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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

June 10, 2025; 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I want to go ahead and get started. I want to welcome everybody tonight.

So if you don't mind standing, we're going to do the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.

(Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. First on the agenda, we've got the agenda before us. And is there any additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda, Council? Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves that the agenda be accepted as unanimous consent.

Next is the minutes of May 6th. We've had a chance to take a look at the minutes. Is there any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes, Council? Okay. Hearing none, that the minutes be moved, be accepted as unanimous consent.

1 Next is the disbursements of June 3rd and
2 June 10th. We've had a chance to take a look
3 at them? Is there any additions, deletions, or
4 corrections to the disbursements? Okay. All
5 right. Hearing none, the chair moves that the
6 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.
7 All right.

8 First on the agenda is the School Board.
9 The School Board want to come on up, and we're
10 going to do some transfers. Sarah, welcome.

11 MS. JONES: Thank you. Good afternoon.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Good afternoon.

13 DR. PEPUKAYI: Good afternoon.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.

15 MS. S. JONES: So we come before you with
16 a request for some budget transfers.

17 Are there slides that go with this?

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Sarah, could you kind of
19 announce who you are?

20 MS. S. JONES: Of course. My name is
21 Sarah Jones. I'm the CFO for Talbot County

1 Public Schools.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

3 DR. PEPUKAYI: And I'm Dr. Sharon
4 Pepukayi, superintendent of Talbot County
5 Public Schools.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go. Thank you.

7 SECRETARY: You can just the mouse.

8 MS. S. JONES: Okay.

9 SECRETARY: Left click it should be.

10 MS. JONES: Well, okay. Here we go.

11 Okay.

12 So last week we sent over a request to the
13 Council.

14 Typically at this time of year as we're
15 working through our next year's budget and
16 we're looking for ways in which we can make
17 that balance, we identify some things we would
18 like to get prepaid with current year funds.
19 And in order to do that, we would need to make
20 some shifts in our FY25 budget.

21 Specifically, we had some savings in three

1 categories we'd like to use. The largest of
2 those savings is in instructional salaries,
3 which we'll touch on in a minute. We also had
4 about \$40,000 in materials of instruction. So
5 a small percentage of that budget. And about
6 \$500,000 from special education, as well as
7 \$100,000 from pupil personnel services and
8 \$50,000 for transportation. So we're kind of
9 cobbling together savings from a few different
10 departments to try and help us meet some needs
11 primarily for FY26, which we'll go into in a
12 minute.

13 So these are the requested pluses and
14 minuses by category. They net to zero. So
15 we're not asking for any additional spending.
16 We just are asking to shuffle our current
17 budget.

18 So the savings in instructional salaries
19 came from vacancies. We're going to talk about
20 that in a minute. Basically, our savings from
21 vacancies this year are less than they've been

1 in prior years. And that was both from some
2 conservative budgeting and also some tactics or
3 some strategies we've been using to try and
4 retain and recruit more into our school system.

5 DR. PEPUKAYI: Yeah. And I just want to
6 speak to that. And I know some of you have
7 been a part of our strategic plan, which
8 strategy number two is all about retaining and
9 recruiting staff here at TCPS.

10 What we've done, we've hosted our own
11 career fair, which is the first time that we've
12 done that. We usually go to others, which we
13 still do. But we said we wanted to try and
14 host our own.

15 We also attend UMES, University of
16 Maryland Eastern Shore, Towson, Salisbury,
17 Middletown, Chesapeake College, and Bowie.
18 We've had over 50 candidates from these visits.

19 One thing, and we have partnered with the
20 Green's Ventures, LLC, which is preferred
21 housing. What we're finding is, and we're

1 still working on the challenge of the housing
2 aspect, when we're recruiting from different
3 states, different areas, having our new
4 teachers being able to afford the housing. So
5 that's a challenge that we're still getting
6 ideas from different people.

7 We are still working with our grow your
8 own program. We do our welcome cards for our
9 new hires. We've contacted other realtors.
10 And we have been reaching out to get ideas on
11 how we can partner to work with the housing
12 aspect of that.

13 We've presented at the new teachers
14 meetings and we post on social media outlets.

15 So it was important enough for us to make
16 this a priority in our strategic plan. And
17 we'll start to keep the metrics once we close
18 up our strategic plan and start measuring what
19 we're seeing so we can tackle the challenges
20 that we're hearing that comes along with that.

21 MS. S. JONES: And another thing we've

1 been continuing is those new teacher mentors
2 that you funded for us this year or last year,
3 this year. Those have been really instrumental
4 in helping us keep some of our newer teachers.
5 And they mention that as a big, the support
6 they get, as being a big reason they're staying
7 in Talbot County.

8 So I guess we say all that to say we hope
9 for that number to be lower next year.

10 And the other thing we did for the FY26
11 budget to help ensure that that number is
12 lower, the savings from salaries, if we did
13 factor in about an \$800,000 now savings from
14 vacancies. So in other words, we've sort of
15 deflated what we estimate our salary budget to
16 be in recognition that there will be some
17 vacancies. So just wanted to kind of put that
18 out there because that is a bigger number.

19 In terms of materials of instruction, we
20 had some savings. Mainly we had only about a
21 year's worth of information when we budgeted

1 for dual enrollment textbooks for this current
2 year. And so our experience now tells us that
3 we don't need that much. And that's reflected
4 in our FY26 budget as well, that not as high a
5 number for those dual enrollment textbooks.

6 We have some needs in other instructional
7 costs. And that is to buy devices for our
8 students for next year and to pay for some
9 software cost in that category.

10 Then in special education, we had about a
11 half million dollars worth of savings. And
12 that is strictly from -- I've come before the
13 Council before and talked about non-public
14 tuition. So that's where we send students
15 whose needs we can't meet in Talbot County
16 Schools to specialized special education
17 schools.

18 And that is a hard number to predict. And
19 so it turned out that this year, just the
20 makeup of the number of students and the needs
21 of those students was less than we had budgeted

1 for. So we had some savings there.

2 Student services. Another hard number to
3 predict. We are billed every year for what's
4 called kinship care. So when we have students
5 that are technically Talbot County residents
6 that go to live with a family member in another
7 jurisdiction, we are responsible to pay for
8 their education cost. Really hard to know what
9 that number is going to be every year. We had
10 some savings there. Came in underbudget.

11 And finally, in transportation we had some
12 savings. And that had to do with dual
13 enrollment transportation. We had, again,
14 budgeted for that. Didn't have a lot of
15 experience when we set the budget for '25.
16 Found out we just didn't need that money. Like
17 we weren't making the extra bus runs. So we've
18 cut that out, and we've cut it out of our FY26
19 budget as well.

20 The three main areas we need some
21 additional funding is under operation of plant.

1 And the majority of that is to prepay FY26
2 costs. So we'd like to be able to do that in
3 the next few weeks. We also, and that's really
4 what all that is. Supplies, some contracted
5 services, some repairs, and things like that.

6 In maintenance of plant, we need \$290,000.
7 A little bit of that is some overages that we
8 expect will hit the books by the end of the
9 year. We had a big expensive boiler repair at
10 Easton High School and a few other unexpected
11 projects. We have some HVAC repairs,
12 replacements that we would like to do. And so
13 we would like to contract for that before the
14 end of the year. And then also prepay for some
15 things before the end of this year for next
16 year.

17 And then finally in fixed charges, we
18 would like to get a jump start on our FY26
19 fixed charges cost. So we'd like to get some
20 additional budget in that category.

21 Does anyone have any questions on this

1 slide before I move on? Okay.

2 So this is really projecting -- let me
3 see. I don't have a mouse. This is where we
4 currently are with all of those projected costs
5 included in this column. So they haven't all
6 been incurred. But if we were to incur all of
7 what we'd like to do, it would leave us with
8 these gaps where we're seeing the negatives,
9 these four categories. And that's why we're
10 asking for the budget transfers.

11 And this is what the transfers, if we had
12 the transfers, we would end up, this is where
13 we would end up. We would end up to the
14 positive in all of our categories.

15 You'll notice we are underbudget,
16 projecting to be underbudget in revenue for the
17 year by about \$440,000. That also ties back to
18 that non-public tuition. We put our students
19 in special education schools. We get a portion
20 of that back as reimbursement from the State.
21 So since we didn't expend all the money, we

1 won't get the reimbursement back.

2 So overall, we expect to come in with
3 about \$180,000 savings for the year, which is
4 like 2/100ths of a percent of our budget or
5 something like that. So it's pretty close to
6 our budget.

7 So that is my summary.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good. Okay.

9 Any discussion, Council? Any discussion?
10 Mr. Leshner.

11 MR. LESHNER: You ready for a motion?

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

13 MR. LESHNER: Without any discussion here,
14 I think that's all pretty clear. And thank you
15 for that.

16 And thank you also for getting this
17 squared away at this time of year. It's nice
18 to be able to do this before we're up against
19 the June 30th deadline. Or in some years,
20 we've even done some of these things after the
21 fact. I really appreciate that you've got

1 everything lined up and with your projections
2 in place for this.

3 So with that, I will move approval of the
4 categorial budget transfers requested by Talbot
5 County Public Schools.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a second?

7 MR. STEPP: I'll go ahead and second.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
9 second it to approve the transfers. Madam
10 Secretary, could you call the vote.

11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

13 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

14 MR. STEPP: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

16 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

18 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

20 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

1 MS. S. JONES: Thank you so much.

2 DR. PEPUKAYI: Thank you.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job. Thank
4 you.

5 Okay. Next on the agenda, Madam
6 Secretary, is introduction of administrative
7 resolution. Go ahead and read that, please.

8 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution
9 regarding the diversity, equity, and inclusion
10 statement adopted by the County Council of
11 Talbot County, Maryland, on September 22, 2020,
12 and diversity training for employees of Talbot
13 County, Maryland.

14 Whereas, on June 23, 2020, the Talbot
15 County, Maryland, the County Council, adopted
16 an administrative resolution requiring the
17 county manager to provide an annual report
18 describing diversity training initiatives,
19 diversity training, for employees of Talbot
20 County, Maryland, the county, in the prior
21 fiscal year and identifying new opportunities

1 for diversity training in the following fiscal
2 year, the June 23rd administrative resolution.

3 And whereas, on July 14, 2020, the County
4 Council adopted an administrative resolution
5 requiring the development of a diversity
6 statement for the county, applicable to the
7 county government, the July 14th administrative
8 resolution.

9 And whereas, in accordance with the
10 July 14th administrative resolution, on
11 September 22, 2020, the County Council adopted
12 by motion a diversity, equity, and inclusion
13 statement, the objective of which is stated
14 therein as follows:

15 By adopting this diversity, equity, and
16 inclusion statement, the county strives to
17 foster an environment that welcomes and accepts
18 diversity within county government.

19 The county is committed to, one,
20 maintaining an inclusive, productive,
21 supportive, open, innovative, and equitable

1 workplace environment in which every individual
2 is valued for his or her unique
3 characteristics.

4 Two, fostering respect, understanding, and
5 acceptance of differences.

6 And three, enabling employees to reach
7 their full potential, thus enhancing the
8 relationships among ourselves and optimizing
9 the quality of services to our residents and
10 our fellow employees, the DEI statement.

11 And whereas, following the County
12 Council's adoption of the June 23rd
13 administrative resolution, the county manager
14 has provided annual reports to the County
15 Council regarding diversity training.

16 And whereas, on March 26, 2024, the County
17 Council adopted an administrative resolution
18 adopting the 2024 employee handbook for Talbot
19 County, Maryland, the employee handbook, which
20 contains provisions setting forth the county's
21 commitments to equal employment opportunity,

1 EEO, and Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA,
2 and zero tolerance for harassment of any kind
3 whatsoever, including workplace harassment,
4 sexual harassment, and other types of workplace
5 harassment, such as bullying, intimidation,
6 threats, and violence.

7 And whereas, in accordance with the
8 foregoing policies and requirements of
9 applicable law, including, but not limited to,
10 the equal protection clause of the United
11 States Constitution, the county is a
12 merit-based employer where employees and
13 prospective employees enjoy equal opportunity
14 in all employment decisions without regard to
15 race, creed, sex, national origin, disability,
16 or other protected characteristics, and the
17 county does not discriminate based on such
18 protected characteristics.

