p> <p>18 Appreciate it.</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Cassandra.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You're on board</p> <p>21 here.</p>

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<p>1 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Up to you.</p> <p>3 MR. STAMP: Under county manager report,</p> <p>4 there are a number of items this evening. The</p> <p>5 first are board and committee appointments.</p> <p>6 The first board and appointment request is</p> <p>7 for the Historic Preservation Commission,</p> <p>8 requesting the reappointment of Catherine</p> <p>9 Phones to that commission.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: So moved.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: Second.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: I made the motion.</p> <p>13 MS. PRICE: Motion and second.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Sorry. I was reading</p> <p>15 something. Sorry about that.</p> <p>16 Got a motion and second. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>17 could you call the vote, please.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>2 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>5 MR. STAMP: Next is the Parks and</p> <p>6 Recreation Advisory Board. The Town of</p> <p>7 St. Michaels is requesting the appointment of</p> <p>8 Dr. Kristen Ann Lycett as their representative</p> <p>9 to that board.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: So moved.</p> <p>11 MS. PRICE: Second.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second.</p> <p>13 Madam Secretary. Could you call the vote,</p> <p>14 please.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>20 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p>
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<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>2 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>5 MR. STAMP: Council, next is the Local</p> <p>6 Emergency Planning Committee. Requesting the</p> <p>7 appointment of Ronald Lewis to represent Shore</p> <p>8 Regional Health and Nick Greenhawk to represent</p> <p>9 Easton Utilities on the Local Emergency</p> <p>10 Planning Committee, and the reappointment of</p> <p>11 Dana Meintzer, Matthew Spence, Shannon Potter</p> <p>12 Dill, Joe Gamble, and Judy Bottorf to that</p> <p>13 committee.</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: So moved.</p> <p>15 MR. LESHER: Second.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second.</p> <p>17 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p>	<p>1 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>2 MR. STAMP: The next item is referring to</p> <p>3 the Police Accountability Board and</p> <p>4 Administrative Charging Committee. Requesting</p> <p>5 the appointment of the following individuals:</p> <p>6 As chair of the Police Accountability Boarding,</p> <p>7 Mr. Mitchell Ettinger of St. Michaels.</p> <p>8 You want me to go through all of them</p> <p>9 and --</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, please.</p> <p>11 MR. STAMP: Mr. Ettinger would be your</p> <p>12 chair. For the Easton area, Police</p> <p>13 Accountability Board would be Mr. John Gilbert.</p> <p>14 Easton area Police Accountability Board,</p> <p>15 Mr. Chris Rice. Oxford area, John Pepe;</p> <p>16 St. Michaels area, Mr. Mike Bibb; sheriff area</p> <p>17 one, Ms. Connie Webster; sheriff area three,</p> <p>18 Ms. Jo Ann Murray.</p> <p>19 And for the Administrative Charging</p> <p>20 Committee, two individuals would be</p> <p>21 Ms. Jennifer Williams and Ms. Constance Hope.</p>

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1 Asking Council approval for the  
 2 membership.  
 3 MR. PACK: So moved.  
 4 MS. PRICE: Second. Do we want to say  
 5 anything about this?  
 6 MR. PACK: I would. You go first.  
 7 MS. PRICE: You know, I was really  
 8 concerned when this legislation passed. And I  
 9 was very, you know, we already have a hard time  
 10 with morale and everything with police  
 11 officers. And you know, more of them get, you  
 12 know, a bad rap.  
 13 And I really was concerned that this board  
 14 might turn into something where that was just  
 15 going to be so against them.  
 16 And I was really impressed with every  
 17 single interview that we had and how they spoke  
 18 about not only giving transparency and making  
 19 the citizens feel like they were heard on those  
 20 types of things, but also and equally what the  
 21 police officers could gain from this, that they

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1 did do their job right.  
 2 And I think every single person, when we  
 3 asked that question, answered it in that way.  
 4 This ended up being a much more difficult  
 5 choice. We had amazing applicants, and there  
 6 are so many. And those of you who applied, I  
 7 want to thank you so much. Because, you know,  
 8 there were -- I mean most of you we would have  
 9 liked to have been on there. So please stay  
 10 involved with it.  
 11 I'm really excited about who we have, and  
 12 might heart feels much better about this board  
 13 than I originally thought a year ago.  
 14 So thank you for everybody who applied and  
 15 congratulations to those who are going to be on  
 16 the committee.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.  
 18 Mr. Pack.  
 19 MR. PACK: Yes. I'll dovetail right where  
 20 Ms. Price ended to say thank you for all the  
 21 applicants who applied for both the Charging

