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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

February 8, 2022; 6:00 p.m.

Via Webex Events

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Frank Divilio

Corey W. Pack

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, Council. So okay. I</p> <p>4 want to welcome everybody. I want to welcome</p> <p>5 Council. Good evening to everybody.</p> <p>6 So let's go ahead and stand and let</p> <p>7 Mr. Leshner, if he would, to do the opening</p> <p>8 prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance of the</p> <p>9 Flag.</p> <p>10 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>12 Good job. Okay.</p> <p>13 Definitely don't want this computer to</p> <p>14 fall. Okay, okay. All right.</p> <p>15 Tonight's agenda is before us,</p> <p>16 February 8th. Are there any, deletions,</p> <p>17 additions, deletions, corrections to the</p> <p>18 agenda? Hearing none, the chair moves that the</p> <p>19 agenda be accepted as unanimous consent. Okay.</p> <p>20 Let's move on to minutes. So minutes of</p> <p>21 January 11th are before us. Council has had a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. There</p> <p>2 she is.</p> <p>3 How you doing?</p> <p>4 MS. NEAL: Fine. And thank you all for</p> <p>5 having me this evening.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good. Is there any</p> <p>7 way you might be able to turn your volume up</p> <p>8 just a little bit, if you can?</p> <p>9 MS. NEAL: Is that better?</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: You might just have to get</p> <p>11 a hair closer. That's all.</p> <p>12 MS. NEAL: Would you like me to call in?</p> <p>13 You think it would be better if I call in?</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: What do you think, Jess?</p> <p>15 Can everybody hear her okay?</p> <p>16 MR. LESHNER: It's better when she's closer</p> <p>17 to the mike. That does help.</p> <p>18 MS. MORRIS: I think you just need to</p> <p>19 scoot up.</p> <p>20 MS. NEAL: Okay. I'm scooting.</p> <p>21 So are you ready, Jessica?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 chance to take a look at all that. Are there</p> <p>2 any additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>3 minutes? Everything looked good? Okay.</p> <p>4 Hearing none, the chair moves that the agenda</p> <p>5 be accepted as unanimous consent. Okay.</p> <p>6 Next on the agenda is disbursements for</p> <p>7 February 1st and February 8th. Council has had</p> <p>8 a chance to review the disbursements. So are</p> <p>9 there any additions, deletions, or corrections</p> <p>10 to the disbursements? Everything look okay on</p> <p>11 that, Council? Hearing none, the chair moves</p> <p>12 that the disbursements be accepted as unanimous</p> <p>13 consent.</p> <p>14 Okay. That's good. All right. Now, now</p> <p>15 we're going to have an update on the</p> <p>16 Neighborhood Service Center. We're going to</p> <p>17 have an update with I think -- is Ms. Marilyn</p> <p>18 Neal, is she here?</p> <p>19 MS. NEAL: Yes, she is.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: You with us?</p> <p>21 MS. NEAL: Yes, I am.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. That would be great.</p> <p>2 Yeah. Go ahead.</p> <p>3 MS. NEAL: Okay. So in addition to</p> <p>4 reintroducing the Neighborhood Service Center</p> <p>5 so that everyone is sort of up to speed on what</p> <p>6 we are currently doing, also want to use this</p> <p>7 opportunity as a repurpose of the Ridgeway</p> <p>8 Shelter.</p> <p>9 You can go to the next slide, please.</p> <p>10 So Ridgeway, a little background on</p> <p>11 Ridgeway. It opened in 1991. Housed, fed, and</p> <p>12 provided 30 to 45 men and women each year with</p> <p>13 case management services pre-pandemic.</p> <p>14 A few years back, Ridgeway transitioned</p> <p>15 into a low barrier shelter. As a low barrier</p> <p>16 shelter, Ridgeway no longer was able to require</p> <p>17 criminal background checks or drug testing for</p> <p>18 admission.</p> <p>19 Pre-pandemic, Ridgeway provided three beds</p> <p>20 for women and three beds for men. However,</p> <p>21 during the pandemic, service levels dropped to</p>

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<p>1 one resident per room, adjusting based on                  2 shelter environment.                  3 The purpose of the shelter is to move                  4 homeless individuals to more permanent and                  5 transitional housing. And with that, comes low                  6 barrier drawbacks to the shelter.                  7 We noticed an increase in                  8 resident-on-resident violence, on-site drug and                  9 alcohol abuse activity, need for a police                  10 presence to resolve resident disputes. Housing                  11 individuals with current arrest warrants were                  12 something we had not done in the past. And                  13 staff and resident safety concerns.                  14 So with that being a low barrier shelter,                  15 it also put at risk, our staff more at risk for                  16 conflicts with the residents.                  17 So some of the shelter gaps we have had to                  18 try to change services for was consistent                  19 staffing for inclement weather and holidays.                  20 It became a problem having enough staff                  21 coverage during those times. On-site security,</p>	<p>1 Development Grant, and the Neighborhood Service                  2 Center. This grant is the homeless initiative,                  3 and this project is located at 6 South Street.                  4 It's now complete. It provides housing for                  5 three low income households, two bed                  6 individuals, one being a family unit.                  7 And other affordable housing units under                  8 the subsidiary of the Neighborhood Service                  9 Center are for small families located at 104A                  10 and 104B and 117 Port Street. These properties                  11 have always been housed by those that had left                  12 our Ridgeway Shelter.                  13 And number four is our two gen whole                  14 families approach. This initiative became                  15 under an executive order by Governor Hogan in                  16 2018. And this initiative is where families                  17 receive case management, goal planning to break                  18 the generational poverty cycle. And we are                  19 using the family unit at 6 South Street as the                  20 designated property for a two gen family at                  21 this time.</p>
Page 7	Page 9
<p>1 lack of certified on-site support to address                  2 resident needs, an influx of customers that                  3 need a wide range of health and substance abuse                  4 services have been more relevant in the past                  5 I'll say year and a half.                  6 So there are several ways NSC addresses                  7 homelessness prevention, many of which you                  8 support and could not be done without you. And                  9 this is the slide up now.                  10 So first, we have an inclusion of                  11 congregant living space. This is known as                  12 Webb's Hope. Rent is 320 to \$400 per month                  13 based on income. Webb's Hope started in 2018.                  14 It's located at 36 South West Street. It                  15 houses 23 individuals who have moved to                  16 self-sufficiency, and 50 percent were                  17 transitioned from homelessness, whether it was                  18 shelters, couch surfing, or family homes.                  19 Secondly, opening permanent housing. And                  20 this is possible through the collaboration with                  21 Talbot County, the Community Services</p>	<p>1 Number five is our emergency services                  2 program. And this allows us to serve                  3 individuals that are low income, homeless, and                  4 at risk of homelessness, and those financially                  5 affected by COVID-19.                  6 Then we have ERAP1 and ERAP2. And I would                  7 just say that that is the emergency rental                  8 assistance program. Because I see that Mary                  9 Kay will follow me, and I don't want to spill                  10 her story before she gets a chance to do it.                  11 So it is in your packet and you can read ours                  12 later.                  13 Homeless Solutions Program, number eight,                  14 helps us fund primarily support to the local                  15 continuum of care. So what that is, it's for                  16 people who are homeless or at risk of                  17 homelessness. HSP, or Homeless Housing                  18 Solutions Programs, is stabilizing services,                  19 such as rapid rehousing, outreach, and                  20 emergency hotel placement.                  21 And number nine is reuse of Ridgeway for</p>