19 And whereas, it is the intent and desire
20 of the County Council and county administration
21 that every employee and prospective employee

1 enjoys a welcoming workplace where all
2 individuals are treated with dignity and
3 respect.

4 And whereas, the county relies heavily on
5 financial assistance from the federal
6 government in various projects, including, but
7 not limited to, the pending airfield
8 modernization program for the Easton Airport,
9 the program, and the county would not be able
10 to fund such projects without such assistance.

11 And whereas, on April 24, 2025, the United
12 States secretary of transportation sent a
13 letter to all recipients of US Department of
14 Transportation DOT funding, including the
15 county, stating, in pertinent part, that any
16 policy, program, or activity that is premised
17 on a prohibited classification, including
18 discriminatory policies or practices, is
19 designed to achieve diversity, equity, and
20 inclusion, or DEI, goals presumptively violates
21 federal law and that recipients of DOT

1 financial assistance must ensure that the
2 personnel practices, including hiring,
3 promotions, and terminations, within their
4 organizations are merit based and do not
5 discriminate based on prohibited categories.

6 And whereas, the County Council does not
7 wish to jeopardize the county's ability to
8 receive critical federal funding, including DOT
9 funding for the program.

10 And whereas, the county employee handbook
11 sets forth the intent and desire of the County
12 Council and county administration that every
13 county employee and prospective employee enjoys
14 a welcoming workplace where all individuals are
15 treated with dignity and respect, consistent
16 with applicable laws and regulations and the
17 county's commitments to EEO, ADA, and zero
18 tolerance for harassment of any kind
19 whatsoever.

20 And whereas, notwithstanding the June 23rd
21 administrative resolution, the county

1 administration provides training to all
2 employees regarding compliance with all
3 applicable laws and regulations, consistent
4 with the county's commitments to EEO, ADA, and
5 zero tolerance for harassment of any kind
6 whatsoever.

7 And whereas, in consideration of the
8 foregoing, the County Council deems it
9 appropriate to adopt this administrative
10 resolution, such that the June 23rd
11 administrative resolution, the July 14th
12 administrative resolution, and the DEI
13 statement are of no further force and effect.

14 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the
15 County Council of Talbot County that, one, the
16 foregoing recitals are not merely prefatory but
17 are a substantive part of this administrative
18 resolution.

19 Effective immediately, the June 23rd
20 administrative resolution, the July 14th
21 administrative resolution, and the DEI

1 statement are of no further force and effect.

2 Three, effective immediately, the county
3 manager shall not be required to provide an
4 annual report to the County Council describing
5 diversity training initiatives for county
6 employees but shall continue to inform the
7 County Council regarding training afforded to
8 county employees regarding compliance with all
9 applicable laws and regulations.

10 Four, nothing in this administrative
11 resolution shall be construed as a repudiation
12 of the intent and desire of the County Council
13 and county administration that every county
14 employee and prospective employee enjoy a
15 welcoming workplace where all individuals are
16 treated with dignity and respect without regard
17 to race, creed, sex, national origin,
18 disability, or other protected characteristics,
19 or as a prohibition or limitation on the county
20 administration's authority to provide training
21 to all county employees regarding compliance

1 with all applicable laws and regulations.

2 Be it further resolved that this
3 administrative resolution shall take effect
4 immediately upon adoption.

5 Introduced by the County Council of Talbot
6 County, Maryland, at a regular meeting on
7 June 10, 2025, at which meeting copies were
8 available to the public for inspection.

9 Adopted by the County Council of Talbot
10 County, Maryland, at a regular meeting on
11 June 10, 2025, at which meeting copies were
12 available to the public for inspection.

13 Given under our hands in the great seal of
14 Talbot County this 10th day of June in the year
15 of our Lord, 2025.

16 MS. MIELKE: Okay. Good job, Madam
17 Secretary. That was good, that was good. All
18 right. Okay.

19 Council discussion. Mr. Stepp.

20 MR. STEPP: Yeah. I've got something I'd
21 like to read out. Thank you, Mr. President.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

2 MR. STEPP: I'll try to keep this brief,
3 but in the spirit of transparency, I need to
4 say a few words here.

5 As many of you know, I've led the charge
6 on sponsoring this fiscally-responsible
7 legislation several months ago and also here
8 today.

9 I forewarned this Council and our
10 residents about these ramifications months ago,
11 but Council fell short on repealing these two
12 resolutions, leaving Talbot County in a very
13 risky and vulnerable position.

14 Some recent history. The letter Talbot
15 County received from the Department of
16 Transportation dated April 24, 2025, is indeed
17 a public letter and can easily be found online
18 by anyone wishing to read it by Googling
19 Department of Transportation follow law letter.
20 It will indeed be the first thing that pops up.

21 Contained in that four-page letter is

1 verbiage that clearly defines the Constitution,
2 law, and binding Supreme Court precedence set
3 around that law, most of which I've already
4 clearly articulated in my past comments when I
5 presented to this Council and our residents
6 months ago.

7 We now find ourselves in a position today
8 where Talbot County has been called to the
9 carpet. \$46.8 million worth of
10 federally-funded airport modernization dollars
11 are at imminent risk, not only in the form of
12 current and future funding, but also in the
13 form of clawbacks funds that have already been
14 spent. If we do not repeal these two 2020
15 resolutions by passing today's resolution, our
16 airport cannot pursue their next round of
17 funding, as doing so would only exacerbate the
18 extreme financial, legal, and economic risk
19 that Talbot County is already in.

20 If I'm being completely honest, I have to
21 share that this is very frustrating that we

1 even need to be discussing this again here
2 today. It should have been dealt with months
3 ago.

4 This matter has been highly politicized
5 and turned into something that it simply is
6 not.

7 To be clear yet again, today's action is
8 fiscal in nature and such legislation shouldn't
9 be met with politicization, hate, judgment, and
10 mistreatment that I know I personally endured
11 the first go-round from members of our
12 community. And as of today, it's bubbling up
13 yet again from some members of our community
14 who either don't understand what this is or
15 simply don't care about the financial wellbeing
16 of others in the same community.

17 The irony behind those who can treat
18 others like that and then in the same breath
19 claim to support diversity, equity, and
20 inclusion is beyond belief.

21 Moving forward, it's time we all face

1 reality and begin to act and operate within the
2 law. Every Talbot County citizen has their
3 rights and freedoms under actual law. Two
4 Talbot County resolutions do not increase your
5 rights and freedoms under the law. They only
6 hurt your wallets.

7 It's time that we keep this fiscal, take
8 action, act civil, and just treat others
9 respectfully. Folks, disagreement and
10 disrespect are two different things. Don't
11 conflate the two.

12 In closing, I'd like to end by thanking
13 Councilman Leshner for working through the final
14 draft of this resolution with me. And I urge
15 all Council to join me in a yes vote today to
16 repeal these two resolutions so we can move on
17 to other pressing county matters on behalf of
18 our citizens.

19 Back to you, Mr. President.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,
21 Mr. Stepp.

1 Mr. Leshner.

2 MR. LESHER: Well, this is a difficult
3 issue for me. And I am going to disappoint
4 some and surprise others in this room and
5 outside.

6 The challenge here is that we have a
7 vindictive and maleficent federal
8 administration that is seeking to root out DEI
9 policies on the erroneous presumption that they
10 are discriminatory in a reverse sense.

11 Of course, the county has no such
12 discriminatory policy and we fully comply with
13 all federal and State civil rights.

14 The risk is that some incompetent
15 political appointee will read only the title of
16 our statement, misconstrue it as an illegal
17 policy, and deny a federal grant on that basis.

18 In an event like that, even if we win on
19 appeal, it could leave us in a state of
20 construction limbo for an unacceptably long
21 time.

1 We simply need to ensure that we are using
2 none of the language that could trigger some
3 snowflake in Washington.

4 Is this self censorship, yes. Is it
5 distasteful, yes. But does it change one
6 letter of county employment policy, absolutely
7 not. With or without this statement, we will
8 continue to seek, to attract, and retain a
9 diverse workforce, treat them equitably in
10 hiring, promotion, training, and all other
11 employment matters, and ensure that they
12 continue to feel welcome, respected, and
13 included.

14 I would like to request from the dais that
15 staff draft a replacement welcoming statement
16 for the employee handbook that will set the
17 tone for an expectation of respect and fairness
18 in all of our employment practices.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,
20 Mr. Leshner.

21 Any other discussion? Yup.

1 MS. MIELKE: I'd like to concur with
2 Councilman Leshner.

3 I never read these two prior resolutions
4 as being within the meaning of what everybody
5 considers to be the DEI policies.

6 I think our government always had been a
7 merit-based operation.

8 My hesitation is that by enacting this,
9 are we admitting that that's what it said,
10 because I would object to that. But taking the
11 bigger picture, I have to concur with
12 Mr. Leshner.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

14 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. I just have a question
15 for Mr. Thomas at this time.

16 And I want to thank Ms. Wicoxin at the
17 last meeting. She asked if we had an opinion
18 letter, and she was 100 percent on target with
19 that. So thank you for that. We do now have
20 an opinion letter.

21 My question is in the letter, you

1 reference that the US Department of
2 Transportation FY2025 airport infrastructure
3 grant agreement requires the applicants to
4 certify that it does not operate any programs
5 promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion
6 initiatives. And you go on with that.

7 So in our packet, as you reference this in
8 your opinion letter, I don't have a copy of
9 that grant agreement. So do we have something
10 that specifies that this grant agreement, that
11 there is a box that has to be checked for DEI
12 is my question?

13 MR. THOMAS: Yes. That is in the
14 application that Mr. Risher provided. That was
15 actually what, that and the letter from the
16 secretary of transportation is what prompted
17 this discussion.

18 MS. HAYTHE: So I don't have that. Did
19 any other Council member get a copy of that
20 grant agreement? Because I didn't have that in
21 my packet. I had the letter, but I do not have

1 any grant agreement as referenced in your
2 opinion letter.

3 MR. STAMP: So we can get that for
4 Council. It's in the grant application, the
5 details of the grant application with the
6 airport. We can get that for you.

7 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. I just wanted to know
8 where that was because I didn't see a copy of
9 it.

10 And then also, you stated in your opinion
11 letter that you do not believe the DEI
12 statement is discriminatory, nor do you believe
13 that the US Supreme Court opinion basically has
14 merit in that.

15 Is that still your opinion and what you
16 believe in reference to this?

17 MR. THOMAS: I do not believe that the
18 statement is discriminatory and I do not
19 believe that the Supreme Court opinion
20 referenced in the secretary of transportation's
21 letter applies to that statement because, as

1 Ms. Mielke just said, the county has been a
2 merit-based employer and nothing in that
3 statement has anything to do with that.

4 But nonetheless, it's called what it's
5 called. And I'll leave it at that.

6 MS. HAYTHE: And then last question.
7 Thank you for that.

8 Does the airport specifically have any
9 programs that promote DEI or are we just
10 focusing on the DEI statement?

11 MR. STAMP: The airport does not. It
12 applies -- it's part of the county's rules and
13 regulations.

14 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. But the airport
15 specifically?

16 MR. STAMP: No.

17 MS. HAYTHE: Mr. Stamp, does not have DEI
18 policies or initiatives or programs?

19 MR. STAMP: It does not.

20 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you. That's all I
21 have, Mr. President.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.

2 Well, I really appreciate Dave and Pete
3 working on -- you worked several weeks on
4 trying to get this to the finish line and
5 you've done a great job trying to get there.

6 I know it's been tough on Council. I know
7 we all have our own beliefs one way or the
8 other with the DEI stuff, but at this time, I
9 think we've made the right decision and the
10 right statement.

11 So being that's said, Madam Secretary,
12 could you call the vote.

13 MR. LESHER: This hasn't been introduced.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, hasn't been introduced.
15 Okay.

16 We want to go ahead and introduce it, show
17 of hands. Okay.

18 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Callahan,
19 Stepp, Leshner, and Mielke.

20 SECRETARY: Call the vote?

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Call the vote.