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1 Committee and the Police Accountability Board.  
 2 We did have a wealth of applicants in  
 3 knowledge and background as far as their length  
 4 of service in other areas. And so it just goes  
 5 to speak to the richness of Talbot County that  
 6 you have such a pool of candidates to draw  
 7 from.  
 8 I think that these members that this  
 9 Council came up with, these eight individuals,  
 10 will serve in their capacity well.  
 11 I agree with Ms. Price. I think their  
 12 responses to Council regarding not only the  
 13 necessity of these Police Accountability  
 14 Boards, not just here in Talbot County, but  
 15 across the State of Maryland and also in other  
 16 states as well, it's a sad day that we have to  
 17 have these Police Accountability Boards in  
 18 place.  
 19 But they also serve a dual purpose. They  
 20 do serve as a way of exonerating officers who  
 21 did the right thing. Just because you got

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1 pulled over and the officer asked you to step  
 2 out of the car, doesn't mean the officer did  
 3 anything wrong if he followed his training and  
 4 his procedures were done correctly.  
 5 So but at the same time, it gives the  
 6 public some assurance that there is a separate  
 7 body there working with, working with the  
 8 policing agencies here in the county to make  
 9 recommendation to them as to how to maybe  
 10 address some of the issues that come about.  
 11 We don't have a plethora of issues here in  
 12 Talbot County as they may have in other larger  
 13 jurisdictions, thank God. But we're not  
 14 perfect by any stretch. There's always room  
 15 for improvement.  
 16 So I was equally impressed with the  
 17 candidates and very happy with those selections  
 18 that we made. And I think they'll do us well  
 19 and they'll do the policing agencies well as  
 20 well.  
 21 These are not catch-me boards. They're

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1 not out to get anybody. Let me make that very  
 2 clear that they want to hear what happened and  
 3 address it accordingly.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack. Well  
 5 said.  
 6 Mr. Leshner.  
 7 MR. LESHNER: I just want to thank not only  
 8 those, really all of those who volunteered for  
 9 this service. We had really quite an  
 10 impressive response and only so many slots.  
 11 There were really quite a lot of interested and  
 12 qualified persons in this community who are  
 13 offering their service for -- the training  
 14 requirement for this is substantial, and I want  
 15 to express my appreciation for all of those who  
 16 stepped forward.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.  
 18 And I just want to add with my colleagues,  
 19 too. So this really brought everybody  
 20 together, all the professionals, all the towns,  
 21 all the chiefs, brought everybody together.

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1 And I think the people that we interviewed  
 2 were very professional, very top notch people.  
 3 And like you said, Mr. Pack, this isn't a  
 4 catch committee here. This is something that  
 5 you get one shot at it. And I think we've done  
 6 a great job. And I think, you know, we'll see  
 7 how things go and hope for the best. And  
 8 hopefully they're not that busy, you know. So  
 9 that's what we'll hope.  
 10 Anyway, we got a motion -- go ahead,  
 11 Mr. Stamp.  
 12 MR. STAMP: I would just like to recognize  
 13 your hard work on a very important committee,  
 14 Council. You spent a lot of time and effort to  
 15 make sure you met with these individuals.  
 16 And I agree, the quality of the  
 17 individuals are amazing. The chair, quite  
 18 capable, will work well with everybody that  
 19 they need to work with.  
 20 As far as staff, we have a new staff  
 21 member, Victoria Bradley, who is in the Office

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1 of Law who will be your administrative support  
 2 branch.  
 3 Staff will work with the appointees and  
 4 line up introductory meetings. And if Council  
 5 would like, we'll invite the chair to come and  
 6 meet Council.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: That would be great. That  
 8 would be great.  
 9 MR. STAMP: So I thank you for your  
 10 consideration and for your vote.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: And Patrick, I want to  
 12 commend you. You were a big help with all this  
 13 too, very big help and a big part of this.  
 14 MR. THOMAS: Thank you very much.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Really appreciate your hard  
 16 work.  
 17 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, we  
 19 got a motion and second on the floor. Could  
 20 you call the vote.  
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 3 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 5 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 7 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 8 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.  
 9 We'll bring your county engineer forward.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: There we go. Bring him on  
 11 up here.  
 12 MR. STAMP: So he has a couple of requests  
 13 for you this evening.  
 14 First one, he's requesting your  
 15 consideration to award Bid 22-05, Talbot County  
 16 sanitary district extension, Covey Avenue,  
 17 Tilghman. You'll remember he was in at the  
 18 last Council meeting, asked for your permission  
 19 to renegotiate the scope of a contract.  
 20 He'll share with you his ask this evening.  
 21 Ray.