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<p>1 affordable housing for a large family.</p> <p>2 So in 2019, Neighborhood Service Center</p> <p>3 was granted approval to utilize Ridgeway</p> <p>4 Shelter located at 120 North Aurora Street for</p> <p>5 the purpose of other than a transitional</p> <p>6 Shelter. And we believe that this can best be</p> <p>7 used as an affordable housing property for a</p> <p>8 large family.</p> <p>9 As you know, affordable housing comes very</p> <p>10 few in the county and surrounding counties.</p> <p>11 And we find it very hard to house our larger</p> <p>12 families. So our mission stays the same, our</p> <p>13 goals are the same. NSC's homeless prevention</p> <p>14 service model will be enhanced with the</p> <p>15 repurpose of Ridgeway.</p> <p>16 And thank you, Jessica. So go back one,</p> <p>17 Jessica. Thank you.</p> <p>18 So Ridgeway was built in 1920. It's</p> <p>19 located, again, at 120 North Aurora Street.</p> <p>20 That's on 1,384 square feet. It's equipped</p> <p>21 with a large enclosed porch, backyard, washer,</p>	<p>1 So next slide.</p> <p>2 So this slide is just to give you an idea</p> <p>3 of the relocation of funding currently funded</p> <p>4 by Talbot County. So why does NSC still need</p> <p>5 funding after the closure of Ridgeway? We need</p> <p>6 funding for the continuation of our bilingual</p> <p>7 emergency services coordinator position. Grant</p> <p>8 funding is set to run out in September 2022.</p> <p>9 Continuation of food pantry coordinator</p> <p>10 position to run out, funding to exhaust in</p> <p>11 2022.</p> <p>12 Additional ERAP office assistance. This</p> <p>13 program is in need of additional support due to</p> <p>14 high volume in services provided. Current</p> <p>15 funding is capped on salaries.</p> <p>16 Contract support services for emergency</p> <p>17 services and overall office support, overall</p> <p>18 operating budgets as well.</p> <p>19 The financial information for each</p> <p>20 position outlined in this slide can be found in</p> <p>21 your packet.</p>
Page 11	Page 13
<p>1 dryer, full kitchen, pantry, dining room,</p> <p>2 living room, powder room, three bedrooms, one</p> <p>3 den, and a large bathroom.</p> <p>4 So why affordable housing for a large</p> <p>5 family is the best use of this space for the</p> <p>6 following reasons:</p> <p>7 One, Talbot Interfaith Shelter continues</p> <p>8 to expand its homeless shelter services.</p> <p>9 Two, reuse of this space is still within</p> <p>10 NSC's mission of working toward eliminating</p> <p>11 poverty by empowering families and individuals</p> <p>12 to become self-sufficient.</p> <p>13 Three, Talbot County, Maryland, is in need</p> <p>14 of more affordable housing units that are set</p> <p>15 so that low income families can be housed,</p> <p>16 prevent eviction, and thrive.</p> <p>17 And four, the reuse helps NSC meet its</p> <p>18 goals of preventing homelessness, increasing</p> <p>19 affordable housing units, assisting families</p> <p>20 towards self-sufficiency, and removing barriers</p> <p>21 of poverty.</p>	<p>1 So these are the services that we are</p> <p>2 currently providing at the Neighborhood Service</p> <p>3 Center.</p> <p>4 We have a two gen whole family case</p> <p>5 management. And this program is awesome</p> <p>6 because it's geared to stop poverty in its</p> <p>7 current state. And we're working with three</p> <p>8 generations or two generations. Our hopes are</p> <p>9 that that last generation, the poverty will</p> <p>10 stop there and they will be able to be</p> <p>11 self-sufficient going forward with their</p> <p>12 families.</p> <p>13 We have affordable housing. We have, of</p> <p>14 course, the Webb's Hope, which is 23 rooms. We</p> <p>15 have the duplex at 104, a single-family</p> <p>16 dwelling at 117, and the properties located at</p> <p>17 6 South Street.</p> <p>18 In addition, we help with our clients</p> <p>19 obtaining birth certificates and identification</p> <p>20 cards, both of which is needed to be gainful</p> <p>21 with employment.</p>

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1 We're working with Talbot Family Network  
 2 with career pathways, working with youths ages  
 3 16 to young adults at age 25.

4 We're receiving funding for burial  
 5 assistance. This is coming from our Community  
 6 Services Block Grant CARES funding. We noticed  
 7 that there were several families in the  
 8 community that were unable to put their loved  
 9 ones away based on not having insurance or not  
 10 having enough insurance.

11 So we seeked approval from the State to  
 12 move funds from one of our under-providing line  
 13 items to be able to assist with burial  
 14 assistance. And thus far, we have assisted one  
 15 person. We were granted a total of \$32,000 to  
 16 work toward the burial of COVID-19 patients.

17 We do medical assistance, which consists  
 18 of helping seniors fill gaps for prescriptions.

19 We have COVID-19 relief under CSGB CARES.  
 20 We have relief under CDBG CARES, HSP CARES, and  
 21 (inaudible) CARES, are all the programs

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1 assisting with current COVID needs.

2 We continue to do our emergency food  
 3 package. We also, of course, have our ERAP  
 4 assistance, our summer program, our  
 5 after-school program, which is now virtual for  
 6 the second consecutive year.

7 We have eviction prevention payments,  
 8 first month's rent, heating assistance.

9 We have assisted veterans with minor home  
 10 repairs.

11 And those entering back into employment in  
 12 needs of car repairs, we have also assisted  
 13 those because those are barriers in the county,  
 14 especially we know transportation is a big  
 15 deal. So it's very hard, not just the county,  
 16 but on the shore to be employed if you don't  
 17 have your own transportation.

18 We have for over 30 years administered the  
 19 Maryland Energy Assistance Program. We assist  
 20 with temporary hotel placements. For the  
 21 second year, we are working with seniors

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1 throughout the county with our mobile food  
 2 pantry. We have on-job training for homeless  
 3 individuals.

4 We do rapid rehousing, which is we take a  
 5 person out of a homeless situation and help  
 6 them find housing. We pay their first month's  
 7 rent, security deposit, and we work with them  
 8 until they're able to stand on their own. We  
 9 can work with them for a minimum of two months  
 10 to two years. Most of the time, it's three  
 11 months.

12 We do have people because of getting sick  
 13 or a child getting sick come back once we have  
 14 exited them from the program and need  
 15 assistance, but we can assist them for a total  
 16 24 months.

17 We have our responsible fathers program.  
 18 It has been successful. We are in our second  
 19 year. And this program allows us to work with  
 20 returning citizens.

21 And it's been a great program. We've been

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1 able to, through our rental properties, provide  
 2 housing to those exiting incarceration that  
 3 would not probably have a chance to have their  
 4 own housing and that removes the barrier of  
 5 housing, which we have learned that if you can  
 6 keep a person housed, that is one step toward  
 7 them not reentering to incarceration. So we're  
 8 excited about that.

9 We have our rental assistance, our senior  
 10 employment program, and utilities.

11 And next slide.

12 So this slide is sort of self-explanatory.  
 13 I will correct a mistake. You'll see donors to  
 14 the far left. It should have been grantees.  
 15 But it just looks at, shows you where we are  
 16 with our spending thus far. And our fiscal  
 17 year ends in June of this year. It runs  
 18 July 1st to June 30th.

19 And so as you can see, most of the funds,  
 20 you can see they dwindle. But I do want to  
 21 bring attention that we have good support from

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1 the community. Of the funding you see here,  
 2 \$266,754.14 came from the community donations  
 3 and went back into making sure our low income  
 4 population can thrive.  
 5 And at this time, I'll take any questions.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Neal.  
 7 That's great.  
 8 Start off with Mr. Divilio. This is your  
 9 committee.  
 10 MR. DIVILIO: So yes. Thank you. Thank  
 11 you for a wonderful presentation.  
 12 This discussion around the Ridgeway  
 13 Shelter, I know that there should probably be  
 14 some questions from it. First thought I had  
 15 was, you know, during these difficult times,  
 16 why would we be reducing beds when in reality,  
 17 we have an individual that is causing us to  
 18 just do that person themselves.  
 19 So I know Ms. Neal has done an excellent  
 20 job looking at other options on how to better  
 21 serve the community.

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1 And having somebody be transitional coming  
 2 from one shelter into a more permanent shelter  
 3 and then getting out on their own is a big win.  
 4 And that's what we're striving for and what  
 5 Ms. Neal does so well.  
 6 One thing I'm really proud of Talbot  
 7 County and I think we're forced on it because  
 8 of the revenue cap, there are so many different  
 9 foundations, charities, and giving individuals  
 10 and organizations that help the NSC and just  
 11 help Talbot County in general. And we couldn't  
 12 do it without them and we couldn't do it  
 13 without the business community.  
 14 Ms. Neal made a connection with a local  
 15 business that was able to provide a vehicle to  
 16 an individual at no cost so that they could  
 17 transport themselves to work.  
 18 And that's a requirement on the Eastern  
 19 Shore. You have to have a vehicle. You have  
 20 to have transportation to get to work.  
 21 So those are the connections that she

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1 makes to make sure that the organization stays  
 2 strong, stays well, and services are being  
 3 provided.  
 4 One thing that she didn't mention is with  
 5 this change here, is the Ark is also coming  
 6 down to Port Street and they're going to be  
 7 offering I believe it's seven no-barrier units  
 8 in there. So there is going to be some  
 9 additional units that are coming to the area  
 10 soon, whenever that project gets going.  
 11 And we had them at the last Neighborhood  
 12 Service Center Board Meeting so that we could  
 13 coordinate and work with the neighbors on  
 14 what's going on down there.  
 15 I'm very proud. This is an incredibly  
 16 challenging time when the community needs  
 17 support and services. And this is the  
 18 organization that steps up and does it. And  
 19 Ms. Neal is the leader of that. She leads an  
 20 excellent team.  
 21 So I don't have any questions. Obviously

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1 I've sat through this and heard it all. I just  
 2 wanted to express my gratitude to her to  
 3 working through such challenging times and  
 4 making sure everybody is being fed, has their  
 5 electrical on, has some heat, and has a place  
 6 to go. So thank you very much.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.  
 8 Ms. Price.  
 9 Mr. Leshner.  
 10 MR. LESHER: Just a clarifying question.  
 11 On the Ridgeway house, in transitioning this to  
 12 affordable house, will this be affordable  
 13 rental housing, will the Neighborhood Service  
 14 Center continue to hold the title to this, or  
 15 just explain how that transition is going to  
 16 work?  
 17 MS. NEAL: Yes, sir. It will, the  
 18 Neighborhood Service Center will continue to  
 19 hold the deed to this house.  
 20 And we really can't do anything else. It  
 21 was donated to the Neighborhood Service Center