1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

4 MR. STEPP: Aye.

5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

6 MR. LESHER: Aye.

7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

8 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

10 MS. HAYTHE: Nay.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam
12 Secretary.

13 Next on the agenda is introduction of
14 numbered resolutions.

15 SECRETARY: A resolution to amend the
16 Talbot County comprehensive water and sewer
17 plan to reclassify and remap certain real
18 property located on Kemp Road, Easton,
19 Maryland, shown on tax map 24 as parcel 41,
20 from unprogrammed to S-1, immediate priority
21 status, pursuant to an application filed by

1 Back Nine, LLC.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Ray, you want to
3 come on up?

4 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. Ray Clarke,
5 county engineer.

6 Council, just to let you know. This is an
7 application that's coming before you.

8 When we were doing the design of
9 Resolution 235, we attempted to go up on the,
10 let's say the east side of Kemp Road. And
11 unfortunately, we could not secure an easement
12 from that property owner. So we ended up going
13 up on the west side of Kemp Road to extend
14 sewer down to five lots that are on the water.

15 So one of the things we advised the
16 property owner of is that if they chose to come
17 in to the comp water and sewer plan, we would
18 support them in their application.

19 At that point in time, all this is I guess
20 is a resolution to amend the comp water and
21 sewer plan is only for one equivalent dwelling

1 unit.

2 They are what we would call WRC, which you
3 would be provided three upfront lots. However,
4 we would not be providing them those three
5 upfront lots. It would be for one equivalent
6 dwelling unit.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions?

8 MS. HAYTHE: Nope.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

10 MR. LESHER: Mr. Clarke, this is an
11 unimproved lot?

12 MR. CLARKE: This is.

13 MR. LESHER: And a fairly large one at
14 that. Currently its use is in agriculture?

15 MR. CLARKE: It is in agriculture. And if
16 I'm not mistaken, the area in question I
17 believe is only 16.993 acres. The total lot
18 size, if I'm not mistaken, is 43.58 acres.

19 So the area that's coming in is only the
20 16 acres, a little over 16 acres.

21 MR. LESHER: And so there's no septic on

1 this system (sic.)?

2 MR. CLARKE: There is nothing. So
3 anything --

4 MR. LESHER: Failing or otherwise?

5 MR. CLARKE: No. There is nothing.

6 MR. LESHER: How many, how many large
7 unimproved parcels of farmland are eligible
8 under our current comprehensive water and sewer
9 plan for sewer service?

10 MR. CLARKE: I would have to check that
11 out.

12 I would say we do have parcels that are,
13 you know, let's say greater than ten to
14 12 acres or let's say even up to 15 acres, but
15 I have to get that information for you.

16 MR. LESHER: So does anybody who has a lot
17 of any size in any zone whatsoever can request
18 for immediate sewer priority?

19 MR. CLARKE: Well, I would say under
20 Resolution 250, we did bring in some large
21 parcels for Resolution 250 when we were looking

1 at trying to create specific areas for sewer
2 service. So I can probably get you that
3 information.

4 I think this is one of those where when
5 the applicant or when we were looking to trying
6 to get sewer to that property owner, we were
7 trying to give an easement to go ahead and
8 extend the force main up Kemp Road to get to
9 those properties. So that was the reason we
10 were trying to work with that property owner to
11 support them in an application.

12 MR. LESHER: Interesting. I'll look
13 forward to the conversation at the Public Works
14 Advisory Board and --

15 MR. CLARKE: And Council --

16 MR. LESHER: -- Planning Commission.

17 MR. CLARKE: I will say before I was here,
18 the county did this on other parcels as well.

19 Basically, we had to put a pump station in
20 in Royal Oak. And there was a sewer granted to
21 a property owner for basically getting an

1 easement to put that pump station on their
2 property.

3 So I mean it has been done in the past.

4 MR. LESHER: But in a village zone?

5 MR. CLARKE: It was just outside, yes.

6 MS. HAYTHE: How many acres is this
7 property?

8 MR. CLARKE: The total acreage is
9 43 acres, 43.58 acres is the total.

10 The area that we have in the sewer service
11 area is 16, 16 acres, 16.993 acres.

12 MS. MIELKE: And the application states
13 that it's for only one EDU?

14 MR. CLARKE: That is right, only one EDU.

15 MR. LESHER: But once it's listed S-1, you
16 can increase that without Council review.

17 MS. MIELKE: They have to come back and do
18 that.

19 MR. LESHER: That's correct.

20 MR. CLARKE: I would say, Council, because
21 this is the county, we would not allow that to

1 happen. Because this is a resolution
2 identifying one EDU, we would basically come
3 back to the County Council if they were to
4 increase that to any additional EDUs for your
5 all's review.

6 MR. LESHER: That would be required under
7 code to gain an additional EDU?

8 MR. CLARKE: Yes. Because this would be
9 specific, this resolution is specific to that
10 parcel and to that one EDU.

11 So for the county, we would bring that --
12 if they were to try and say we want an
13 additional two lots or two EDUs, we would say
14 that this resolution did not provide you that,
15 it only provided one. You have to amend that.

16 We did that on Rest Circle where we had I
17 think it was two lots provided to McMiles, LLC.
18 And ultimately, we provided them with two EDUs.
19 They came back and I think had requested an
20 additional three to four EDUs, and we required
21 that that resolution be amended to include

1 those four additional, three to four EDUs.

2 MR. LESHHER: Thank you.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So this is for
4 introduction?

5 MR. LESHHER: This is for introduction.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup. Raise our hands.

7 MR. LESHHER: Introduced by Callahan and
8 Stepp.

9 MR. STEPP: And Mielke.

10 MS. HAYTHE: And Lynn.

11 MR. LESHHER: And Mielke.

12 MR. STAMP: And Keasha.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Keasha, did you raise your
14 hand?

15 MS. HAYTHE: No, I did not.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

17 SECRETARY: This will be known as
18 Resolution Number 378, and the public hearing
19 will be held on Tuesday, July 8th, at 5:30 p.m.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, guys.

21 Next.

1 SECRETARY: A resolution to amend the
2 Talbot County comprehensive water and sewer
3 plan to reclassify and remap certain real
4 property located at 8294 Bozman Neavitt Road,
5 St. Michaels, Maryland. Shown on tax map 31,
6 grid ten, as parcel 333, lot one. From
7 unprogrammed to S-1, immediate priority status,
8 pursuant to an application filed by Barbara
9 Portnoy Levine Spector.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Go ahead.

11 MR. CLARKE: Ray Clark, county engineer.

12 We received the application from this
13 property owner. Ultimately, they have an
14 improved lot. It is 4.378 acres.

15 At this point, we do have sewer in that
16 area as you come down I think it's Bozman
17 Neavitt Road. So it would be providing a
18 connection point on our force main that sits
19 between those two green areas.

20 So ultimately, it is feasible for them to
21 connect.

1 I would also point out that the zoning in
2 that area is RC. It's a one per 20 zoning. So
3 ultimately, we have Brennan here as well. But
4 there is no ability for them to subdivide.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions from
6 Council at this time? Okay.

7 Show of hands.

8 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

9 SECRETARY: This will be known as
10 Resolution Number 379. The public hearing will
11 be on Tuesday, July 8th, at 5:30 p.m.

12 A resolution to amend the Talbot County
13 comprehensive water and sewer plan to
14 reclassify and remap certain real property
15 located at 7874 Bozman Neavitt Road, Bozman,
16 Maryland. Shown on tax map 31 as parcel 21,
17 from unprogrammed to S-1, immediate priority
18 status, pursuant to an application filed by
19 Daniel Ball.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

21 MR. CLARKE: Again, Ray Clarke, county

1 engineer.

2 We did receive an application from this
3 property owner. They are on the edge of the
4 Resolution 235. I'm sorry. 250 sewer service
5 area along Bozman Neavitt Road. It is, this
6 lot is improved. And it is consisting of
7 4.087 acres. And it, too, is also RC, zoned
8 RC. So they would not have any subdivision
9 potential.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions on
11 this, Council? Okay.

12 Show of hands.

13 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

14 SECRETARY: This will be known as
15 Resolution Number 380. The public hearing will
16 be on Tuesday, July 8th, at 5:30 p.m.

17 A resolution to amend the Talbot County
18 comprehensive water and sewer plan to
19 reclassify and remap certain real property
20 located at 7930 Church Neck Road, St.
21 Michael's, Maryland. Shown on tax map 32, grid

1 13, as parcel 154, lot B, from unprogrammed to
2 S-1, immediate priority status, pursuant to an
3 application filed by Jill and Jon Olmstead.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

5 MR. CLARKE: Again, Council. We received
6 the application.

7 This actually was a septic system that was
8 I guess reviewed by Accurate Environmental. It
9 does have issues.

10 This is also an improved lot of roughly
11 four acres. And again, this is also an RC, a
12 resource conservation area, which is one per 20
13 zoning.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Questions?

15 MR. LESHER: I'm curious that this piece
16 of legislation didn't have an attached map.
17 There's a report that shows sort of a plat in
18 it, but it doesn't have the kind of map that
19 shows existing and if changed.

20 MR. CLARKE: We show something here I
21 think at the back end.

1 MR. LESHER: It does? Why am I missing
2 that in here?

3 MR. STEPP: Exhibit A. It's page four of
4 28.

5 MR. LESHER: Page four. I'm sorry. There
6 it is. I stand corrected.

7 MR. CLARKE: Okay.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other
9 discussion? Okay.

10 Show of hands. Okay.

11 MR. LESHER: So introduced by Council.

12 SECRETARY: This will be known as
13 Resolution 381. The public hearing will be on
14 Tuesday, July 8th, 5:30 p.m.

15 A resolution to amend the Talbot County
16 comprehensive water and sewer plan to
17 reclassify and remap certain real property
18 located at 6163 Long Point Road, Neavitt,
19 Maryland. Shown on tax map 39 as parcel 66,
20 lot 17. From unprogrammed to S-1, immediate
21 priority status, pursuant to an application

1 filed by William and Karen King.

2 MR. CLARKE: Again, Council. We did
3 receive an application for this. This lot
4 consists of 7.646 acres. It is also an
5 improved lot. It's also in the RC zoning.

6 At this point in time, we do not show or
7 have any reports indicating that the septic
8 system's failure.

9 We will go over and work with all of these
10 with Brennan Green to secure their support on
11 these parcels, basically noting that these are
12 high -- the ground water is high with poor
13 draining soils. And we have in the past looked
14 at this, and this is one of those lots, as well
15 as some of the others we just talked about,
16 where the Public Works Advisory Board was
17 looking at parcels that would kind of be
18 targeted to come into the sewer service area.

19 So we did do that, and that's something we
20 are working with MDE and the Maryland
21 Department of Planning on. And this was one of

1 the lots as well as the others we talked about.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion on
3 this one? Okay.

4 Show our hands.

5 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

6 SECRETARY: This will be known as
7 Resolution Number 382, and the public hearing
8 will be on Tuesday, July 8th, at 5:30 p.m.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds good.
10 All right.

11 MR. STEPP: Marathon time.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Here it comes.

13 MR. STEPP: Marathon time.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Lynn, you ready for this?

15 MS. MIELKE: Yeah, I'm ready.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Keasha, you ready? You
17 ready?

18 MS. HAYTHE: I'm ready.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Just to let
20 everybody know, we've got to go over a bunch of
21 bills. So it's going to be -- so Martha is

1 going to take the lead on this.

2 MS. HAYTHE: She got 30 seconds each one.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: She got --

4 MS. MIELKE: Speed read.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly. Lynn, keep her
6 straight. Okay.

7 Okay. Next is the introduction of
8 legislation. We got a lot of bills to go
9 through.

10 SECRETARY: You want me to read the title
11 first?

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, please.

13 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Bill Numbers
14 1549, 1479, and 1244 for the purpose of
15 amending the appropriation for the replacement
16 and improvement of roofs of buildings and
17 structures owned by Talbot County.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

19 MS. SPARKS: Before we go over our list of
20 bills, I want to do a quick summary of what
21 this process is for our citizens that are

1 listening.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

3 MS. SPARKS: So they can understand what
4 the capital enabling legislation is. I promise
5 it's quick.

6 On May 27, 2025, Council passed Bill 1585,
7 an act to establish the 2025-2026 annual budget
8 and appropriation ordinance per section 603 and
9 607 of the Talbot County Charter.

10 The budget consists of the current expense
11 budget, the capital budget, and the capital
12 program, which includes an itemized list of
13 capital projects which an agency proposes to
14 undertake in the ensuing fiscal year.