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1 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. Council, again, I  
 2 had the opportunity I guess to meet Miles  
 3 Retallack in relationship to this.  
 4 One of the things that the plans  
 5 identified was basically an open section cut  
 6 for the pipe for the trench. It also required  
 7 I guess more of a packing let's say for under a  
 8 road.  
 9 Working with Mr. Retallack, he offered  
 10 some suggestions on how we could reduce the  
 11 price.  
 12 We had identified also a manhole where we  
 13 don't need to put a manhole in.  
 14 At the same time, it's going to be  
 15 directional drilling and will go right into the  
 16 manhole and then he'll use what they call a  
 17 missile to go right through the manhole. It  
 18 saves a lot of money to do that.  
 19 So based upon Mr. Retallack's and my  
 20 discussions I think earlier last week, he got  
 21 the price down to about \$60,000. So my

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1 recommendation is to award the project to  
 2 Retallack & Sons for \$60,000.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: All right.  
 4 MS. PRICE: Did you have to reduce the  
 5 scope a lot? I mean it's kind of like --  
 6 MR. CLARKE: We actually, we went from an  
 7 open section, an open section, which would have  
 8 been like under a road, to go to a directional  
 9 drill. So it's ultimately about a three,  
 10 three-inch pipe. It's not, you know.  
 11 I guess when we look at when you're doing  
 12 an open section cut, you really have to worry  
 13 about the foundation for the pipe. Whereas,  
 14 when you're directional drilling, the  
 15 foundation is the soil itself. So we don't  
 16 have to worrying about how we pack that pipe in  
 17 an open cut.  
 18 So it was actually better to do it  
 19 directional drilling. It was probably a  
 20 mistake on our part in establishing an open  
 21 cut.

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1 MS. PRICE: So it's going to get the job  
 2 done that we need to get done?  
 3 MR. CLARKE: Yes.  
 4 MS. PRICE: With that, I'll make a motion.  
 5 MR. PACK: Second.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we've got a  
 7 motion and second on the floor on Bid 22-05 to  
 8 award it to, the engineer agreement with Ray,  
 9 to award that to Mr. Retallack.  
 10 MR. STAMP: Right.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you  
 12 call the vote.  
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 16 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 18 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 21 MR. STAMP: The next item Ray wants to

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1 talk to you about is seeking your permission to  
 2 award Bid 22-08, request letters of interest,  
 3 architectural engineering services for Talbot  
 4 County Department of Public Works. These are  
 5 for open-ended engineering services contracts.  
 6 Ray is here to go over that with you.  
 7 MR. CLARKE: Council, again, we have an  
 8 open engineering services contract where we  
 9 have Davis, Bowen & Freidel, Lane Engineering,  
 10 and Wallace Montgomery that are part of that  
 11 open-ended engineering contract.  
 12 And we actually rebid that out and had six  
 13 firms apply. In that, we had I guess Century  
 14 Engineering, which is currently doing work for  
 15 us on Resolution 250.  
 16 At the same time, we have Rauch,  
 17 Incorporated doing work for us at the  
 18 St. Michaels sewer project, as well as The  
 19 Preserve at Wye Mills at some point, as well as  
 20 the Ferry Point wastewater design.  
 21 And we had another firm that was an

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1 architectural firm. And I think with the  
 2 amount of workload that we're seeing within our  
 3 office, we would probably be better off to have  
 4 more firms that we can maybe go and select  
 5 from. At the same time, maybe ask them for  
 6 proposals and try and get a little competition  
 7 going on, kind of keep it as an open -- it  
 8 would be more of let's say a prequalified list  
 9 that we can then go to those firms and then  
 10 seek proposals from those prequalified firms  
 11 and then move forward with the recommendations.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 13 MR. LESHHER: So Mr. Clarke, can you  
 14 explain this project a little more? Because  
 15 usually when we award a bid, we're awarding to  
 16 the lowest bidder.  
 17 MR. CLARKE: Correct.  
 18 MR. LESHHER: In this case, you're asking  
 19 us to, with this open-ended arrangement, to  
 20 award it to all six of the engineering firms.  
 21 This does not actually approve any