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1 to address homeless situations in the county.  
 2 So it is my understanding that we can't sell  
 3 it, nor do we want to. We want to use it to  
 4 address the need of affordable housing in the  
 5 county.  
 6 I hope I'm answering that. If not,  
 7 please --  
 8 MR. LESHER: That makes perfect sense. I  
 9 just wanted to clarify on that. And thank you.  
 10 And clearly you've thought carefully about  
 11 how best to use this resource to serve the  
 12 needs of the community. So thank you.  
 13 MS. NEAL: Thank you, sir.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Price.  
 15 Mr. Pack.  
 16 MR. PACK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Callahan.  
 17 Ms. Neal, thank you again for a stellar  
 18 presentation. You've outdone yourself once  
 19 again. Thank you for laying out the course of  
 20 action for the Neighborhood Service Center.  
 21 Neighborhood Service Center has been in

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1 existence I believe since 1968. At one time,  
 2 it was the only game in town when it came to  
 3 homelessness and prevention, poverty prevention  
 4 in Talbot County.  
 5 Talbot County designated the Neighborhood  
 6 Service Center as our antipoverty affiliate.  
 7 They've been acting in that role I believe  
 8 since 1994, '95, when that resolution was  
 9 enacted, and has been doing a wonderful job  
 10 working as the quasi-government agency  
 11 addressing homelessness and poverty prevention  
 12 and hunger and a number of other things that  
 13 she laid out in her slide presentation that  
 14 they've taken on over the years.  
 15 Some counties have a public CAP. That's  
 16 Community Action Partnership. We don't have  
 17 one here. They are a private CAP, but they  
 18 still function to address these most vulnerable  
 19 citizens in the county and keep them afloat as  
 20 best they possibly can.  
 21 I like what you're proposing here for

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1 Ridgeway. I know before Mr. Divilio, when I  
 2 was on the board there, this has been something  
 3 that you presented to the board a number of  
 4 times. And I think now that you have the South  
 5 Street property up and running and that you  
 6 have the Webb's Hope facility up and running,  
 7 it's now the right time to go ahead and  
 8 transition or repurpose, or whatever term you  
 9 want to use, that Ridgeway property into an  
 10 affordable rental property for larger families  
 11 to use.  
 12 So I think it's an appropriate time to do  
 13 so. You have those other two properties up and  
 14 running, and they seem to be doing very well  
 15 from all accounts I've seen. So I certainly  
 16 support the transition or repurposing of  
 17 Ridgeway that you laid out for us tonight.  
 18 Thank you.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Price is having some  
 20 audio issues. She's trying to be on her phone.  
 21 Can you hear us, Laura?

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1 MS. PRICE: Yeah. Okay. So I switched  
 2 over now.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good, good.  
 4 MS. PRICE: I'm just trying to listen to  
 5 the meeting on the phone just because I'm  
 6 having some audio connections. But if I need  
 7 to speak, I guess I just need to speak on the  
 8 computer.  
 9 So that aside, Marilyn, thank you very  
 10 much for everything that you do. It's just  
 11 amazing how long that you've been doing this,  
 12 and you obviously have a passion for what  
 13 you're providing to the citizens.  
 14 We appreciate all of the information and  
 15 looking forward to hearing the next update on  
 16 the rental assistance program.  
 17 There's definitely some bills going into  
 18 Annapolis on that kind of stuff.  
 19 So it's just so vital and important, and I  
 20 appreciate Frank serving on this board and  
 21 staying really involved and being our liaison

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1 for that.

2 So thank you very much.

3 MS. NEAL: My pleasure.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.

5 And I just want to follow up, too, Frank,

6 with being on that board and doing a good job

7 to keep us up to date and being involved in the

8 community.

9 Ms. Neal, you said something at the very

10 beginning. You said a couple of sentences.

11 You said you couldn't do this without the

12 Council. And you best believe we couldn't do

13 this without you and your team. So you need to

14 pat yourself on the back. So this is a team

15 effort to be doing this. And we appreciate

16 everything you do. That's for sure.

17 So you've done a great job, and we're

18 proud to have you.

19 MS. NEAL: Thank you.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So thanks a lot.

21 Have a great evening. And we appreciate

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1 everything you do.

2 MS. NEAL: Thank you.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda,

4 Council, is the emergency rental assistance.

5 And I think Mary Kay is going to bring us up to

6 speed on that.

7 MS. VERDERY: Good evening. Thank you for

8 the opportunity to give you an update.

9 In May of 2021, the Council was notified

10 that we had received \$2,439,498 to administer

11 the Department of Housing and Community

12 Development Grant for emergency rental

13 assistance program. The funds cover rental and

14 utility assistance and other housing and

15 service-related costs and program

16 administration cost.

17 As Marilyn Neal stated, Talbot County

18 partnered with the Neighborhood Service Center.

19 They complete the screening, determine

20 eligibility, issue the funds, and provide

21 report information to the county.

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1 And to date they have distributed over

2 \$1.65 million to approximately 600

3 beneficiaries. That's about 68 percent of the

4 budget has already been spent on this program.

5 And the Neighborhood Service Center is doing a

6 great job in getting the word out and helping

7 the individuals get their applications

8 processed.

9 Due to the high percentage of rental

10 assistance, we are requesting a budget

11 modification to reallocate some of utility and

12 other housing-related funds into the rental

13 category so we can continue to provide that

14 assistance.

15 In December of 2021, we were notified that

16 the county would be receiving a second award of

17 \$1,678,514 for ERAP2 to continue to ensure

18 housing stability for families and individuals

19 at risk of becoming homeless or experiencing

20 utility cutoff due to impacts of COVID.

21 The ERAP2 grant will begin upon expiration

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1 of ERAP1 in September of 2022 and will

2 terminate in September of 2025 or when the

3 funds are exhausted.

4 Citizens can log onto the Neighborhood

5 Service Center website at [nscstalbotmd.org](http://nscstalbotmd.org) for

6 application and instructions. And they can

7 also log onto the [talbotcovid19.org](http://talbotcovid19.org) or

8 [rentrelief.maryland.gov](http://rentrelief.maryland.gov) sites for more

9 information and eligibility checklist

10 associated with ERAP.

11 The documents are available in both

12 English and Spanish. If you go onto the

13 Maryland website, they provide the statistics

14 as to where the county is and how much we have

15 spent and how many homeless we have served.

16 And they also break it down into gender, race,

17 ethnicity, age, income, and other categories

18 where you can find additional information on

19 the ERAP program.

20 We have appreciated the opportunity to

21 support our citizens that have been negatively

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<p>1 affected by COVID. And we value the efforts of                  2 Neighborhood Service Center and look forward to                  3 continuing our community partnership with the                  4 Neighborhood Service Center.                  5 If you have any other questions, I'm happy                  6 to answer them. But it's a great opportunity                  7 where we received over \$2 million the first                  8 round and just under 2 million the second                  9 round. And we're looking forward to continue                  10 to work with the public to make sure they get                  11 the assistance they need.                  12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mary Kay. What                  13 a great presentation and appreciate all you do.                  14 So just going to open up to Council.                  15 Ms. Price.                  16 (No response.)                  17 MR. CALLAHAN: Can you hear us?                  18 MS. PRICE: Yeah, I can. Here I am. Just                  19 got to juggle.                  20 Thank you, Mary Kay. It's nice to have                  21 you working with us. You're doing a great job</p>	<p>1 those property owners, landlords, who have been                  2 also burdened by COVID.                  3 You got to remember that, yes, COVID has                  4 impacted the renter, but COVID has also                  5 impacted the homeowners and property owners who                  6 are renting these parcels out, these rooms and                  7 homes out.                  8 So this income does make its way into                  9 their pocket as well so they can pay their                  10 property tax and pay whatever other, water                  11 bills and so forth, because water bills cannot                  12 be transferred into the renter's name. They                  13 have to stay within the property owner's name.                  14 So they still have to pay those things as well.                  15 So again, it's a great program. Wish we                  16 didn't need it, but we do. And it certainly                  17 underscores why Ms. Neal was alluding to the                  18 fact that she needs to keep those personnel on                  19 board. When you're trying to manage                  20 \$2.1 million of funding, you need the people                  21 there to do that.</p>
Page 31	Page 33
<p>1 at working on these grants. And of course, we                  2 always have staff that's really good at that.                  3 Appreciate that.                  4 As I mentioned before, there's several                  5 bills, at least three or four, that have come                  6 before MACo regarding rental assistance. And                  7 it's good to know that these funds are                  8 available so that people can stay in their                  9 homes. And it is their homes, even if they're                  10 renting. That is still somebody's home.                  11 So thank you for all of that and thank you                  12 for the update.                  13 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Pack.                  14 MR. PACK: Yes. Mary Kay Verdery, good                  15 seeing you again. It's always a pressure to                  16 have you in our presence.                  17 ERAP is a big deal. Mr. Callahan always                  18 says big deal, it's a big deal. And it's a big                  19 deal for a number of reasons. It keeps persons                  20 with a roof over top of their head. But it                  21 also allows those funds to go into the hands of</p>	<p>1 So Council should take notice to that                  2 request as she had put before us to help out                  3 keeping those people in their employment.                  4 So again thanks, Mary Kay. Really                  5 appreciate it.                  6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.                  7 Mr. Divilio.                  8 MR. DIVILIO: I will just echo Mr. Pack,                  9 everybody else's words.                  10 Grant writing is an art, but then there's                  11 all the extra work that goes in after the fact                  12 of monitoring and proving what was done after                  13 the fact with the money as it's going out and                  14 tracking all of that.                  15 So I appreciate all of those who are                  16 involved in that. I know that there's a lot of                  17 county staff that goes into this. But again,                  18 this is what's keeping people in their home.                  19 And when you lose your home, it's impossible to                  20 get back. It takes a lot of work. And if                  21 you're able to write a small check and keep</p>

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1 somebody in there for a month or two, it makes  
 2 a big difference. It really does.  
 3 And I know that you're not going to get  
 4 the thanks from the landlords that you should  
 5 be getting, but it is a great benefit.  
 6 And it's been challenging. There's been a  
 7 lot of need. I know with Ms. Neal. I've only  
 8 received one complaint so far from a landlord  
 9 who was upset about the time that it took to  
 10 get the money in their hand. And I called down  
 11 to Ms. Neal and the file was open on her desk  
 12 with a check in there and she was just waiting  
 13 to call and let them know.  
 14 So she is stretched as thin as it gets.  
 15 And I appreciate how difficult and challenging  
 16 that is. Money challenges are extremely hard  
 17 on everyone.  
 18 So I appreciate your hard work in getting  
 19 this and writing the work so that we get the  
 20 funds, as well as tracking and following  
 21 through.