15 While the budget and funding sources of
16 these projects were reviewed during our budget
17 work sessions with Council and they were
18 approved by Council in the budget ordinance
19 Bill Number 1585, the county also creates
20 capital enabling legislation for each capital
21 improvement project per section 612 of the

1 Charter. And each bill is subject to the
2 referendum provisions of section 217 of the
3 Charter.

4 Budget oversight of these programs is
5 further monitored through the county's
6 procurement policy.

7 Now, in reference to the bill that our
8 secretary just read, bill for the replacement
9 and improvement of roofs of buildings and
10 structures owned by Talbot County, this amends
11 prior legislation by \$300,000. It expands
12 language of legislation to include work on
13 roofs for all county-owned facilities.

14 Additional funds, along with savings from
15 completed work, roof work, at the courthouse
16 will allow for the replacement of the roof on
17 the main area of the county courthouse, State's
18 Attorneys building, Roads Department, large
19 equipment shed, and Tower Building adjacent to
20 the Operations Center at 605 Court Street.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion? If

1 not, raise our hands. Okay.

2 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
3 Number 1586, and the public hearing will be
4 held on Tuesday, July 8th, at 5:30 p.m., as
5 will all the other bills, these bills, if
6 they're introduced this evening.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

8 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Bill Numbers
9 1558 and 1391 for the purpose of amending the
10 appropriation for the replacement and
11 improvement of HVAC systems at facilities owned
12 by Talbot County.

13 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This bill amends prior
14 authorization by \$200,000, adding additional
15 funds to cover the cost for finishing HVAC at
16 the courthouse and replacing the HVAC system at
17 Port Street for the Roads Department.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions?
19 Raise our hands.

20 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

21 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill

1 Number 1587.

2 A bill to authorize Americans with
3 Disabilities Act, ADA, improvements to
4 buildings and properties owned by Talbot
5 County.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

7 MS. SPARKS: This bill authorizes the
8 county to spend up to \$100,000 on county
9 facilities and infrastructure to ensure ADA
10 compliance.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion?
12 If not, raise our hands.

13 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

14 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
15 Number 1588.

16 A bill to authorize the replacement and
17 improvement of the Talbot County-owned building
18 and property located at 100 South Hanson Street
19 in Easton, Maryland.

20 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This bill authorizes
21 the county to spend up to \$100,000 on the

1 replacement, improvements, or demolition of the
2 building or property at the 100 South Hanson
3 Street address. This was the previous location
4 of the Talbot County Health Department.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion?

6 If not, raise our hands.

7 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

8 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
9 Number 1589.

10 A bill to amend Bill Numbers 1554 and 1427
11 for the purpose of amending the appropriation
12 for the construction of new recycling stations
13 in Talbot County.

14 MS. SPARKS: This bill amends prior
15 authorization by \$150,000. The funding
16 necessary for the development for a new station
17 next to the Perry Cabin Park adjacent to
18 Maryland Route 33.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion?

20 MR. STEPP: One comment with two words.
21 Well needed.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. I agree. Trying to
2 do the best we can to get that straight. Okay.
3 Raise our hands.

4 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

5 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
6 Number 1590.

7 A bill to amend Bill Numbers 1559, 1536,
8 and 1187 for the purpose of amending the
9 appropriation for extension of water and sewer
10 lines to the Talbot County Community Center and
11 proposed University of Maryland Shore Regional
12 Medical Center hospital site located between
13 Longwoods Road, Maryland Route 662, and US
14 Route 50 in Easton, Maryland.

15 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This bill amends prior
16 authorization by \$5 million. It provides the
17 additional funds needed to complete the
18 extension of water and sewer infrastructure to
19 the new hospital site.

20 In FY25, only half of the total estimated
21 cost was appropriated. So this is the

1 additional funding needed to address the
2 county's obligation to provide these utilities
3 to the new hospital site.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion on
5 that? Okay.

6 Raise our hands.

7 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

8 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
9 Number 1591.

10 A bill to amend Bill Numbers 1560, 1537,
11 1509, and 1484 for the purpose of amending the
12 appropriation for a capital project for the
13 construction of Emergency Medical Services
14 stations.

15 MS. SPARKS: This amends prior
16 authorization by \$650,000. These additional
17 funds accommodate the design and construction
18 of entrance and building safety requirements at
19 the north EMS station in Cordova, Maryland.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion on
21 the new EMS entrance? Okay.

1 That's a big deal for everybody in the
2 county. That's big.

3 So raise our hands for that.

4 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

5 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
6 Number 1592.

7 A bill to amend Bill Numbers 1563, 1542,
8 and 1505 for the purpose of amending the
9 appropriation for replacement and improvement
10 of 911 division technologies and the 911
11 division computer aided dispatch, CAD, system.

12 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This amends prior
13 authorization by \$1,325,323. 450,000 is being
14 added to the long-term borrowing to accommodate
15 the cost of the Motorola lease, which is the
16 radio system. And \$875,323 is to accommodate
17 the grant funding that was added to match the
18 funds obligated for the network equipment
19 through the American Rescue Plan Act grant and
20 funding from Maryland 911 Board for two
21 emergency generators.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion with
2 this one here? Okay.

3 Raise our hands.

4 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

5 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
6 Number 1593.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

8 SECRETARY: A bill to authorize the
9 replacement and improvement of the greens at
10 the Talbot County Hog Neck Golf Course.

11 MS. SPARKS: This authorizes the county to
12 spend up to \$320,000, and it provides
13 sufficient funding for the first year of a
14 two-year project. And it also allows for
15 resodding of the greens at Hog Neck Golf
16 Course.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Any discussion on that?

18 MS. HAYTHE: No.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: The only thing I was
20 thinking was that was in his budget; wasn't it?

21 MR. STAMP: Yes.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. Raise our
2 hands.

3 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

4 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
5 Number 1594.

6 A bill to authorize the replacement and
7 improvement of the cart paths and paved areas
8 at the Talbot County Hog Neck Golf Course.

9 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This authorizes the
10 county to spend up to \$500,000, providing
11 sufficient funding for the first year of a
12 three-year project. It allows for paving of
13 cart paths and improvements to paved areas at
14 the Hog Neck Golf Course.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion on
16 that?

17 I'm glad to see this bill. That's for
18 sure. It will be a lot of happy golfers.

19 So raise our hands.

20 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

21 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill

1 Number 1595.

2 A bill to amend Bill Number 1571 for the
3 purpose of amending the appropriation for
4 replacement of dehumidifiers at the Talbot
5 County Community Center.

6 MS. SPARKS: This amends the prior
7 authorization by adding \$880,000. This
8 authorizes the design, engineering, purchase,
9 replacement, and installation of dehumidifiers
10 at the Talbot County Community Center and
11 includes the replacement of the dehumidifier
12 for the main ice area.

13 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Any discussion on the
14 dehumidifier to the ice rink?

15 MR. STEPP: A lot of happy hockey families
16 (indiscernible).

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Exactly. It's all
18 good stuff. Okay.

19 Raise our hands.

20 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

21 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill

1 Number 1596.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

3 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Bill Numbers
4 1556 and 1533 for the purpose of amending the
5 appropriation for improvements to the Talbot
6 County Detention Center.

7 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This amends prior
8 authorization by \$350,000. The additional
9 funds will be used to cover increasing costs
10 related to HVAC system upgrades and the
11 conversion to digital electronic controls.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion on
13 that? Okay.

14 Raise our hands.

15 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

16 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
17 Number 1597.

18 A bill to amend Bill Numbers 1555, 1532,
19 and 1516 for the purpose of amending the
20 appropriation for improvements to and expansion
21 of the St. Michaels branch of the Talbot

1 County Free Library.

2 MS. SPARKS: This amends prior
3 authorization by allowing us to use \$332,450 in
4 development impact fees for revenue for this
5 project and replacement of local funds.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

7 MS. SPARKS: That were appropriated in a
8 prior fiscal year.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Any discussion?

10 MS. HAYTHE: No.

11 MR. LESHER: Just good to see that this
12 project moving along toward completion.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Exactly. Okay.
14 Raise our hands.

15 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

16 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
17 Number 1598.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

19 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Bill Numbers
20 1557, 1534, 1486, and 1424 for the purpose of
21 amending the appropriation to purchase improved

1 or unimproved real property for future county
2 purposes.

3 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This amends prior
4 authorization by \$2 million, with added funds
5 for the possibility of a storage facility and
6 site location.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions on
8 this one? Okay.

9 Raise our hands.

10 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

11 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
12 Number 1599.

13 A bill to amend Bill Numbers 1368 and 1343
14 for the purpose of amending the appropriation
15 for security enhancements to county facilities.

16 MS. SPARKS: This amends prior
17 authorization by adding \$190,000. These
18 additional funds will be for the installation
19 of access controls and video cameras for
20 security at county facilities.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions or

1 discussions on this one? Okay.

2 Raise our hands.

3 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

4 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
5 Number 1600.

6 A bill to amend Bill Number 1546 for the
7 purpose of amending the appropriation for a
8 feasibility study for and possible future
9 construction of a Talbot County Visitors
10 Center.

11 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This amends prior
12 authorization by \$500,000. It expands the
13 language of the legislation to allow for design
14 and construction costs as this project develops
15 in subsequent years. And the additional funds
16 for FY26 are anticipated for planning and
17 design costs, depending on the progress of the
18 project.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion?

20 Raise our hands.

21 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

1 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
2 Number 1601.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I just want to let
4 everybody know we're halfway there.

5 SECRETARY: A bill to authorize the
6 acquisition and/or construction of and
7 improvements to county storage facilities.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

9 MS. SPARKS: This authorizes the county to
10 spend up to \$300,000 in storage improvements
11 with the current intent of purchasing or
12 constructing an equipment shed in the county
13 Roads Department yard area.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions on
15 that?

16 Raise our hands.

17 MS. MIELKE: I should leave my hand up.

18 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

19 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
20 Number 1602.

21 A bill to amend Bill Numbers 1567, 1541,

1 1506 for the purpose of amending the
2 appropriation for improvements to county roads.

3 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This amends prior
4 authorization by \$1 million. It authorizes
5 surveying, drainage improvements, surface
6 upgrades, construction, and widening of county
7 roads.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okey-doke. Any questions
9 about roads?

10 Hearing none, raise our hands.

11 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

12 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
13 Number 1603.

14 A bill to amend Bill Numbers 1518, 1285,
15 and 1082 for the purpose of amending the
16 authorization for improvements to the Tunis
17 Mills Bridge.

18 MS. SPARKS: This amends prior
19 authorization by \$2,770,000, 2.4 million of
20 which is anticipated grant funding. This
21 authorizes engineering, design, construction,

1 acquisition, easements for improvements to be
2 made to the Tunis Mills Bridge and the area
3 approaching the bridge.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. This is definitely
5 something we're going to raise our hand.

6 MS. HAYTHE: Celebrate, right?

7 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

9 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
10 Number 1604.

11 A bill to amend Bill Numbers 1507, 1361,
12 1332, 1307, and 1267, for the purpose of
13 amending the appropriation for the mapping,
14 evaluation, and rehabilitation or replacement
15 of county culverts.

16 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This amends prior
17 authorization by \$300,000 and represents a
18 shift from grant funding to local funds. It
19 authorizes mapping, evaluation, and
20 rehabilitation or replacement of county
21 culverts.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions on
2 this one?

3 Raise our hands.

4 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

5 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
6 Number 1605.

7 A bill to amend Bill Number 1569 for the
8 purpose of amending the appropriation for the
9 construction of and improvements to the
10 concession stand at the Talbot County Community
11 Sports Complex.

12 MS. SPARKS: This amends prior
13 authorization with a decrease of \$191,000 and
14 authorizes construction and improvements to the
15 concession stand at the Talbot County Community
16 Center.

17 It was originally anticipated that we
18 would use Program Open Space funding when this
19 project was first legislated.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Discussion?

21 Mr. Stepp, you did a great job with that.

1 That's for sure.

2 MR. STEPP: Snack Shack did it.

3 (Indiscernible.)

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly. Good job on that.

5 Any other discussion?

6 MS. HAYTHE: No.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Raise our hands.

8 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

9 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
10 Number 1606.