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1 expenditure to any of these firms at this time;  
 2 is that correct?  
 3 That requires a further act of Council, it  
 4 requires further bid preparation on your part  
 5 before that actually comes back.  
 6 MR. CLARKE: So the Council as well as the  
 7 public knows, what we do is part of our RFP,  
 8 request for proposals, we set forth kind of a  
 9 little sample project of \$100,000 for  
 10 engineering service. So we ask them to go  
 11 ahead and provide us with their cost per person  
 12 for like a project manager, (inaudible)  
 13 engineer, things of that nature, survey crews.  
 14 So they give us those prices as if it's a  
 15 project that we're looking at for \$100,000.  
 16 Then we look at their, discuss with them  
 17 the approaches that they would have.  
 18 What we then -- and as you pointed out,  
 19 what we now have is we have those firms'  
 20 prices. They'll hold those prices for us for  
 21 two years. And then if we want to award to

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1 them, again, they'll hold it for another two  
 2 years.  
 3 The advantage we have by now having the  
 4 firms, we do what we do today. We'll prepare a  
 5 scope of work. We'll go to that firm with the  
 6 scope of work, ask them to give us a proposal  
 7 for that work.  
 8 At that point, we haven't competed with  
 9 the projects with some of the firms, but I  
 10 think now we will be trying to look at doing  
 11 some competition with one or two or three of  
 12 the firms, asking them to give us a proposal,  
 13 but then having them submit something back to  
 14 us based upon the scope utilizing those prices  
 15 that they provided to us.  
 16 But then at that point, that would come  
 17 before the County Council for a recommendation  
 18 to award.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. Okay.  
 20 MR. LESHHER: Okay. Thank you. I think  
 21 that adds clarity.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Pack, Ms. Price, you  
 2 good?  
 3 MS. PRICE: I'm good.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. So we got a  
 5 motion --  
 6 MS. PRICE: I'll make a motion.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Do we have a second?  
 8 MR. PACK: Second.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Motion and second  
 10 for Bid 22-08 for recommendation for the six  
 11 firms that Mr. Clarke can choose from when he  
 12 gets into a situation that's over his head.  
 13 Okay. Madam Secretary, could you go ahead and  
 14 call the vote, please.  
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.  
 18 MR. LESHHER: Aye.  
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 20 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.

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1 MR. PACK: Aye.

2 MR. STAMP: The next item Ray has for you

3 is he's requesting, the Department of Public

4 Works, to purchase a 2023 Chevrolet pickup

5 truck to be used at the Talbot County sanitary

6 district.

7 As you read in your agenda packet,

8 requesting Council approval for a 2023 pickup

9 truck with utility body and towing package from

10 Sport Chevrolet & Company, Incorporated,

11 Silver Spring, Maryland, in the amount of

12 \$52,890 utilizing State of Maryland blanket

13 purchase order means for procurement.

14 Truck will be used by the Talbot County

15 sanitary district, and there are sufficient

16 funds in the FY23 budget for this purpose.

17 MR. PACK: So moved.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Second?

19 MR. LESHHER: Second.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got a motion and

21 second to give Ray a sanitary truck for the

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1 guys. Madam Secretary, can you call the vote.

2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.

5 MR. LESHHER: Aye.

6 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

7 MS. PRICE: Aye.

8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.

9 MR. PACK: Aye.

10 MR. CLARKE: Thank you very much.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot.

12 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Ray.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ray.

14 MR. STAMP: And the final item I have for

15 you, Council, is actually a board and committee

16 appointment. I neglected to add this to my

17 initial offering to you.

18 But requesting your consideration for the

19 reappointment of Mr. Bill Anderson as chair of

20 the Public Works Advisory Board.

21 MR. PACK: So moved.

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1 MR. LESHHER: Second.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and

3 second to reappoint Bill Anderson. Madam

4 Secretary, could you call the vote.

5 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.

8 MR. LESHHER: Aye.

9 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

10 MS. PRICE: Aye.

11 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.

12 MR. PACK: Aye.

13 MR. STAMP: And that concludes your county

14 manager report for this evening. Thank you,

15 Council.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Thank you.

17 Jess, do we have anybody for public

18 hearing? Do we have anything?

19 MS. MORRIS: Not this evening.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: We have nobody. Okay.

21 MS. PRICE: (Inaudible.)

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: It is.

2 Council comments. Look at Corey. At

3 least you're laughing over there.

4 MR. PACK: We must be boring the last

5 couple of months.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: I know.

7 MR. PACK: No one is calling in. No one

8 is coming in and talking to us. I mean we got

9 to spice things up.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yeah.

11 MS. PRICE: That's because we're on our

12 way out the door.

13 MR. PACK: Well, they were here four, five

14 months ago.