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1 So thank you all very much. Appreciate  
 2 that.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.  
 4 Mr. Leshner.  
 5 MR. LESHER: Thank you. And thank you for  
 6 the good news about this fresh infusion of  
 7 \$1.6 million into the second round of this  
 8 program. That's really encouraging and it will  
 9 have a big impact in the community.  
 10 So can you tell us, following up on  
 11 Frank's account, about how we're doing with the  
 12 turnaround time in getting those checks out to  
 13 the community?  
 14 MS. VERDERY: That's probably a little  
 15 better question for Marilyn than myself because  
 16 they actually process those.  
 17 But to Frank's point, I've only had one  
 18 individual of the nearly 1,000 that have  
 19 applied to date that has called me with a  
 20 concern about the time. And that individual  
 21 had documentation that still needed to be

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1 submitted. So his application was incomplete.  
 2 So we got him on track, and Marilyn got him  
 3 everything figured out and moving forward and  
 4 was able to process his immediately as well.  
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Leshner, to that point as  
 6 well, the challenge with it is you need some  
 7 documentation from the landlord, but you also  
 8 need some documentation from the tenant.  
 9 And when people get behind, they're not  
 10 always inclined to answer the landlord's phone  
 11 call.  
 12 So there has been a little bit of  
 13 challenge with that. But once they realize  
 14 what's happening and everybody agrees, it seems  
 15 like the process has sped along much faster  
 16 then.  
 17 But those are the only hiccups I've heard  
 18 so far.  
 19 MS. NEAL: And to answer Mr. Leshner's  
 20 question, the turnaround time is normally  
 21 within 30 days. And that is because we don't

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1 get all the appropriate documentation in the  
 2 beginning. And we're seeing, golly, it seems  
 3 like all I do is sign ERAP checks. But I don't  
 4 even know how many they get a day.  
 5 But another thing that slows the process  
 6 down, and Mary Kay can attest to that, is the  
 7 first three, four days of the month is all  
 8 going into grant reporting. So we have to sort  
 9 of shut that program down in order to get the  
 10 reports needed to Mary Kay so that her and her  
 11 team can get them to the State. So we lose  
 12 about four days a month before we can get back  
 13 into everything.  
 14 So about 30 days. Sometimes sooner. As  
 15 soon as all the information is in, they're  
 16 sitting on my desk waiting to be signed off on.  
 17 MR. LESHER: Very good. Thank you very  
 18 much.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Council.  
 20 And I just want to commend Mary Kay and  
 21 all her hard work in working with Neighborhood

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1 Service Center and getting these checks out to  
 2 the people that need them.  
 3 And like Mr. Pack said, the landlords.  
 4 I'm very fortunate, my family supports in  
 5 surrounding counties a bunch of rentals. And  
 6 workforce housing means a lot. And I'm proud  
 7 to be a part of that.  
 8 And I see firsthand what it does. It  
 9 encourages the landlord to keep going because  
 10 there's been many, many times and many in the  
 11 last couple of years that we have been patient  
 12 and waiting because, like Mr. Divilio said,  
 13 there's nothing worse than being backed up with  
 14 rent two, three months and just being patient  
 15 with the person and not putting them out.  
 16 So I have firsthand experience with all  
 17 that. And we've been in that business for 40  
 18 years. And it's people like us and people like  
 19 the Council and people like these committees  
 20 and Mary Kay and these funds that really mean a  
 21 lot and keep these people in their homes. And

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1 that's what it's all about. And it takes  
 2 people like all of us as a team to make sure  
 3 that these people have a home. And it means a  
 4 lot.  
 5 So I really appreciate everybody's effort  
 6 on this because there's one thing we don't want  
 7 to do, we don't want to have a situation where  
 8 we have to have people move out because that  
 9 just creates more problems.  
 10 So thanks a lot, everybody. I appreciate  
 11 that. Okay.  
 12 Any last words, Mary Kay? Are you good?  
 13 MS. VERDERY: I'm good. I just want to  
 14 note, we've talked a lot about rent, but this  
 15 also is for utility assistance and some other  
 16 housing assistance.  
 17 So if anyone is experiencing any issues,  
 18 they should reach out to the Neighborhood  
 19 Service Center and see if we're able to assist  
 20 them.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Appreciate it. So

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1 if you want to stay on, that's fine, but we're  
 2 going to move on to Economic Development and  
 3 that little smiling face right there. Yup.  
 4 How are you, Ms. Cassandra?  
 5 MS. VANHOOSER: I am very well. Thank you  
 6 so much.  
 7 Can you hear me okay?  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: We can hear you great.  
 9 MS. VANHOOSER: Excellent. And I have a  
 10 PowerPoint. So can I share or, Jessica, are  
 11 you going to share for me?  
 12 MS. MORRIS: You want to try and share.  
 13 And if it doesn't work, then I'll jump on it.  
 14 If you can't do it, just let me know.  
 15 MS. VANHOOSER: Well, my share button, of  
 16 course, is gray. So you'll have to do it.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: You keep having problems  
 18 with that button.  
 19 MS. VANHOOSER: There we go. I got a  
 20 share now.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go.

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1 MS. VANHOOSER: Hey, I got it. All right.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Perfect.  
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: So let me get over here  
 4 and start my slide show from the beginning.  
 5 All right.  
 6 So good evening, County Council and  
 7 President Callahan. Thank you so much for  
 8 having me on the agenda.  
 9 It's really fortuitous that I am following  
 10 Ms. Marilyn and Mary Kay on this because we're  
 11 talking about two sides of the same coin. And  
 12 the work that they're doing to support our  
 13 residents and citizens in need is very  
 14 important, and the work that we're doing to  
 15 invest in the business community is important  
 16 to provide jobs. And also, as Frank pointed  
 17 out, the philanthropic support that the  
 18 businesses provide.  
 19 So it looks like we made this presentation  
 20 to go together, but it has been a year of  
 21 positive returns for our investment in the

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1 business community.

2 And I'll just touch briefly on this. We

3 have given out a number of small business

4 grants. 3.27 million to be exact. And that

5 started in June of 2020 with the CARES grants

6 and through December 2021.

7 Now, we have had a number of State grants.

8 That includes restaurants, lodging

9 establishments, nonprofits, online sales, and

10 teleworking. And so over half of this

11 3.27 million was given out in 2021.

12 So we gave our very last grants out in

13 December. We had a little extra CARES money

14 left over, and we made some grants to

15 businesses. So altogether, that's been a very

16 successful program.

17 And with four and a half people on the

18 staff, we have done a yeoman's work and

19 partnered with the Finance Office on this.

20 But we do more than that. And so as

21 you'll recall, we had a big flood in October

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1 and a number our businesses in coastal areas

2 got flooded. So on that Saturday, I visited as

3 many as I could find and called the rest. And

4 then the governor declared a state of

5 emergency, which enabled our businesses to

6 qualify for emergency grants.

7 So a total of ten Talbot County businesses

8 applied for those emergency flood grants

9 through Maryland Capital Enterprises, which is

10 located in Salisbury. And we do a lot of work

11 with them with micro grants. And nine of those

12 businesses were approved and received grants

13 for a total of \$160,000 to offset the cost of

14 the damages. And of course, that supplements

15 any insurance that they had.

16 A number of businesses, including Lowe's

17 Wharf, really sustained equipment damage and

18 also they had damage to their rooms. So those

19 grants were -- they touched all of our towns

20 except Easton. So Oxford, St. Michael's, and

21 all in the Bay Hundred.

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1 There was no real flooding in Tilghman

2 interestingly. But that really blanketed the

3 county coastal areas with those grants.

4 Also, you will recall that we have a small

5 incentive fund that we put money into every

6 year. And in 2019 at the end of the year, we

7 executed a grant agreement with Aphena Pharma.

8 And I just wanted to give you a report on what

9 they were able to accomplish.