11 A bill to authorize the replacements and
12 improvements of county community pools and
13 associated property.

14 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This authorizes the
15 county to spend up to \$160,000. It authorizes
16 improvements to be made at the George Murphy
17 Pool and the Bay Hundred Pool. It allows for
18 the refurbishment and replacement of critical
19 equipment and components of the pools and
20 connected property.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions on the

1 pool? Okay.

2 Raise our hands.

3 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

4 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
5 Number 1607.

6 A bill to authorize replacement and
7 improvement of stadium lighting at
8 St. Michaels Middle and High School.

9 MS. SPARKS: This authorizes spending up
10 to \$260,500 for the replacement and improvement
11 of stadium lighting at St. Michaels Middle and
12 High School to LED lighting.

13 This project was requested by Talbot
14 County Public Schools, the Talbot County Board
15 of Education.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions on
17 that?

18 Raise our hands.

19 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

20 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
21 Number 1708.

1 MS. SPARKS: Before you go through those,
2 Kaitlin has a paragraph she wants to read about
3 the sanitary district.

4 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: The following bills
5 related to the sanitary district capital
6 projects will be funded by a combination of
7 federal and State grants, long-term borrowing,
8 and funds from the sanitary district fund.

9 All costs incurred for these capital
10 projects shall be repaid from the revenues
11 generated from fees paid by the users of and/or
12 operation of these facilities and our sewer
13 systems.

14 MS. SPARKS: Okay. Now you go.

15 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: Now Susan.

16 SECRETARY: I was waiting.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

18 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Bill Numbers
19 1364 and 1341 for the purpose of amending the
20 appropriation for the watershed improvement
21 plan for the east and northeast areas of the

1 Region II, St. Michaels, wastewater treatment
2 plant area.

3 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This amends prior
4 authorization by \$9 million. It allows for
5 installation of septic tank effluent pumps,
6 STEP systems, and the payment of all required
7 fees for each property to connect to the sewer
8 system.

9 Approximately 300 properties will be
10 connected to the sewer system as part of
11 Resolution 235, which is an amendment that
12 expanded Region II wastewater service area.

13 The amendment also updates language in the
14 legislation to allow for borrowing of
15 approximately \$7 million from the Maryland
16 Department of the Environment, with a portion
17 being considered for loan forgiveness.

18 Grant funding will also be provided by
19 Maryland Bay Restoration fund and the US
20 Environmental Protection Agency.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions,

1 discussion on that?

2 Raise our hands.

3 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

4 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
5 Number 1609.

6 A bill to amend Bill Number 1429 for the
7 purpose of amending the appropriation for the
8 watershed improvement plan for the west area of
9 the Region II, St. Michaels, wastewater
10 treatment plant area.

11 MS. SPARKS: This amends prior
12 authorization by 5.88 million and allows for
13 the installation of the STEP tank effluent
14 pumps, or STEP systems, and the payment of all
15 required fees for each property to connect to
16 the sewer system.

17 Approximately 610 properties will be
18 connected to the sewer system as part of
19 Resolution 250, which is an amendment that
20 expanded Region II wastewater service area.

21 The amendment also updates language and

1 legislation to allow for long-term borrowing.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion on
3 that?

4 Raise our hands.

5 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

6 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
7 Number 1610.

8 A bill to amend Bill Numbers 1502 and 1418
9 for the purpose of amending the appropriation
10 for the connection of the Bar Neck and Fairbank
11 communities to the Region V, Tilghman,
12 wastewater treatment plant.

13 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This amends the prior
14 authorization by \$2.31 million. It authorizes
15 the construction of sewer collection and
16 pumping systems to connect to Bar Neck and
17 Fairbank communities to the Region, V,
18 Tilghman, wastewater treatment plant.

19 It includes installation of septic tank
20 effluent pump systems, STEP systems, and
21 payment of all required fees for each property

1 to connect to the sewer system.

2 Approximately 146 properties will be
3 connected to the sewer system as part of
4 Resolution 318, which was an amendment that
5 expanded the Region V wastewater service area.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion on
7 that?

8 Hearing none, raise our hands.

9 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

10 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
11 Number 1611.

12 A bill to amend Bill Number 1431 for the
13 purpose of amending the appropriation for
14 improvements to the Region V, Tilghman,
15 wastewater treatment plant, pump stations,
16 collection systems, and enhanced nutrient
17 removal, ENR, technology.

18 MS. SPARKS: This amends prior
19 authorization by \$12 million and authorizes
20 upgrades to the existing pump station and
21 upgrade and expansion of the ENR technologies

1 in Region V.

2 It authorizes upgrade to the gravity sewer
3 system and county roads for inflow and
4 infiltration purposes.

5 And it is part of the State's water
6 quality improvement plan to upgrade all
7 wastewater treatment plants discharging into
8 the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion on
10 that, Council?

11 Raise our hands.

12 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

13 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
14 Number 1612.

15 A bill to authorize the sewer system
16 extension to the Marine Engineers' Beneficial
17 Association, MEBA, engineering school off
18 St. Michaels Road in Talbot County.

19 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This authorizes the
20 county to spend up to \$1.5 million. It
21 authorizes the connection of MEBA to Region II

1 wastewater system.

2 A comprehensive water and sewer plan
3 amendment will be prepared.

4 The project will eliminate a secondary
5 wastewater treatment plant and consolidate the
6 wastewater treatment at the Region II to
7 enhanced nutrient removal, ENR, wastewater
8 treatment plant.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion,
10 Council?

11 Raise our hands.

12 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

13 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
14 Number 1613.

15 A bill to authorize replacements and
16 improvements to pump stations and surrounding
17 property in Region I of the Talbot County
18 sanitary district.

19 MS. SPARKS: This authorizes the county to
20 spend up to \$3 million, and it authorizes
21 improvements to the existing pump station in

1 Unionville, Tunis Mills, and Copperville area
2 of sanitary district Region I.

3 This would standardize pumps and pump
4 station controls and construct remote storage
5 facilities for future staging of construction
6 and repair equipment for emergencies.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion on
8 this, Council?

9 Hearing none, raise our hands.

10 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

11 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
12 Number 1614.

13 A bill to authorize replacements and
14 improvements to pump stations and surrounding
15 property in the Royal Oak, Newcomb, and
16 Bellevue areas in Region II of the Talbot
17 County sanitary district.

18 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: This authorizes the
19 county to spend up to \$3 million. It
20 authorizes for improvements to the existing
21 pump stations two and three in these

1 communities, which would standardize pumps and
2 pump station controls and allow for the
3 possibility of constructing a remote storage
4 facility for future staging of construction and
5 repair equipment for emergencies.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion?
7 Okay.

8 Raise other hands.

9 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

10 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
11 Number 1615.

12 A bill to authorize replacements and
13 improvements to pump stations and surrounding
14 property in the St. Michaels area in Region II
15 of the Talbot County sanitary district.

16 MS. SPARKS: This bill authorizes county
17 spending up to \$2 million and it authorizes
18 improvements to existing pump stations one and
19 two that would standardize pumps and pump
20 station controls and allow for the possibility
21 of constructing a storage building at the

1 Region II wastewater treatment plant for
2 construction and repair equipment.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion,
4 Council?

5 Okay. Raise our hands.

6 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

7 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
8 Number 1616.

9 And again, the public hearing on all these
10 bills will be held on Tuesday, July 8th, at
11 5:30 p.m.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

13 MS. FOSTER-CLARK: Thank you.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Good job.

15 Okay. Madam Secretary, let's move on.

16 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 190,
17 zoning, subdivision, and land development, of
18 the Talbot County Code for the purposes of
19 enacting regulations regarding dissolved air
20 floatation, DAF, residuals, food processing
21 residuals, and liquid organic soil amendments,

1 providing that the storage of such materials is
2 a permitted use in the agricultural
3 conservation, AC, countryside preservation, CP,
4 western rural conservation, WRC, and rural
5 conservation, RC, zoning districts and defining
6 terms associated therewith.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

8 MR. YELTON: Council, thank you.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

10 MR. YELTON: Bryce Yelton, Talbot County
11 Planning and Zoning.

12 Just wanted to come up. And this is the
13 bill that was brought before you by the
14 Planning Commission. So Planning Commission
15 has been working on this with staff for the
16 greater part of last year. Just want to go
17 over some things.

18 This text adds a definition for dissolved
19 air floatation, food processing residuals, and
20 liquid organic soil amendments.

21 It also adds a land classification for

1 farmers to establish these storage sites for
2 these uses with restrictions that would go
3 through the Planning Commission in certain
4 districts. And it also restricts DAF and other
5 farm -- farms only to applicable farmers
6 nutrient management plans.

7 And so we've seen over the shore in the
8 past couple of years other local jurisdictions
9 enact legislation that severely restricts DAF
10 residuals and food processing residuals to go
11 on farmland.

12 This was initiated by our Planning
13 Commission essentially in an effort to match
14 what our other local jurisdictions have been
15 doing in this arena. And this legislation
16 essentially brings us up to par on what our
17 local jurisdictions surrounding us are doing.

18 This also would allow farmers to
19 temporarily store these materials in temporary
20 closed storage for up to 90 days. It would
21 also prohibit open-top storage containers,

1 which has been a problem in other local
2 jurisdictions.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion,
4 Council?

5 MR. LESHER: I want to thank the staff for
6 getting this up to this point, guiding it
7 through.

8 This is highly technical, and we've
9 certainly seen surrounding jurisdictions
10 struggling with this issue. We don't want
11 Talbot County simply to be the last unregulated
12 jurisdiction and, therefore, the easy place to
13 go for the bad actors in this.

14 We see acceptable, accepted levels of
15 regulation of this material in the surrounding
16 jurisdictions. Caroline County I know
17 particularly struggled with this. And it seems
18 appropriate for us to be following suit.

19 I take it this will then get a
20 recommendation from the Planning Commission?

21 MR. TARLETON: This has already received a

1 recommendation from the Planning Commission.
2 So it's been recommended to you as consistent
3 with the Comprehensive Plan and the current
4 county code as written for your review and
5 consideration.

6 MR. LESHER: Outstanding. Thank you.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Raise our hands.

8 MR. LESHER: Introduced by Council.

9 Thank you very much.

10 MR. YELTON: Thank you.

11 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
12 Number 1617, and the public hearing will be
13 held on Tuesday, July 8th, at 5:30 p.m.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

15 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 190,
16 zoning, subdivision, and land development, of
17 the Talbot County Code for the purposes of
18 providing that cannabis growing and the process
19 of cannabis grown on site shall be permitted
20 uses in the agricultural conservation, AC,
21 countryside preservation, CP, and western rural

1 conservation, WRC, zoning districts. Providing
2 that the processing of cannabis not grown on
3 site shall be permitted by special exception in
4 the AC, CP, and WRC zoning districts. And
5 providing that cannabis dispensaries shall be
6 permitted by special exception in the limited
7 commercial, LC, general commercial, GC, and
8 limited industrial, LI, zoning districts, each
9 subject to certain conditions and defining
10 terms associated therewith.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

12 MR. TARLETON: Good evening, Council. For
13 the record, Brennan Tarleton with the
14 Department of Planning and Zoning.

15 I believe the County Council gave the
16 initiative in the early part of 2024 for the
17 Office of Law and the Office of Planning and
18 Zoning to draft some regulations regarding
19 cannabis for Talbot County.

20 After doing so, we did provide those to
21 the Planning Commission for their review, at

1 which point they scheduled and requested a work
2 session with you all back in September of 2024,
3 in which we had a discussion about those
4 regulations and how the county wished to move
5 forward with enacting regulations.

6 So in December of 2024, the Planning
7 Commission reviewed the draft cannabis
8 legislation and provided some minor amendments
9 to basically put together the format of the
10 legislation as you see it today. So they've
11 provided this legislation with a positive
12 recommendation as well, noting that it is
13 consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

14 A couple of those notable changes that we
15 made from the beginning part of the process is
16 that we broke each aspect of the operation for
17 cannabis out. Originally we had cannabis
18 growing under agricultural production and
19 cannabis processing under agricultural
20 processing.

21 We've since broken those out into separate

1 land uses that are depicted within this bill
2 and shown in the table of land use as revised.