15 No. I don't have a lot to say. I know

16 we're going up to MACo next week, our annual

17 conference down in Ocean City. So look forward

18 to seeing staff and Council members down there

19 for that event.

20 Other than that, that's all I have.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

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1 Ms. Price.  
 2 MS. PRICE: I, too, am looking forward to  
 3 next week and running around like a chicken  
 4 with my head cut off.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: I can't believe that.  
 6 MS. PRICE: It's going to be good. And we  
 7 are having the governor will be doing the  
 8 opening session with us. The Taste of Maryland  
 9 reception is back on Thursday.  
 10 We are having a candidate forum on  
 11 Saturday with the three major candidates for  
 12 governor, comptroller, and attorney general.  
 13 So that will be a good one to see on Saturday.  
 14 MR. PACK: Oh, yeah.  
 15 MS. PRICE: And then I'm going to need a  
 16 nap.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Leshner.  
 18 MR. LESHER: Nothing further tonight.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I guess the only  
 20 thing I have to say tonight is on the opening  
 21 prayer, there's been, like Mr. Leshner said,

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1 there's been three families really hurt and  
 2 very tragically. And I would ask everybody to  
 3 say a few prayers because these people need a  
 4 lot of support from the community, a lot of  
 5 support from us. And if anything we can do for  
 6 them to help them to ease that pain, because  
 7 they're in pain right now, and hopefully the  
 8 Lord can look down on them and help them and  
 9 get through this tough time. And anything that  
 10 we can do, I'd be glad to help them. So just  
 11 wanted to say that.  
 12 Mr. Leshner, you want to wrap things up for  
 13 us.  
 14 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next  
 15 meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 23rd,  
 16 beginning at six o'clock. The Council will be  
 17 convening in open session at 4:30 p.m. and then  
 18 adjoining into closed session to discuss real  
 19 estate, legal, and personnel matters, as listed  
 20 on the statement for closing that meeting.  
 21 The Council will also be meeting on

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1 Thursday, August 11th, at five o'clock p.m. for  
 2 a workshop or session on, what did we say, on  
 3 these grants.  
 4 MR. STAMP: Awarding grants.  
 5 MR. LESHER: On awarding grants.  
 6 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn  
 7 this meeting and reconvene as noted?  
 8 MS. PRICE: So moved.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Motion and second. Madam  
 10 Secretary.  
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 14 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 15 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 16 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 18 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 19 (Meeting concluded at: 7:51 p.m.)  
 20  
 21

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1 STATE OF MARYLAND  
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and  
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City,  
 4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot  
 5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me  
 6 at the time and place herein set according to law,  
 7 was interrogated by counsel.  
 8  
 9 I further certify that the examination was  
 10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed  
 11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed  
 12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription  
 13 in a true and accurate manner.  
 14  
 15 I further certify that the stipulations  
 16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
 17 presence.  
 18  
 19 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
 20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,  
 21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
 interested in the outcome of this action.  
 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 15th  
 day of August, 2022, at Easton, MD.  
 14  
 15  
  
 16  
 17 Diane Houlihan  
 18 Notary Public  
 19  
 20 My commission expires September 16, 2025  
 21

<b>&amp;</b>	<b>2023</b> 130:4,8	<b>5</b>	<b>aboard</b> 5:17
<b>&amp;</b> 123:2 125:9 130:10	<b>2025</b> 137:20	<b>5,000</b> 51:17	<b>absolutely</b> 56:2 66:21 69:7 78:6 88:20 100:8 101:13 102:1,15 102:17
<b>1</b>	<b>22,000</b> 49:18	<b>50</b> 34:20	<b>abut</b> 28:4
<b>10</b> 82:17 90:4	<b>22-05</b> 121:15 124:7	<b>50,000</b> 51:20	<b>acceptable</b> 78:18
<b>100</b> 69:5	<b>22-08</b> 125:2 129:10	<b>500,000</b> 45:19 46:6 55:11 56:6 57:6,9 61:20 63:13 68:8 102:7	<b>accepted</b> 2:15 3:1,7
<b>100,000</b> 127:9 127:15	<b>23</b> 35:18 36:11	<b>501,700</b> 46:14	<b>access</b> 21:13 24:9,11,12 38:11,13
<b>11</b> 42:2 81:18 85:16 86:1	<b>23rd</b> 26:11 78:16 81:20 102:6,20 135:15	<b>52,890</b> 130:12	<b>accomplished</b> 57:3 60:10
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<b>125,000</b> 53:5	<b>24th</b> 84:4,7 85:1	<b>6:00</b> 1:7	<b>accountant</b> 43:15
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