10 With our matching grant matched the State,

11 Advantage Maryland grant. So we invested

12 15,000, Easton invested 15,000, and then there

13 was a \$300,000 grant from the State to support

14 this project. So they have completed their

15 \$7 million expansion. And they purchased the

16 two adjoining facilities and have created a

17 27-acre pharmaceutical manufacturing campus.

18 Now, this is a juggernaut when it comes to

19 economic development for us. So they're based

20 there in Easton on Industrial Park Drive. And

21 they have hired 156 hourly and salaried

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1 employees, bringing their total to 270. And

2 that's a 66 percent growth. And they're

3 continuing to hire. So this is a great

4 business for us. This has not been a business

5 that's been affected by the pandemic. But your

6 county dollars helping support this project is

7 keeping people employed.

8 Now, as you will see and have seen, we are

9 becoming really adept at leveraging our

10 partnerships to provide business assistance.

11 And we have numbers of partners. And I've just

12 listed a few of them here. Small Business

13 Development Center, the Mid Shore Regional

14 Council, the Eastern Shore Regional GIS

15 Cooperative, Beacon, Upper Shore Workforce

16 Investment Development Board, and the Maryland

17 Department of Commerce.

18 So let's just look at the Small Business

19 Development Center. So in their fiscal year,

20 which runs from October to September of 2021,

21 they provided free and confidential counseling

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1 to 31 businesses in Talbot County. And  
 2 typically these are small businesses that need  
 3 help with their business plan, that need help  
 4 with financing. Whatever they need to get up  
 5 and running, then we refer to the Small  
 6 Business Development Center and they sign a  
 7 confidentiality agreement and are counseling  
 8 those business.  
 9 I keep up with them, of course. But  
 10 they're receiving their business assistance  
 11 from the Small Business Development Center.  
 12 So they also provided 99 training events.  
 13 And that support 816 jobs. And they had five  
 14 successful loan applications, for a total  
 15 investment in Talbot County of \$432,931.  
 16 Now, this is another slide that is showing  
 17 just what is going on in the first quarter of  
 18 fiscal year 2022. And I can tell you that  
 19 client number is low because we go over once a  
 20 month all of the clients that are active with  
 21 the Small Business Development Center. We just

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1 did that this week. And there are more than  
 2 15.  
 3 But again, in the first quarter, \$130,000  
 4 of loans for two different businesses. And of  
 5 course, supporting a number of jobs there.  
 6 Now, when the Small Business Development  
 7 Center connects with Talbot County businesses,  
 8 that's important to us because, first of all,  
 9 over the past two years, we have helped fund  
 10 them. And that will be in my budget request  
 11 again this year. They asked for \$6,000, and  
 12 that is what we have been able to give to them  
 13 for the last couple of years. And you can see  
 14 it's money well spent.  
 15 We also have added office hours. The SBDC  
 16 counselor, Greg Barto, who was also assigned  
 17 with Rich Lefler to Talbot County, is at Bay  
 18 Street every Tuesday from 12 to four. And so  
 19 if we have a business that needs a place to  
 20 meet with them, we provide that within our  
 21 offices. We hope to expand that at some point

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1 if we ever have additional office space that we  
 2 can share with them. They're currently sharing  
 3 my office.  
 4 And then I referred to the training  
 5 opportunities that they give. They give  
 6 numerous webinars. They were in-person events,  
 7 now webinars. And they will do custom events.  
 8 So if I need something for my businesses, I can  
 9 ask them to do a webinar just for Talbot County  
 10 businesses.  
 11 Largely, we promote what they're doing,  
 12 but they will do a custom and have done,  
 13 particularly during COVID, custom creations for  
 14 us.  
 15 And then, of course, as I mentioned, I do  
 16 a regular update with them and track our  
 17 businesses to make sure that people are staying  
 18 on track.  
 19 Now, another project that we have talked  
 20 about over and over is the Eastern Shore  
 21 Recovery Project. And part of that is the

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1 business sentiment survey. And I'm not going  
 2 to talk about the whole project. But I am  
 3 going to talk about tonight the business  
 4 sentiment survey because I had promised to give  
 5 you an update.  
 6 Now, we did a survey in June of 2021 and  
 7 released those results and built the tools that  
 8 go with it. And then we administered another  
 9 one in December 2021.  
 10 So overall, businesses on the Eastern  
 11 Shore have a very positive outlook for the next  
 12 12 months. But while their outlook is  
 13 positive, it has dipped some since June of  
 14 2021. I think that's predictable. We were  
 15 coming right out of COVID and things were,  
 16 people were very enthusiastic about the  
 17 outlook. And now they've moderated just a  
 18 little bit or have -- and they haven't really  
 19 dipped. And I'll show you that slide in just a  
 20 moment.  
 21 But what they're telling us is that

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1 problems exist in the business community. And  
 2 respondents say that COVID-19 both created new  
 3 problems and exacerbated existing ones. And of  
 4 course, it's fairly predictable what those are.  
 5 Labor force leads the way. It remains  
 6 stubbornly atop the list of barriers to both  
 7 starting and expanding a business, according to  
 8 our business respondents.  
 9 Then, of course, inflation is a growing  
 10 concern. And it overtook supply chain. As the  
 11 supply chains are beginning to moderate a  
 12 little bit, people are concerned about  
 13 inflation and what that will do. A  
 14 tight-fisted consumer does not spend money, and  
 15 inflation can cause that.  
 16 Here is the slide I was talking about. We  
 17 have compared June 2021 to December 2021. You  
 18 can see people were expecting things to be much  
 19 better. Still a very positive outlook and even  
 20 more positive for our county and on the Eastern  
 21 Shore.

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1 Now, are these survey results, because  
 2 they're the entire Eastern Shore, are they  
 3 applicable to Talbot County? Well, yes, they  
 4 are.  
 5 So you can see that 43 percent of the  
 6 people in the entire Eastern Shore who took  
 7 this survey are located in Talbot County. And  
 8 I want to thank my businesses who operate in  
 9 Talbot County for taking the survey and for  
 10 taking the time. It's a 50-question survey.  
 11 But this gives us a lot of great  
 12 information. It gives you good information.  
 13 If there are additional questions that you  
 14 think we can delve into with what we've already  
 15 got, then I'm more than happy to look into  
 16 those for you.  
 17 And of course, marketing and  
 18 communications is a lot of what we do. So we  
 19 have the Talbot Works website. The most viewed  
 20 page over the last two years, of course, has  
 21 been COVID-19 resources.

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1 But it's really important to note that we  
 2 were successful in taking online applications  
 3 for all of our grants.  
 4 And then our blog is very popular. The  
 5 Talbot Works newsletter, our featured business  
 6 story is always the most popular. And we have  
 7 written about everything from (inaudible) to  
 8 the Ferry Cove to Sea Watch International to  
 9 clearance.  
 10 We really have some fantastic businesses  
 11 in this county, and we are telling their story  
 12 through our newsletters. And we do one every  
 13 month.  
 14 And of course, we keep up with social  
 15 media posts. And the platforms that are best  
 16 suited for economic development are Facebook  
 17 and Linked In. And we have a growing presence  
 18 on both.  
 19 And of course, we did the private sector  
 20 calls all through COVID. And we ended those in  
 21 June. And we now do them only on an as-needed

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1 basis. A couple of weeks ago, we had  
 2 Dr. Maguire speak directly to the business  
 3 community about the spike in COVID cases.  
 4 So what's ahead for 2022? Well, we'll be  
 5 doing public outreach with our Eastern Shore  
 6 Economic Recovery Project. And so we'll be  
 7 going into the communities and sharing that  
 8 information, also into the businesses and other  
 9 organizations that will have us speak to share  
 10 this information. And we have a plan for how  
 11 to do that.  
 12 And this project ends in June of 2022, at  
 13 the end of June. And we'll be doing that  
 14 public outreach as soon as we're able to safely  
 15 hold public meetings.  
 16 And then, of course, we continue to  
 17 actively seek resources for our businesses. I  
 18 had a long call with USDA this week about some  
 19 of the resources they have. They have new loan  
 20 programs. We're expecting a value added  
 21 marketing grant program to be released soon.