3 So for cannabis growers, you have minimum
4 setback requirements, minimum lot size
5 requirements, a requirement that it be
6 conducted on a property that's actively farmed
7 and granted agricultural assessment from the
8 Department of Assessments and Taxation. And it
9 also denotes and requires that a major site
10 plan approval is required, which would have to
11 go through the Planning Commission's review and
12 approval process.

13 And then down in the cannabis processor
14 section, the setbacks essentially mirror that
15 of what the cannabis growing is, with, again,
16 the minimum lot size requirement of 20 acres.
17 And then also the stipulation of the
18 actively-farmed property and a major site plan
19 approval.

20 Now, for cannabis processing alone that's
21 not in conjunction with cannabis growing, that

1 facility is only permitted, as you'll see,
2 under the table of land uses provided as a
3 special exception use. So that would not only
4 require the major site plan, but it would also
5 require a special exception be granted from the
6 Board of Appeals if the processing is to take
7 place separate and apart from a growing
8 operation.

9 I just wanted to note that for the record
10 just for the clarity of that.

11 From there, we have the cannabis
12 dispensary use, which requires that the
13 dispensaries not be located within 500 feet of
14 a pre-existing primary or secondary school,
15 licensed child care facilities, registered
16 family child care facilities, educational
17 facilities, playground recreation center,
18 library, public park, or place of worship, or
19 within 1,000 feet of another licensed cannabis
20 dispensary.

21 And the hours of operation stipulated for

1 that is 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The cannabis
2 dispensary use is permitted only by special
3 exception in the county's commercial industrial
4 districts.

5 Below those land use classifications we
6 have the terms as defined. These were
7 basically mirrored straight out of the State
8 codes requirements and their definitions that
9 they enacted for cannabis dispensaries,
10 growers, processors. And we even have some
11 definitions in here for cannabis product and
12 cannabis-infused product.

13 And we also included stipulations in here
14 for greenhouse retail and wholesale to exclude
15 the growing of cannabis to be part of those
16 operations because those are an entirely
17 separate land use.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions?

19 MR. LESHER: Yeah. I know that, of
20 course, as you mentioned, the State mandates
21 that we zone for this. We get to deal with the

1 details about precisely how that is done.

2 Am I correct that the State has not yet
3 issued any licenses for growing or processing
4 within Talbot County?

5 MR. CALLAHAN: They have.

6 MR. LESHER: They have?

7 MR. CALLAHAN: They have.

8 MR. TARLETON: It's my understanding that
9 they have issued growing licenses, and I
10 believe there are some dispensary licenses that
11 have also been issued for Talbot County, but
12 that's not exclusive to just the county. That
13 includes the municipalities as well.

14 So I believe that there is somebody that
15 has a dispensary license currently pursuing I
16 believe the Board of Appeals process with the
17 Town of Easton.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

19 MR. TARLETON: Getting an approved use for
20 a dispensary within the town limits.

21 But there have been growing licenses that

1 have been issued for Talbot County as well.

2 I'm not aware of the processing aspect or
3 whether or not licenses have also been issued
4 for that.

5 MR. LESHHER: But presumably, they will
6 still need to go through this zoning process
7 that we are setting up to put that into place.

8 MR. TARLETON: Absolutely. In order to
9 allow for the use, they would have to go
10 through the parameters that are stipulated
11 under this legislation.

12 So for growing facilities, be it a major
13 site plan and in the permitted zoning district,
14 subject to the other bulk requirements. And
15 for processing and dispensaries, special
16 exception in the zoning districts established
17 under this legislation as well and also subject
18 to the bulk requirements.

19 MR. LESHHER: So by legislating on this
20 now, we haven't missed the boat on those early
21 licenses that were issued.

1 MR. TARLETON: No, no. And currently, we
2 have no active development applications that
3 have been received by our office for growing,
4 processing, or dispensaries.

5 MR. LESHER: But that, to me, emphasizes,
6 underlines the urgency of dealing with this.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. TARLETON: Absolutely.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other questions
10 from Council, discussion? Okay.

11 Raise our hands.

12 MR. LESHER: So introduced by Callahan,
13 Leshner, and Haythe.

14 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill
15 Number 1618, and the public hearing will be on
16 Tuesday, July 8th, at 5:30 p.m.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. Thank you,
18 guys. I know you worked hard on that. So I
19 appreciate that.

20 MR. TARLETON: Absolutely.

21 MR. YELTON: Thank you.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.

2 MR. TARLETON: Thank you.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Stamp.

4 MR. STAMP: Good evening.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Good afternoon.

6 MR. STAMP: So under county manager report
7 this evening, we have no new board and
8 committee appointments to bring forth to you
9 this evening.

10 There are several items of business I have
11 for you.

12 The first, we have a request from the
13 Talbot County Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
14 for a letter of support of application for FY26
15 safe streets and roads for an all planning
16 grant.

17 We have Heather Grant, the chair of that
18 committee, as well as Cassandra Vanhooser.

19 And I think Pete Leshner can speak as the
20 liaison to that group as well.

21 I'm going to ask Cassandra to come up and

1 Heather.

2 MS. VANHOOSER: Good evening, Council.
3 Cassandra Vanhooser, Talbot County Economic
4 Development and Tourism.

5 MS. GRANT: Good evening, Heather Grant,
6 chair of Talbot County Bicycle and Pedestrian
7 Advisory Committee.

8 MS. VANHOOSER: We're excited to be here
9 tonight.

10 Just an overview of how we got here. You
11 passed a resolution in September of 2024,
12 amended in February of 2025 to appoint a
13 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. You
14 appointed that committee.

15 And we had our first meeting in April of
16 2025 and have had a subsequent meeting in May.

17 The express purpose of you appointing this
18 committee, one of them was to develop a
19 countywide bicycle and pedestrian master plan,
20 and that's what we're here to discuss tonight.
21 And I'll toss it to Heather, who is the

1 chairman, elected by her peers of the
2 committee. Ed Heikis as vice chairman.

3 So Heather, you want to talk about the
4 grant.

5 MS. GRANT: I would love to. Thank you
6 for the introduction. I hope this will be the
7 first of many positive interactions between
8 myself, this committee, and the Council.

9 To spearhead the work of the committee, we
10 need the guidance and a plan to move forward.
11 We are not transportation experts. And the
12 opportunity to apply for this grant would give
13 us the ability to hire an expert to help us
14 complete a bicycle and pedestrian safety action
15 plan.

16 The plan would gather and use data
17 analysis to identify specific conditions,
18 roadway safety problems and hotspots to dictate
19 our community's approach, help institute change
20 of culture, increase collaboration across
21 safety stakeholders and refocus transportation

1 system design, develop a set of recommendations
2 informed by that data and public input so that
3 the county leadership can agree upon and refer
4 to it in the future, and most importantly,
5 further align us with federal zero death and
6 State complete streets requirements.

7 This, I realize this is a last-minute
8 request. The deadline for this grant
9 application is June 26th, which is why we
10 requested to be on the agenda this evening.

11 So I'm happy to answer any questions you
12 might have about the request.

13 MR. STAMP: Just to piggyback on this, the
14 request is to apply for up to \$300,000 grant,
15 which requires a 20 percent match. It could be
16 in-kind or cash match.

17 And again, Pete, I don't know if you'd
18 want to add anything as well.

19 MR. LESHER: An example of an in-kind
20 match for this would be staff time?

21 MR. STAMP: Staff time to help collate

1 information, data, administrative support for
2 the process.

3 MS. VANHOOSER: Volunteer time also
4 counts. The State of Maryland has a dedicated
5 rate for volunteer time. We use that for all
6 of our grants.

7 MR. LESHER: Okay. Well, this is an
8 essential first step in getting this, the
9 purposes of this committee off the ground to,
10 as Ms. Grant testified, to set priorities.

11 And so I would encourage Council's support
12 for this.

13 If there's cash required, Mr. Stamp,
14 beyond the in-kind match, that would come from?

15 MR. STAMP: I would ask Council for
16 consideration for use of contingency.

17 MR. LESHER: Thank you.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshar, can you talk
19 about the whole Cordova thing that you and I
20 talked about the other day?

21 MR. LESHER: Sure.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: To let people just know.

2 MR. LESHER: Yeah. The State, the State
3 Department of Natural Resources has a project
4 to or is looking at a project to convert the
5 rail corridor between Easton and Cordova and
6 beyond into a bike trail.

7 That is, that is a State project. And
8 while it could be, I presume, mentioned in
9 here, it would presumably not be a priority for
10 county funding because it wouldn't be our
11 project. That is, I think we hope that we
12 would be consulted on how that plan would come
13 together as part of this.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

15 MS. VANHOOSER: So I'll address that as
16 well.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.

18 MS. VANHOOSER: This is not about the
19 Frederick Douglass rail trail, which is what
20 the name of that proposed area would be up
21 through Cordova to the Town of Queen Anne.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

2 MS. VANHOOSER: This is about looking at
3 the entire county as a whole and creating a
4 safety action plan.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

6 MS. VANHOOSER: I believe we had maybe a
7 week or so ago, someone was hit on a bike in
8 St. Michaels. You know, I see the people on
9 the roads that they pass my house. I even
10 passed somebody at 9:17 p.m. riding their bike,
11 which I presume they were taking it to work on
12 St. Michaels Road. There's a pinch point
13 there at the pin cushion. There are other
14 areas throughout the county.

15 And I'm just really interested in making
16 sure that our streets are safe for everyone who
17 uses them. We all help pay for the roads here.
18 We need safe streets for all, which, by the
19 way, is the name of this grant. And it is a
20 federal transportation grant. It's for the
21 purpose of reviewing and making sure that you

1 have a safety action plan so the roads are safe
2 for everyone.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: So with saying that,
4 Cassandra, so the grant gives you the ability
5 to do the design work and studies.

6 Who is going to pay for it?

7 MS. VANHOOSER: So this is a planning
8 grant. So they would be, you know, looking at
9 all the things that are going on in the county
10 and assessing them and sort of laying out
11 priorities.

12 So again, it's a United States Department
13 of Transportation grant called safe streets for
14 all. And right now, there is funding for this.
15 And the deadline, as Heather said, is
16 June 26th. And we expect there may be one more
17 round of this. But this is what we're looking
18 at for now.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Okay. Any other
20 questions, Council? Okay.

21 MR. LESHER: I'll move approval of the

1 letter of support.

2 MS. HAYTHE: I second.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I got a motion and
4 second for a letter of support. Madam
5 Secretary, could you call the vote.

6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

8 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

9 MR. STEPP: Aye.

10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

11 MR. LESHER: Aye.

12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

13 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

14 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

15 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

17 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.

19 MS. GRANT: Thank you very much.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.

21 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.

1 Next item we have, I'll call Rich Setter
2 up, your head golf professional, manager of the
3 Hog Neck Golf Course.

4 He's here this evening to request
5 Council's consideration for a retroactive
6 approval and award of a payment to H&H Marine
7 Construction in the amount of \$60,825 for the
8 emergency repair of the bridge at the ninth
9 hole at Hog Neck Golf Course.

10 There are sufficient funds in the budget
11 for this project. And Rich is here to add more
12 or answer any questions.

13 MR. SETTER: Good evening, Council. Nice
14 to see everybody.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

16 MR. SETTER: Here to answer any questions.

17 MR. LESHER: It sounds like this project
18 is actually a savings from what was previously
19 proposed.

20 MR. SETTER: It was, considerable amount
21 of savings. When we were looking at all the

1 design and the permitting and all that, we were
2 upwards of 200,000, but we were able to get the
3 job done for a lot less than that.

4 MR. LESHER: Thank you for your innovation
5 and initiative to make that happen that way.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Any other
7 discussion?

8 MR. STAMP: And again, this was an
9 emergency repair for a pier that was actually
10 holding the structure up and it was failing.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Okay. Is there a
12 motion?

13 MR. STEPP: So moved.

14 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
16 second.

17 MS. MIELKE: Do we have a second?

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.

19 MS. HAYTHE: We said it at the same time.

20 MR. STEPP: Keasha.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. We got a motion and

1 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
2 vote.

3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

5 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

6 MR. STEPP: Aye.

7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

8 MR. LESHER: Aye.

9 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

10 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

11 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

12 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job.