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<p>1 So keeping up on it, sharing that information,                  2 and also directly connecting people to the                  3 resources when I know it's applicable to their                  4 business.                  5 And then, of course, you know, in economic                  6 development, retention, expansion, and                  7 attraction are what we are supposed to do, that                  8 we will continue to focus on that and return to                  9 focusing on that as we get out of the grant                  10 giving business and into what we're supposed to                  11 be doing.                  12 So I'm going to stop with that.                  13 One last thing. I do want to welcome                  14 Mr. Reza Jafari, who is my board chairman. And                  15 he is on the phone. He's in D.C. and is unable                  16 to join us on the video, but he is listening in                  17 and watching. And so I wanted to welcome him                  18 and thank him for attending tonight.                  19 And with that, I'll take any questions you                  20 might have.                  21 MR. CALLAHAN: Great job, Cassandra. And</p>	<p>1 express my appreciation for having the full                  2 text of the outcomes of the business sentiment                  3 survey. And what you are doing to stay on top                  4 of both monitoring the situation in the county,                  5 but also that (inaudible) to our businesses.                  6 I do recall I was still on the Easton Town                  7 Council a number of years ago when we, when                  8 Easton and the county collaborated in paving                  9 the way for Aphenia Pharmaceutical's expansion.                  10 And we were told then that this was going to                  11 result in at least 150 new jobs. And it seems                  12 like we've already exceeded that goal. Very                  13 encouraging for those, those really quality                  14 jobs that this program has brought to the                  15 community.                  16 Nice to see a program like that from the                  17 early stages to full fruition in the community.                  18 And as you said, it's going to continue to                  19 give. They're continuing to hire. That's                  20 great news indeed.                  21 MS. VANHOOSER: Absolutely. We should go</p>
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<p>1 we want to welcome Reza, too. He's a big part,                  2 too. So we love him.                  3 Mr. Divilio.                  4 MR. DIVILIO: No questions at this time.                  5 That's a lot.                  6 MR. CALLAHAN: It's a lot, you know.                  7 Mr. Pack.                  8 MR. PACK: I don't have any questions,                  9 either.                  10 Great presentation. We had a different                  11 slide set than the one that was presented. So                  12 we'll have to get that so we can take a look at                  13 it further. Thank you.                  14 MS. VANHOOSER: So I'll apologize for                  15 that. That is the full report on the business                  16 sentiment survey. So that's just additional                  17 information, and I will provide my slides to                  18 you.                  19 MR. PACK: Thanks.                  20 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.                  21 MR. LESHER: Just a note that I want to</p>	<p>1 and take a tour soon. It's really fantastic,                  2 A, to see what they've added, but also just to                  3 see how they do what they do. It's very high                  4 tech, and they have contracts with some of the                  5 large companies to package their contract                  6 packaging manufacturer and also manufacturing                  7 RX for disbursement through the drug system.                  8 So it's really interesting to see. We'll get a                  9 tour over there soon.                  10 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.                  11 Ms. Price.                  12 MS. PRICE: Hey there. If you look at                  13 that result of that survey and you see that                  14 43 percent came from Talbot County out of all                  15 those counties and you don't think that Talbot                  16 County and Ms. Cassandra Vanhooser are a force                  17 to be reckoned with, you clearly aren't seeing                  18 it.                  19 Just amazing to get that kind of feedback.                  20 And hopefully, the other -- we ever do this                  21 again or whatever, the other counties will see</p>

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1 that how important that information is to have,  
 2 to be able to support our businesses and see  
 3 where the problems are.  
 4 And it's unfortunate the other counties  
 5 didn't -- I mean hopefully they'll look at ours  
 6 and be able to use that information. But  
 7 without the participation, it's not as  
 8 meaningful for them.  
 9 But it is very meaningful for us. And you  
 10 worked hard at -- well, you work hard at  
 11 everything. But you really worked hard at  
 12 getting that survey out there and encouraging  
 13 our businesses to participate.  
 14 So along with everything else, thank you  
 15 very much for that.  
 16 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you, Ms. Price.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: You do work very hard.  
 18 Appreciate all you do -- with Mary Kay and  
 19 Ms. Neal. And it really is a really nice team  
 20 there. So you guys work well together to help  
 21 a lot of people and a lot of businesses. So we

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1 definitely need all three of you big time.  
 2 Appreciate everything you've done the last  
 3 couple of years.  
 4 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council. All right.  
 6 So now we're on to public hearing. Okay,  
 7 Council.  
 8 Madam Secretary, would you read the Bill  
 9 1496 into the record, please.  
 10 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1496, a bill to  
 11 repeal and reenact Chapter 102, Parks and  
 12 Recreation, Talbot County Code, and to enact a  
 13 new Chapter 76 entitled Golf Board.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate that.  
 15 Mr. Thomas, are you with us?  
 16 MR. THOMAS: I am, yes.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Could you -- little  
 18 bit. If you want to comment on this  
 19 legislation, that would be great.  
 20 MR. THOMAS: Sure. Thank you,  
 21 Mr. President.

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1 So we discussed this bill at length in a  
 2 work session I think last summer, last fall.  
 3 And this version incorporates all of the  
 4 changes that we discussed at that work session.  
 5 It provides some clarification regarding the  
 6 regulations in Section 102-5. It also puts the  
 7 golf, the provisions regarding the Golf Board,  
 8 which are unchanged from their current version,  
 9 in a new chapter of the code to avoid any  
 10 confusion regarding these regulation -- the  
 11 applicability of these regulations that I've  
 12 just mentioned, 102-5.  
 13 Like I said, it incorporates all the  
 14 changes that we previously discussed.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I appreciate it.  
 16 That's good. All right.  
 17 So at this time, Mr. Pack, can you be my  
 18 time keeper if we need be, please?  
 19 MR. PACK: Sure.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I'm going to open  
 21 the public hearing on 1496 for the public. And

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1 I'll give you three minutes to speak as an  
 2 individual and five minutes to speak if on  
 3 behalf of an organization.  
 4 Mr. Durham, is there anybody on the line,  
 5 any participants that want to talk about 1496?  
 6 MR. DURHAM: There is no one on to unmute.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Nobody there. So I guess  
 8 at this point, I will close the public hearing.  
 9 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Callahan.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.  
 11 MR. DIVILIO: Because we're meeting  
 12 virtually and things, we just changed that last  
 13 month, I was wondering if we could leave  
 14 comment open until the next meeting? That way  
 15 I assume that we would get written comment  
 16 mostly on this, if any. But just give them  
 17 some opportunity to do that.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: We just want to (inaudible)  
 19 open for public comment.  
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's fine.

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<p>1 So I think, Madam Secretary, was this</p> <p>2 ready to be voted on tonight for the third</p> <p>3 reader?</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: It could be, unless Mr. Thomas</p> <p>5 says otherwise.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: If we're going to leave</p> <p>7 public comment open, don't we want to hold off</p> <p>8 on that?</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: That's what I was thinking.</p> <p>10 Yeah. That's kind of what I was thinking. I</p> <p>11 just wanted to let everybody know that it was</p> <p>12 ready for final vote.</p> <p>13 But if you want to leave it and just wait</p> <p>14 to next meeting, that way people can comment on</p> <p>15 it. Is that okay with Council?</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: I don't think we can. Point of</p> <p>17 order, Mr. Callahan, I don't think we can vote</p> <p>18 on it the same night as the public hearing</p> <p>19 because this is a bill. I think it has --</p> <p>20 MR. THOMAS: I'm sorry. Just to clarify.</p> <p>21 Yes. So this is the second reader tonight,</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: One of the bills is Senate</p> <p>3 Bill 288, Talbot County Board of Education</p> <p>4 election of officers. And it relates to, the</p> <p>5 bill is for the purpose of altering the timing</p> <p>6 of the annual election of the officers of the</p> <p>7 Talbot County Board of Education and generally</p> <p>8 relating to the Talbot County Board of</p> <p>9 Education and the election of officers.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Laura, you want to comment</p> <p>11 on this? You know a little bit about this</p> <p>12 bill? Ms. Price?</p> <p>13 MS. PRICE: Yup. I'm getting there.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>15 MS. PRICE: I think we saw this last year</p> <p>16 or they wanted to do this last year and</p> <p>17 something happened with the timing.</p> <p>18 But if I remember correctly, this is</p> <p>19 people get sworn in. And other counties are</p> <p>20 all sworn in. And we haven't changed our</p> <p>21 officers. So I think this is literally just a</p>
Page 63	Page 65
<p>1 which is also the public hearing.</p> <p>2 So the third reader would be at the next</p> <p>3 meeting and vote.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good. Okay.</p> <p>5 I'm corrected. No problem. So we'll leave it</p> <p>6 open. And next meeting it will be for the</p> <p>7 third reader. That would be great. Okay.</p> <p>8 Are we good, Madam Secretary, on that?</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Yes.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Appreciate</p> <p>11 it. Okay.</p> <p>12 Next, you can help us out on discussion on</p> <p>13 pending General Assembly legislation. I think</p> <p>14 we have a couple that we have. So would you</p> <p>15 mind reading the first one?</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Okay. Hold on.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: I'm not sure which order</p> <p>19 they're in in.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Granicus.</p>	<p>1 change from January to December so they are</p> <p>2 able to vote on their president in December</p> <p>3 right after getting sworn in, as opposed to</p> <p>4 having to wait an extra month. So this is just</p> <p>5 literally just a date change.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: So how does Council feel</p> <p>7 about supporting that? Are we good with that?</p> <p>8 MR. LESHER: I looked at the fiscal and</p> <p>9 policy note that was prepared by the</p> <p>10 legislature analyst on this. It noted, as</p> <p>11 Ms. Price says, only a change of date in the</p> <p>12 election of officers. No negative impacts were</p> <p>13 identified with this, and this seems like a</p> <p>14 sensible and easy bill to support.</p> <p>15 I would certainly join in a letter of</p> <p>16 support on this one.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: Did we receive any comment from</p> <p>18 either the Board of Education chairwoman or</p> <p>19 anyone from the Board of Education on this</p> <p>20 bill?</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: I did not receive any on this,</p>