14 MR. SETTER: Thank you.

15 MR. STAMP: Thank you.

16 MR. SETTER: Thank you, sir.

17 MR. STAMP: Next, Council, I'm going to
18 ask Ray Clarke, your county engineer, to come
19 forward.

20 The Department of Public Works is
21 requesting Council approval to award, let's

1 see, award wastewater treatment plant in the
2 amount of \$67,622.

3 Let's see. This is for -- Ray, you want
4 to go ahead?

5 MR. CLARKE: Sure. This is an emergency
6 repair we had back in April. Ultimately, the
7 line, we have two lagoons. We have an influent
8 lagoon and an effluent lagoon. We have a
9 12-inch pipe that ended up getting clogged with
10 sludge. So we were starting to overflow the
11 influent lagoon.

12 So to avoid an overflow into the
13 Chesapeake Bay, we ended up having to work very
14 quickly with Good Life, who does a lot of
15 contract work for us.

16 At the same time, we ended up having to
17 utilize Good Life's haulers, tanker trucks, to
18 make sure that we keep the flows down.

19 The strategy here was to go ahead and put
20 a new 12-inch line next to the existing line
21 with the riser pipe up so we could avoid the

1 sludge from coming in. We also put a new valve
2 in there as well as clean-outs so we could blow
3 out that line in the future.

4 So again, that was for \$67,622, and we had
5 roughly about \$90,000 in that operating budget
6 to cover that.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

8 MR. STAMP: Just want to highlight Josh.
9 Josh, our assistant county engineer, and
10 Russell Lease, part of the team. They jumped
11 on this quick and prevented what could have
12 been a pretty significant environmental
13 situation.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job. All
15 right.

16 Is there a motion?

17 MR. STEPP: So moved.

18 MR. LESHER: Second.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
20 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
21 vote.

1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

4 MR. STEPP: Aye.

5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

6 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

8 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

11 MR. STAMP: And Ray is going to continue
12 by asking Council's consideration for a request
13 to move utility lines on Goldsborough Neck Road
14 as part of the upgrade to that roadway that
15 you're aware of in the amount of \$105,213.50.

16 And he will go over the details of that.

17 MR. CLARKE: Again, we've been working
18 with both Easton Utilities as well as Verizon.
19 And Verizon, unfortunately, we're going to get
20 hit with about \$105,213.50 to go ahead and
21 maintain an overhead line that's currently in

1 our construction area for our culvert that
2 we're looking at widening on Goldsborough Neck
3 Road. We will then move that over and then
4 cross over where Villa Road is and then come
5 back over.

6 A lot of the cost associated with this is
7 the splicing of their cables I guess. So it's
8 really kind of relocating that line and then
9 resplicing it.

10 So it's \$105,213.50. We unfortunately
11 have no other way to get this done without
12 (indiscernible).

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Any questions, discussions?
14 Okay.

15 Is there a motion?

16 MR. LESHER: I'll move approval.

17 MS. MIELKE: Second.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
19 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
20 vote.

21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

3 MR. STEPP: Abstain.

4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

5 MR. LESHER: Aye.

6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

10 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.

11 And thank you, Ray.

12 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.

13 MR. STAMP: Ask Micah Risher to come up,
14 your airport manager.

15 Initially he's going to ask, he's going to
16 ask you several things this evening, but the
17 first is you have a request from the Easton
18 Airport to reject sole bid received for Bid
19 Number 25-08 package three, improve RSA and
20 extend runway 4-22, Easton Newnam Field
21 Airport, ESN, Talbot County, Maryland.

1 He'll go over the details with you.

2 MR. RISHER: Council, thank you. Micah
3 Risher, your airport manager. I appreciate
4 your time and your support.

5 Yes. So here we are, bidding season for
6 all the packages. And a little bit of back
7 story.

8 Obviously we're in the middle of the
9 biggest, most complex project that we've ever
10 undertaken at the airport. And my proof of
11 that, we put a lot of work into this, into our
12 package three. Package three was the plan to
13 open the new runway next year.

14 A little bit of unfortunate news is we
15 only received one bid, and it was an unusable
16 bid. Kind of put us in a bit of a situation
17 that we're working through.

18 I can go on and give you the reasons why.
19 There's a bunch of reasons why. There's a lot
20 of projects out there, ours was complex,
21 there's easier ones. Contractors said they're

1 spread thin. We have a lot of projects going
2 on in the region. Of course, costs are up.
3 There's some uncertainty with pricing and
4 tariffs and things of that nature.

5 So the one bid that we did receive is well
6 outside the parameters that FAA will accept for
7 any price escalation. It is a completely
8 unusable bid.

9 So first item of business is I'm asking
10 that you officially reject that one bid because
11 the goal is going to be immediately go to rebid
12 over the next few weeks, repackage it.

13 We're actually working on our base bid
14 right now. We're kind of cutting it down to
15 where it will be more digestible, if you will,
16 for contractors. We're breaking some of the
17 more expensive pieces out, putting them in add
18 alternatives later in the year. That way we
19 have some flexibility with timing, things of
20 that nature.

21 So I've worked with FAA to get us that

1 approval to go slightly beyond the June 16th
2 window. So they're going to allow us to open
3 bids on July 1st.

4 So the great news here is FAA wants to get
5 this done. They are fully supportive. The
6 Washington district office, they want this
7 project to be done. We've been working on it
8 for 20 years. They want to get us over the
9 line as well. So they were disappointed that
10 we didn't get a useable bid.

11 So the goal is to repackage it so we can
12 get a good quality bid out of it, something we
13 can use to move forward.

14 So there's, you know, it's a mixed bag of
15 things out there, the economy right now. So
16 from the optimistic point of view, there will
17 be airports that are not able to receive
18 federal funding this year. If we're in a
19 position to move, we will be able to receive
20 that extra funding either later this year or
21 next year. So we could move even faster. It's

1 kind of like unknown right now.

2 But what this is is getting us a place
3 hold, it gets something workable so we can keep
4 the project moving.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion?
6 Okay.

7 Is there a motion?

8 MR. STEPP: Motion to reject.

9 MS. HAYTHE: Second.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
11 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
12 vote.

13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

15 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

16 MR. STEPP: Aye.

17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

18 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

19 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

20 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

1 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

3 MR. STAMP: While Micah is here, he'll
4 roll right into his next request.

5 MR. RISHER: Yes. And so the second
6 official request is approval from Council to
7 apply for the grants.

8 So like I said, we're rebidding the
9 project right now, and we're going to have
10 pricing in over the next few weeks. And then
11 we are going to have a grant application ready
12 to go on July 1st to FAA.

13 So I officially need permission to apply
14 for that grant up to \$6 million.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

16 MS. MIELKE: So moved.

17 MR. STEPP: Second.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second
19 to apply for the \$6 million grant. Madam
20 Secretary, could you call the vote.

21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

3 MR. STEPP: Aye.

4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

5 MR. LESHER: Aye.

6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

11 MR. RISHER: Thank you.

12 And the third one is probably, this
13 hopefully is the easiest one of the night.

14 Every few years I come in front of you to
15 request permission to renew the letter of
16 support for the deer cooperator program. That
17 is the program, the public safety permit that
18 we've been enrolled in it for decades. It
19 allows the airport to cull the deer population
20 year-round obviously to remove deer from the
21 airport when they are a hazard.

1 We use it sparingly. Quite frankly, I
2 don't think we've taken more than about six
3 deer off the airport in the last few years.

4 But we do remove deer. We take them to
5 get processed, and they go to food banks and
6 things of that nature.

7 Specifically this year, every year they
8 tweak it a little bit. They wanted some
9 specific language put in there, which I
10 provided to the county manager and the county
11 attorney. It has to be a letter of support
12 coming from you and the county attorney for us
13 to continue in the program.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any discussion?

15 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.

16 MR. STEPP: Second.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second.
18 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.

19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

21 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

1 MR. STEPP: Aye.

2 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

3 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

5 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

6 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

7 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

8 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Micah.

9 MR. RISHNER: Thank you.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.

11 MR. STAMP: Council, that completes your
12 county manager report for this evening.

13 And I'd just, again, like to thank Council
14 for your continued support.

15 Thirty-one pieces of enabling legislation,
16 which drives a great deal of work to benefit
17 Talbot County. Thank you for giving us the
18 policy leadership and support. So on behalf of
19 the 14 department heads and over 300 county
20 employees, thank you.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Good job.

1 Okay.

2 Next on the agenda is public comment. I
3 think we've got --

4 MR. LESHER: We have just one person
5 signed up, which is, in advance, which is Jim
6 Bruce.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

8 MR. BRUCE: Good evening. Jim Bruce from
9 St. Michaels.

10 I was unfortunately in a church trustees
11 meeting when you had your reconsideration of
12 the DEI resolutions of the county. I had
13 somebody write transcripts basically. So I
14 think I know what happened.

15 And I just wanted to comment on that. I
16 understand what you did, and I think I
17 understand why.

18 First of all, the Talbot resolutions never
19 had anything to do with hiring practices. The
20 words themselves said we want the county
21 employees to be aware of the diversity of the

1 public they serve.

2 Second, later, afterwards, President Trump
3 issued the DEI Executive Order that basically
4 attacked anything with a label of DEI on it.
5 And so one could argue that there was a label,
6 but there was never a real substance to this,
7 what the county was doing was somehow a hiring
8 practice, DEI.

9 I testified, and I wrote a letter to all
10 the members when you reconsidered the
11 resolutions. And I said that I didn't think
12 that a President could deny federal funding to
13 a county project because the county took some
14 unrelated action on an unrelated matter.

15 In other words, the President can't deny
16 funding for an airport or a hospital because
17 the county asked its employees to be aware of
18 the diversity of those who serve the public and
19 who work for the county.

20 Multiple federal judges have issued TROs
21 on this very issue. So it's in litigation.

1 I think the real issue here is the rule of
2 law has broken down. And it's broken down
3 enough sufficiently that people can make
4 credible threats about what's going to happen
5 if a county takes action that President's
6 supporters think they disagree with.

7 The Council (indiscernible) DEI
8 resolutions. And then after President Trump's
9 Executive Order was issued, there was a
10 challenge to them, but that challenge failed.
11 And so there was clear political embarrassment.
12 Let's be honest.

13 So some have come up with arguments that
14 county funding toward the airport I think was
15 what you discussed. I've heard rumors that
16 somehow the hospital's funding is at risk now.
17 And that's only because people believe that
18 it's just enough danger. You can't count on
19 the rule of law necessarily holding here.

20 And to me, that's a very disturbing thing
21 and it's a slippery slope that, you know, I

1 don't really blame President Trump. I don't
2 think he follows what happens in the Talbot
3 County Council and is concerned about what
4 resolutions are passed or not.

5 There were those who were embarrassed who
6 do follow it and saw a way, in my opinion, to
7 tie it to a credible threat that there would be
8 a denial of funding to projects we need.

9 I understand what Mr. Leshar did, and I
10 think he described the situation very well.

11 So anyway, that's my comments, and I think
12 we need to be very, very cautious about this
13 because I don't want to see the Council's
14 determinations ruled by those who claim that
15 they see some connection between 250 Executive
16 Orders.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

18 MR. BRUCE: Thank you.

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

20 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yes, sir, come on

1 up.

2 DR. KELLY: I'm Dr. James Kelly. I think
3 you all know me. Two thoughts.

4 As you guys decide on the zoning and
5 cannabis, I understand that is a zoning
6 question that was at hand.

7 Regular cannabis use studies are showing
8 causes a ten point drop in IQ. And we believe
9 that that's permanent, which begs the question
10 of is this brain damage, which we think it may
11 actually be. And this is most acute for
12 teenagers.

13 So as you ponder this, even though it is
14 now legal, it does not mean and often is the
15 opposite of it being good.

16 It's not good. It's not healthy. So take
17 care of the brains of our children, please.

18 Other thought. Your reconsideration of
19 the DEI, thank you and congratulations. Good
20 government puts personal ideologies underneath
21 what is best for the people of the county. And

1 I believe that's what you did today.

2 And hearing and reading, it is masterfully
3 written. It addresses what I believe all of
4 you want, which is to take care of people.

5 I don't believe anybody here is interested
6 in discriminating or harassing or harming
7 anyone. It's just that some people believe
8 that DIE discrimination is good, and some
9 people believe that no discrimination is good.