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<p>1 no.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Okay.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: I can't imagine. Was this</p> <p>4 generated at their request?</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: That was my point, Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>6 I would like to know who put this on for us to</p> <p>7 give, weigh in on, whether it was from the --</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Senator Eckardt's office</p> <p>9 asked us.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: Was she asked to do this by our</p> <p>11 Board of Education?</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Introduced on behalf of the</p> <p>13 Talbot County Board of Education.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. So any</p> <p>15 other Council member want to speak on this or</p> <p>16 are we good to support this?</p> <p>17 MS. PRICE: I'll make a motion to support.</p> <p>18 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second that motion.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm sorry, Mr. Pack. Did</p> <p>20 you have a question?</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: I was just saying I support it.</p>	<p>1 This bill is for the purpose of altering</p> <p>2 the membership and qualifications of members of</p> <p>3 the Accountability and Implementation Board,</p> <p>4 requiring the Accountability and Implementation</p> <p>5 Board nominating committee to submit a certain</p> <p>6 slate of nominees to the governor on or before</p> <p>7 a certain date, and generally relating to the</p> <p>8 membership of the Accountability and</p> <p>9 implementation Board.</p> <p>10 I believe it has to do with the</p> <p>11 Accountability and Implementation Board to</p> <p>12 provide geographic diversity to membership on</p> <p>13 the Maryland Kirwin's Commission.</p> <p>14 MS. PRICE: Absolutely.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yup. Ms. Price.</p> <p>16 MS. PRICE: Yeah. This was -- previously</p> <p>17 there was only seven members that were going to</p> <p>18 be appointed to this board by the governor.</p> <p>19 And they did not get adequate representation at</p> <p>20 all.</p> <p>21 This is -- the introduction is by about,</p>
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<p>1 I just saw the e-mail.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: I didn't catch it. Okay.</p> <p>3 We got a motion and a second it.</p> <p>4 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote,</p> <p>5 please.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>9 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>13 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>17 could you go ahead and read the next one,</p> <p>18 please, next bill into the record.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: The next one is House Bill</p> <p>20 633, Education Accountability and</p> <p>21 Implementation Board membership.</p>	<p>1 gosh, 15 or more members from these more rural</p> <p>2 jurisdictions. But incredibly they were also</p> <p>3 missing one of the larger jurisdictions.</p> <p>4 So this expands the membership from seven</p> <p>5 members to 11 members and will add a member now</p> <p>6 from Easton Shore, a member from western shore,</p> <p>7 and a member from southern Maryland, in</p> <p>8 addition to the one remaining large</p> <p>9 jurisdiction that didn't have representation.</p> <p>10 And so we absolutely should support this.</p> <p>11 I mean Kirwin is a big ticket item, as we know.</p> <p>12 And you know, when you're increasing the cost</p> <p>13 by that much money, you want to make sure that</p> <p>14 you have representation from every -- maybe not</p> <p>15 every single county, but certainly every single</p> <p>16 jurisdiction regional area.</p> <p>17 So this is a great bill, and I think we</p> <p>18 really need to support this.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, Ms. Price. I</p> <p>20 appreciate that.</p> <p>21 Council, any comments?</p>

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1 MR. DIVILIO: I'll follow up on that. And  
 2 I'm extremely proud of our schools here in  
 3 Talbot County. I love the Eastern Shore,  
 4 Talbot County the most, and I think that Talbot  
 5 County is my favorite county in the state. I  
 6 think we do many things much better here than  
 7 the rest of the state.  
 8 But I certainly wouldn't tell them that I  
 9 think that we should have all 11 from Talbot  
 10 County just because I think we do everything  
 11 right, but that's essentially what they did.  
 12 And they put up a vertical line and said  
 13 everything right in here is going to tell  
 14 everybody else in the state how to run their  
 15 schools and implement this stuff. So shame on  
 16 them for that behavior.  
 17 Diversity does help. And by geographical  
 18 diversity, it will make improvements.  
 19 So I do -- I am willing to support this  
 20 and I'd go as far as saying that maybe all five  
 21 should be from Talbot County, but I won't say

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1 that. So I'm happy to support this in the way  
 2 it's written.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.  
 4 Any other Council member?  
 5 Okay. Madam Secretary, do we have a  
 6 motion on this?  
 7 MR. DIVILIO: I'll go ahead a make a  
 8 motion that we send a letter in support.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 10 MS. PRICE: Second.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
 12 a second. Madam Secretary, could you call the  
 13 vote, please.  
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 19 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 21 MS. PRICE: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 2 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, Council. Good job on  
 4 that. I appreciate that, Ms. Price, bringing  
 5 that stuff to our attention and being on top of  
 6 that. Appreciate it.  
 7 Okay. Mr. Stamp, you're up.  
 8 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Mr. Council  
 9 President, Members of the Council. I have a  
 10 number of things for you this evening.  
 11 Under board and committee appointments,  
 12 the first item I have is regarding the  
 13 Short-Term Rental Review Board. We're  
 14 requesting the appointment of Ms. Michelle  
 15 La Rocca and Mr. Keith Watts to serve on the  
 16 Short-Term Rental Review Board.  
 17 MR. DIVILIO: I'll make a motion.  
 18 MR. PACK: Second.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
 20 a second. Madam Secretary, could you call the  
 21 vote.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 6 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 8 MS. PRICE: Aye.  
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 10 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 11 MR. STAMP: The next item refers to the  
 12 Board of Appeals. We're requesting the  
 13 reappointment of Louis Dorsey as a full-time  
 14 member, appointment of Jeffrey Edelman as a  
 15 full member, and Patrick Forest as an  
 16 alternate.  
 17 MR. PACK: So moved.  
 18 MR. DIVILIO: Second.  
 19 MS. PRICE: Second.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
 21 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the

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<p>1 vote.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>7 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>9 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. Mr. Pack.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>12 MR. STAMP: The next one would be the</p> <p>13 Tourism Board. Requesting the appointment of</p> <p>14 Mary Kellogg to the Tourism Board.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Moved.</p> <p>16 MS. PRICE: I'll make a motion, please.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHNER: Second.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>19 second it. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>20 vote.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p>	<p>1 tractor was not available until now.</p> <p>2 Joye Nagle, your finance director, has</p> <p>3 confirmed contingency funds are available for</p> <p>4 this purpose.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>6 MS. PRICE: I'll make the motion.</p> <p>7 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>9 second to buy a tractor. Madam Secretary.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>15 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>17 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>20 MR. STAMP: Council, we have Rich Setter,</p> <p>21 your golf course manager, here with us this</p>
<p>Page 75</p> <p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>3 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>7 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>10 MR. STAMP: And Council, we have a request</p> <p>11 from the Department of Parks and Recreation to</p> <p>12 utilize FY22 contingency funds for the purchase</p> <p>13 of a John Deere compact utility tractor.</p> <p>14 Approved in the FY21 budget.</p> <p>15 As you can read in your agenda packet,</p> <p>16 we're requesting the approval to utilize</p> <p>17 \$22,800 in contingency funds for the purchase</p> <p>18 of a John Deere 2029R compact utility tractor</p> <p>19 from Atlantic Tractor.</p> <p>20 This was originally budgeted in FY21.</p> <p>21 However, due to a supply chain issue, the</p>	<p>Page 77</p> <p>1 evening.</p> <p>2 This is a request from the Hog Neck Golf</p> <p>3 Course for fee increases for the 2022 season.</p> <p>4 And he is here to discuss that with you this</p> <p>5 evening.</p> <p>6 Mr. Setter.</p> <p>7 MR. SETTER: Good evening, everybody.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Good evening.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.</p> <p>10 MR. SETTER: Hear me okay?</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. All good.</p> <p>12 MR. SETTER: All right. Great day for</p> <p>13 golf. We reopened today.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Nice. All right.</p> <p>15 MR. SETTER: We were only open for four</p> <p>16 days in January. A little bit of a bad weather</p> <p>17 month there. The last time I leave Chuck</p> <p>18 Callahan in charge of the weather for January.</p> <p>19 I'm telling you right now.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you.</p> <p>21 MR. SETTER: So the rates, when I go and</p>

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<p>1 look at rates, I look at the rates at River                  2 Marsh for the new year, I look at the rates at                  3 Queenstown, our two competitors. And we like                  4 to make sure that we fit in underneath those                  5 two competitors.                  6 So looking at just the basic \$100 increase                  7 across the board for the annual membership                  8 fees, and then only raising two rates in the                  9 daily fees, \$5 additional on the weekend in the                  10 mornings and \$5 additional midday in the                  11 mornings.                  12 I think the rest of the rates position us                  13 right where we need to be.                  14 As most of you know, four years ago when I                  15 started, we were woefully underselling the golf                  16 course. And that's why we were struggling                  17 financially. And now we've got those back up                  18 where they need to be, and I think we're                  19 positioned in the marketplace for another great                  20 year.                  21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Rich, like you said,</p>	<p>1 They've got some great selection in there.                  2 MR. CALLAHAN: I would agree. And the new                  3 logo and all that stuff.                  4 How is the new logo? Is it selling pretty                  5 good?                  6 MR. SETTER: It sells great to the men. I                  7 think the ladies find it a little intimidating.                  8 MR. CALLAHAN: Do they? I got you.                  9 MR. SETTER: But the men love it.                  10 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, that's good. Good                  11 job out there.                  12 MR. PACK: I will promise you this year I                  13 will be out there to play the executive course                  14 a couple of times this year.                  15 MR. SETTER: I'm going to hold you to it.                  16 Two or three years in a row you've made this                  17 promise.                  18 MR. PACK: I know. I've been saying I'm                  19 going to get out there, I'm going to get out                  20 there. I think if not now, never. So I'll                  21 make it out there.</p>
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<p>1 you've been on there for four years. And we                  2 can't thank you enough for all that hard work                  3 bringing us up to par on all those fees and                  4 everything. And you and your team out there                  5 are doing a spectacular job. That's for sure.                  6 MR. SETTER: Thank you, sir.                  7 MR. DIVILIO: You just said on par,                  8 bringing the rates up on par. That's awesome.                  9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Exactly, exactly.                  10 MR. SETTER: He's a wordsmith.                  11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, exactly.                  12 Anybody else? Anybody else want to                  13 (inaudible) golf club?                  14 MR. DIVILIO: While we're just on here                  15 real quick, I'd like to say, Rich, you've done                  16 a fantastic job with the selection in the pro                  17 shop, from golf balls to shirts to everything.                  18 If anybody in the community is looking for                  19 any golf goods, I would highly recommend going                  20 out there first as opposed to any big box                  21 stores. Support your local golf course.</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good. All right.                  2 Do I have a motion?                  3 MR. DIVILIO: Yes. I'll make a motion                  4 that we accept the new rates.                  5 MR. CALLAHAN: Do I have a second?                  6 MS. PRICE: Second.                  7 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and a                  8 second, Madam Secretary, to go up a little bit                  9 on the rates at the golf course. Can you call                  10 the roll, please.                  11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.                  12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.                  13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.                  14 MR. DIVILIO: 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: Just to wrap up the county</p>

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1 manager report, I just want to take a moment to  
 2 recognize and thank the Council for your  
 3 leadership.  
 4 You wrestle with some difficult things day  
 5 in and day out. But when you see Mary Kay, you  
 6 see Marilyn Neal, you see Cassandra, the public  
 7 just needs to be reminded that under your  
 8 leadership for the last two years, staff,  
 9 organizations, and community have come together  
 10 and are still working to wrestle with serious  
 11 issues related to individuals' ability to,  
 12 frankly, survive.  
 13 Our EMS workers are on the front line,  
 14 health care workers. And we've been working  
 15 hard to coordinate relief.  
 16 And I just want to recognize the Council  
 17 for your leadership, as well as all the  
 18 organizations in our community because it's  
 19 something truly to be proud of in our  
 20 community. And I think sometimes it's easy to  
 21 kind of forget that, and I just wanted to

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1 remind the community that there's a lot of  
 2 passionate people out there that are working  
 3 really hard for a great community that we have.  
 4 In closing, Mr. Council President, Members  
 5 of Council, the county offices will be closed  
 6 on Monday, the 21st of 2022, for Presidents  
 7 Day.  
 8 And this concludes the county manager  
 9 report. Thank you.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Great job, Mr. Stamp. Well  
 11 said. And I would agree with you  
 12 wholeheartedly that with our team around us and  
 13 staff and all the great people that help the  
 14 community and the Council, doing a fantastic  
 15 job. Okay.  
 16 Let's move on to public comment.  
 17 Mr. Durham, do we have anybody online?  
 18 MR. DURHAM: We do not.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's move on to  
 20 Council comment. Start off with Mr. Pack.  
 21 MR. PACK: Very good. Thank you very

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1 much, Mr. Callahan.  
 2 I just want to keep on urging citizens to  
 3 continue getting your COVID test and your  
 4 vaccination.  
 5 I went out to the Cadmus building today.  
 6 I want to thank the State, our National Guard  
 7 for manning that station. I was in and out in  
 8 a matter of five minutes.  
 9 So you may have been tested once before.  
 10 We know we just came through or we're just  
 11 trying to get through this flu season. And as  
 12 we go into the spring and you start making your  
 13 vacation plans, please, sir, please, Madam, go  
 14 in and get yourself tested. Let's all keep  
 15 each other safe.  
 16 So I want to stress that and thank, again,  
 17 the National Guard for manning that station at  
 18 Cadmus.  
 19 And I want to also continue encouraging  
 20 people to go over and get yourself vaccinated.  
 21 Dr. Maguire and her team over at the former

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1 video store here in town. It used to be the  
 2 Hearthstone Gymnasium, gym. Have set up that  
 3 shop for vaccinations.  
 4 And so again, they're very efficient. Get  
 5 you in and get you out in a matter of minutes.  
 6 So these things are all free. Don't cost  
 7 you but a couple of moments of your time. If  
 8 you know your name, your address, your date of  
 9 birth, you're good to go.  
 10 So I just want to end on that note, just  
 11 encouraging people to continue getting yourself  
 12 vaccinated and continue keeping yourself  
 13 tested.  
 14 As we're approaching this endemic  
 15 somewhere along the way, COVID is going to be  
 16 with us. It's going to be with us. It's a  
 17 fact of life, in my opinion. So let's take the  
 18 proper precautions and get ourself tested and  
 19 vaccinated.  
 20 And with that, I thank Council.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.

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1 Appreciate it.  
 2 Ms. Price.  
 3 MS. PRICE: That would be great. I just  
 4 wanted to say that a bill that is one of MACo's  
 5 initiatives, which is the emergency transport,  
 6 I had the opportunity to testify on the Senate  
 7 side today. I did the House side a few weeks  
 8 ago.  
 9 And it just went really well. We just  
 10 weren't sure about putting this on our  
 11 initiative (inaudible) that it wouldn't pass.  
 12 And again, I have no idea if it's going to  
 13 pass. But based on the questions and seemed to  
 14 be the mood of the committee, the testimony  
 15 went really well. The follow-up questions  
 16 were -- seemed to be supportive. And there  
 17 weren't actually a lot of follow-up questions.  
 18 There was no opposition.  
 19 So fingers crossed. This would be really,  
 20 really huge to get this -- transport. I had  
 21 the opportunity to -- now I'm getting. So

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1 (inaudible). Wonderful.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Ms. Price, no  
 3 problem. You're still talking.  
 4 MR. PACK: She has her mike open. She  
 5 needs to turn her mike off.  
 6 (Technical difficulty.)  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Mr. Divilio,  
 8 you're on.  
 9 MR. DIVILIO: For fear of that happening  
 10 to me, I'm good for tonight. Thank you.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Vice President,  
 12 how you doing tonight?  
 13 MR. LESHER: Very well. I just wanted to  
 14 provide a brief update on the American Recovery  
 15 Plan Act, the ARPA funds that the county has  
 16 received the first tranche of. This is  
 17 \$7.2 million in relief funding COVID related,  
 18 very flexible funding, and to get direction for  
 19 this.  
 20 In December and January, we put out a  
 21 public survey. We got an enormous response to

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1 the public survey in prioritizing these funds,  
 2 over 600 responses. If I remember correctly,  
 3 648.  
 4 That data has been compiled by one of  
 5 those partners that Cassandra was talking about  
 6 early, the Beacon group down in Salisbury.  
 7 That has been taken to our staff committee that  
 8 I'm working with.  
 9 We will bring that forward to the Council  
 10 with recommendations supported by that public  
 11 feedback for the allocation of those funds.  
 12 And that will be coming up on an upcoming  
 13 agenda.  
 14 Moreover, all of the survey results will  
 15 be made public as well. So all of that in the  
 16 interest of transparency and updating you on  
 17 what we're doing. We're making good progress  
 18 on that and we will be bringing forth  
 19 recommendations to the full Council shortly.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Vice  
 21 President. Appreciate it.

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1 And I'll sum it up by saying that last  
 2 couple of nights, Council has worked really  
 3 hard. We had a meeting last night with the  
 4 Town of Trappe and the public. It went very,  
 5 very well. I want to commend Council on doing  
 6 a good job. And I appreciate it.  
 7 And tonight, just like Mr. Stamp said, we  
 8 have a lot of great people that are helping a  
 9 lot of great people in the public and being  
 10 able to keep their homes, nurture their kids,  
 11 provide housing. So this Council is doing some  
 12 good work, and I appreciate everything.  
 13 And Ms. Price, I appreciate -- you had a  
 14 great article in the paper Sunday. You're  
 15 doing a good job up there for us.  
 16 And on that note, Mr. Vice President, can  
 17 you wrap it up for us?  
 18 MR. LESHER: County Council's next meeting  
 19 will be held on Tuesday, February 22nd,  
 20 beginning at six o'clock. The Council will be  
 21 convening in open session at three o'clock p.m.

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1 for a work session with the Planning and Zoning  
 2 Commission regarding a large scale solar array  
 3 project and then adjourning into closed session  
 4 to discuss real estate, legal, and personnel  
 5 matters, as listed on the statement for closing  
 6 that meeting.  
 7 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn  
 8 this meeting and reconvene as noted?  
 9 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Do I have a second?  
 11 Motion and second. Madam Secretary, can  
 12 you close the meeting, please.  
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.  
 16 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.  
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 18 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: I think she's off her phone  
 21 now.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.  
 2 MR. PACK: Aye.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Council.  
 4 (Meeting concluded at: 7:35 p.m.)  
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1 STATE OF MARYLAND  
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and  
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of 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 20th  
 day of January, 2022, via Zoom.  
  
 Diane Houlihan  
 Notary Public  
 My commission expires September 16, 2025

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