10 My question is it's been in the law for
11 years. Since 1964, the Civil Rights Act
12 outlawed discrimination. So was discrimination
13 rampant in Talbot County government that there
14 was some necessity for you four years ago for
15 there to be a study or an introduction of any
16 policy in any way related to DIE?

17 MS. HAYTHE: DEI.

18 DR. KELLY: Well.

19 MS. HAYTHE: DEI.

20 DR. KELLY: When it refers to doctors and
21 we cut the qualifications, people actually die.

1 MS. HAYTHE: But the proper acronym is
2 DEI. Okay.

3 DR. KELLY: You say tomato, I say tomato.

4 MS. HAYTHE: That's a proper acronym for
5 it. That is what it is.

6 DR. KELLY: Are you not interested in
7 diversity of acronyms? Do I have to use the
8 order that you decide? Are you not interested
9 in diversity?

10 MS. HAYTHE: Chuck, are you
11 (indiscernible)?

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Well.

13 DR. KELLY: But my question is was
14 discrimination a problem?

15 MR. CALLAHAN: This is his time. You've
16 got...

17 DR. KELLY: Yes. Was discrimination a
18 problem?

19 I think it was four years ago that the
20 Council thought that they needed to add
21 something to the law which already said

1 discrimination is illegal.

2 Was the Talbot County not actually
3 following the 1964 Civil Rights Act? That's my
4 question.

5 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, it's your time.
6 We're not here to answer questions.

7 DR. KELLY: Oh.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So your time --

9 DR. KELLY: Does anyone want to answer
10 that question?

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Your time is up.

12 DR. KELLY: Okay. Thank you. Thank you
13 for doing a good job.

14 MS. HAYTHE: I can tell you that
15 discrimination does exist sitting here as the
16 African American minority. And I've had a lot
17 of discriminatory suits that I've brought
18 forth.

19 So sitting from this perspective and from
20 a race perspective, yes, discrimination was in
21 existence then and it still is.

1 DR. KELLY: No one -- I don't believe
2 anybody refuses that.

3 MS. HAYTHE: It still exists. It does, it
4 does.

5 DR. KELLY: Absolutely. And we should
6 elimination all discrimination. I agree with
7 you. But reverse discrimination is
8 discrimination.

9 MS. HAYTHE: Yes. That is true.

10 DR. KELLY: And we have should have no
11 discrimination.

12 MS. HAYTHE: That is true.

13 DR. KELLY: Thank you. I agree with that
14 point.

15 MS. HAYTHE: We're not going to get to a
16 world where we have no discrimination, and that
17 crosses political lines. That's Republican,
18 Democrat, and independent.

19 DR. KELLY: And that's why I'm glad
20 Republicans and Democrats collaborated
21 responsibly and crafted this nice, well-written

1 resolution. Thank you.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

3 DR. KELLY: Thank you.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Yes, sir, come on
5 up.

6 MR. R. LESHER: My name is Ron Leshner.

7 As an introduction, I want you to know
8 that I've spent more than six decades studying
9 and collecting tax stamps.

10 Maryland has a tax on cigarettes, and
11 there are stamps on every pack of cigarettes
12 that are sold in the State of Maryland. That
13 helps to make sure that the tax has been paid
14 to the State if it's sold here.

15 My question is is there any consideration
16 for stamps on cannabis that is going to be sold
17 here in the county?

18 Twenty-one, at least 21 states have
19 cannabis tax stamps. I collect those. Canada
20 has cannabis tax stamps for each province,
21 territory, and for the country itself.

1 A lot of stamp collectors like to purchase
2 those, by the way, and might even be able to
3 purchase enough to pay for the production of
4 those stamps. And it might make it easier for
5 the Sheriff's Office to determine whether or
6 not cannabis has been, the tax has been paid on
7 cannabis. Thank you.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, sir. Okay.

9 Yes, sir.

10 MR. RIGGIN: My name is Phil Riggins. I
11 live at 29736 Sullivan Drive here in Easton. I
12 want to just mention a couple of things.

13 First of all, I know that we are now at
14 the one-hour-and-55-minute point of this
15 meeting, and I know that I may be the only
16 reason why you're not getting to dinner now.
17 So I know what my mission is, and that's to
18 move along and say things quickly.

19 A couple of things.

20 First of all, I had the opportunity to
21 talk with the golf pro here at Hog Neck about a

1 week ago, and I understand, Ms. Haythe,
2 Ms. Mielke, you are the liaison from the
3 Council to the golf course. He mentioned that.

4 I just want to say that I'm very impressed
5 with what I've heard, what you're committing to
6 the golf course, what you're investing in the
7 golf course, and that you recognize it as being
8 something that the county can be proud of.

9 And I recently learned, I think he said
10 that they operated at a million dollar profit
11 last year. I don't know how you evaluate
12 profit, but I can assure you that there are
13 several other county golf courses here on the
14 Eastern Shore that do not operate nearly to
15 that point. So I think that's a very good
16 thing, and I was glad to see the golf pro here
17 again tonight.

18 The second thing I want to mention is I, I
19 appreciate your collective demonstration of
20 stamina tonight to go through introducing 42
21 pieces of legislation, all the other stuff that

1 you did. Congratulations. You're still
2 smiling.

3 Madam Secretary, you did a yeoman's job of
4 presenting all that stuff to the Council. And
5 congratulations to you.

6 Finally, I want to talk about one other
7 thing. What you did tonight and what you have
8 done repeatedly during the time that I have
9 been attending these meetings, I think you've
10 been doing an extraordinary job of protecting
11 our environment here along the shores of the
12 Chesapeake Bay. I mean just what you're doing
13 with your water and sewer stuff, pulling people
14 out of I assume septic, well and septic
15 systems, I don't know. But I do know what
16 they're capable of doing.

17 So I want to congratulate you. It's not
18 exciting business to go through the whole thing
19 about -- and the people in St. Michaels should
20 be really happy with what you're doing for
21 them. Everything I see, two-thirds of what I

1 see is St. Michaels area. In any case, thank
2 you for that.

3 And as a county that boasts 700 miles of
4 shoreline, I think you're doing your fair share
5 of protecting the environment. I think the
6 Chesapeake Bay Foundation owes you an attaboy
7 and a gold star.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, sir.

9 MR. RIGGIN: Thank you.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.

11 MS. T. JONES: Good evening, Council. I'm
12 Tina Grace Jones from Cordova. My pronouns are
13 she and her.

14 I come to you tonight -- I actually was
15 originally coming only to tell you Happy Pride
16 Month. I know some of you may not want to hear
17 that, but Happy Pride Month.

18 And also to invite you to come downtown
19 Easton on Saturday to our Pride Festival. I
20 want you to see what 3,000 people who have
21 community look like because they feel safe.

1 However, I saw the resolution on tonight's
2 agenda. I knew I also had to come. So I want
3 to read one thing for you from today's
4 Newsweek.

5 US District Judge Jon Tigar ruled that the
6 President cannot legally withhold funding to
7 programs that promote diversity, equity, and
8 inclusion, DEI. That's the court decision as
9 of yesterday.

10 I also want you to know that Gallop
11 Organization and other organizations are
12 tracking the impact these kind of actions that
13 are against DEI initiatives or any marginalized
14 community is having a significant impact on the
15 lives of American citizens.

16 It is estimated that in some states, the
17 rates of suicide for marginalized communities
18 has risen by 72 percent since January of this
19 year. Make no mistake. The headline of the
20 paper is going to be that you have rescinded
21 DEI. I want you to think about what that's

1 going to mean for the people that that impacts.
2 Because it does not just impact your employees.
3 It impacts me as a transgender woman.

4 And sir, I am not an ideology. I know who
5 I am. I know who I've always been, and you're
6 just wrong. Sorry.

7 I also want you to know that part of what
8 this administration has done if it passes its
9 big beautiful bill, is removed 100 percent of
10 funding for the 988 services specifically for
11 LGBTQ folks. This is discrimination.

12 We are not supposed to be taking actions
13 based on anyone's race, gender, sexual
14 orientation, ethnic background, and the list
15 goes on. Yet it's happening.

16 And I implore you to think about the
17 decision you made tonight, and I want you to
18 think about the lives that you've impacted,
19 because you have. And I'm so sorry to see that
20 and hear that. Thank you.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

1 Okay. Anybody else like to come up,
2 public comment? Yes, sir.

3 DR. FAHMI: Hi. My name is Fahmi. I am
4 the health officer of Talbot County. Thank you
5 for the opportunity.

6 I would like to second the input of the
7 physician about cannabis effects on kids. The
8 American Academy of Pediatric have very clearly
9 stated that cannabis for kids does affect their
10 IQ.

11 If you remember, in Austin, Texas, there
12 was a lead toxicity in the water. Cannabis is
13 about three to four times the effect of IQ
14 dropping compared to lead, for a lead level,
15 the lead level to be regarded as out of the
16 range is 3.5. At the range of ten to 20, which
17 is like 30 times that level, seven times that
18 level, it drops it by around 2.6 IQ. The
19 studies are different, but 2.6 to 4.6.

20 I agree with same. It drops at least
21 eight IQs, marijuana.

1 And we think we're going through the
2 smoking habit when World War I, everybody has
3 to go to the (indiscernible) and pick up the
4 smoke.

5 Now we're finding that this is not a good
6 idea. Definitely not advisable. Forget about
7 the toxicity of cannabis, which is fast heart
8 rate, incoherence, someone calling 911 for the
9 kids. Not a good thing, not a good thing for
10 the kids in particular.

11 Thank you for the opportunity.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you for
13 telling us that information. Thank you. Okay.

14 Anybody else like to come up? Okay.

15 Winding down here. Council comments.

16 Mr. Stepp.

17 MR. STEPP: I'm good.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: You're good?

19 MR. STEPP: I'm good. Thank you.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.

21 MR. LESHNER: I'd like to take a moment to

1 highlight a special event happening this week
2 as part of the Talbot County 250 celebration.

3 Talbot Treasures, a community
4 show-and-tell of history and heritage is taking
5 place at the Waterfowl Festival Building in
6 downtown Easton this Saturday, June 14th. This
7 unique event invites members of the public to
8 share meaningful pieces of Talbot's history,
9 whether it's a family diary, a historic photo,
10 or a one-of-a-kind artifact.

11 Stop by during public viewing hours on
12 Saturday, June 14th, between 10 and 2 p.m. and
13 see the incredible collection of local history
14 on display.

15 Events like this remind us that history
16 doesn't just live in books and museums, but in
17 our very homes, our families, and our memories.
18 Thanks to the Talbot 250 Commission, the Talbot
19 Historical Society, and the Waterfowl Festival
20 for their support of this project. More
21 information on this can be found at

1 www.talbot250.org/talbot-treasures.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

3 MS. MIELKE: I pass.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: You're good? Okay.

5 MS. HAYTHE: I'm good.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: You're good?

7 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah.

8 MS. MIELKE: You're great.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. And I just want to
10 thank staff. Tonight we've had a long meeting.
11 You prepped and did a lot of work in the last
12 couple of weeks. Especially you, Susan. You
13 did a phenomenal job putting all this together.
14 You and Jess probably pulled your hair out, but
15 you did a good job.

16 So I just want to thank everybody for
17 hanging out and having patience with us
18 tonight.

19 Mr. Leshner.

20 MR. LESHNER: The County Council's next
21 meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 24th,

1 beginning at five o'clock p.m. The Council
2 will be convening in open session at 3:30 p.m.
3 and then adjoining into closed session, as
4 listed on the statement for closing that
5 meeting.

6 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
7 this meeting and reconvene as noted?

8 MR. STEPP: So moved.

9 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
11 second. Madam Secretary, call the vote.

12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

14 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.

15 MR. STEPP: Aye.

16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.

17 MR. LESHNER: Aye.

18 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

19 MS. MIELKE: Aye.

20 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

21 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: There we go. Thank you.

2 (Meeting concluded at: 7:05 p.m.)

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STATE OF MARYLAND

I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City, do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot County Council Audio, personally appeared before me at the time and place herein set according to law, was interrogated by counsel.

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

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

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

AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 18th day of June, 2025, at Easton, MD.



Diane Houlihan
Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2025

[1 - 1st]

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