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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

March 24, 2026; 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's get ready to</p> <p>4 start the meeting. If everybody could go ahead</p> <p>5 and stand. And we're going to say the prayer</p> <p>6 and the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.</p> <p>7 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I appreciate</p> <p>9 everybody coming tonight. We've got an agenda</p> <p>10 before us. The agenda before us. Is there any</p> <p>11 additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>12 agenda, Council?</p> <p>13 MS. HAYTHE: Not that I'm aware of.</p> <p>14 MR. STEPP: So Mr. President, if I could</p> <p>15 make one suggestion to possibly delay on the</p> <p>16 Proclamation for National Public Health Week.</p> <p>17 I'll make a motion that we just delay on that</p> <p>18 proclamation, please.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a second?</p> <p>20 MS. MIELKE: I couldn't hear what he said.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: He wants to put -- can you</p>	<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Nay.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next is the minutes</p> <p>3 of March 10th before us. Is there any</p> <p>4 additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>5 minutes? Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves</p> <p>6 that the minutes be accepted as unanimous</p> <p>7 consent.</p> <p>8 Okay. Disbursements of March 17th and</p> <p>9 24th. We've taken a look at them. Is there</p> <p>10 any additions, deletions, or corrections to the</p> <p>11 disbursements, Council? Okay. Hearing none,</p> <p>12 the chair moves that the disbursements be</p> <p>13 accepted as unanimous consent.</p> <p>14 Okay. First up tonight, Madam Secretary,</p> <p>15 could you go ahead and update us on the Board</p> <p>16 of Health, please.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: Dr. Fahmi.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Dr. Fahmi, come on up.</p> <p>19 DR. FAHMI: Thank you.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Welcome, Dr. Fahmi.</p> <p>21 How are you doing?</p>
Page 3	Page 5
<p>1 say that a little bit louder?</p> <p>2 MR. STEPP: Just that we delay the</p> <p>3 National Public Health Week Proclamation to a</p> <p>4 later session.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Is there a second? Okay.</p> <p>6 MS. MIELKE: Amend the agenda. So that we</p> <p>7 don't do it tonight?</p> <p>8 MR. STEPP: Correct.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>10 MS. MIELKE: Yes.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>12 could you call the vote.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>16 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHNER: Nay.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>20 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p>	<p>1 DR. FAHMI: Wonderful, sir. How are you?</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, good, good. We've</p> <p>3 got a long agenda tonight. So we'd appreciate</p> <p>4 if you could try to keep us about ten minutes</p> <p>5 if we could. That would be great.</p> <p>6 DR. FAHMI: Super, super. I will work on</p> <p>7 it, sir.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.</p> <p>9 DR. FAHMI: Thank you for the opportunity.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Do you need me to sit here and</p> <p>11 do this?</p> <p>12 DR. FAHMI: I can do it.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Okay.</p> <p>14 DR. FAHMI: Thank you. So my name is</p> <p>15 Fahmi Fahmi. I am the health officer for</p> <p>16 Talbot County.</p> <p>17 This is a biannual presentation to the</p> <p>18 Board of Health. There's a lot of data that</p> <p>19 I'm going to skim over for the ten minute's</p> <p>20 sake.</p> <p>21 I'm dividing the slides according to the</p>

Page 6	<p>1 categories of the departments. And then I'll</p> <p>2 go about the things that are happening that has</p> <p>3 not been presented.</p> <p>4 The first section is about the senior</p> <p>5 services. We continue to serve our 30 percent</p> <p>6 plus of 65 and above. We're trying to add a</p> <p>7 new service lines. We already purchased a van</p> <p>8 that has been modified to be accessible to</p> <p>9 people who have difficulty in ambulating so</p> <p>10 that we can take them back and forth.</p> <p>11 As you can see the numbers, I'm very proud</p> <p>12 of the department abilities to do such a</p> <p>13 wonderful job in such a short six months from</p> <p>14 previous presentation.</p> <p>15 The team continues to collaborate with</p> <p>16 Maryland Department of Health. And this is a</p> <p>17 team of the senior citizens services.</p> <p>18 Ms. Carrie Ottey is the one who is leading</p> <p>19 the department. She is also actively</p> <p>20 participating with the Senior Citizens Task</p> <p>21 Forces with affordable housing or the</p>	Page 8	<p>1 fleet. It is free. It is a Volt. And we took</p> <p>2 it from Baltimore because they have a longer</p> <p>3 distance, while our county will be using it</p> <p>4 more efficiently because we don't have such a</p> <p>5 bigger coverage.</p> <p>6 Moving to a different department, I would</p> <p>7 like to read this slides. But I'm sorry.</p> <p>8 Because of the ten-minute crunch, I'm trying to</p> <p>9 be as quick as possible. So many wonderful</p> <p>10 things are happening within the last six</p> <p>11 months.</p> <p>12 This is our family services program. We</p> <p>13 continue to doing training doulas. Doulas are</p> <p>14 the people who are helping birthing mothers to</p> <p>15 get the last part of their pregnancy,</p> <p>16 coordinating with other departments, whether</p> <p>17 the ob-gyn or the hospital. Most, a good</p> <p>18 significant part of them are not having English</p> <p>19 as their first language. And we are having</p> <p>20 already a certified doula, got certified very</p> <p>21 recently. But we are adding hopefully a second</p>
Page 7	<p>1 homelessness. And she's also working with</p> <p>2 mobile integrated health program, which is a</p> <p>3 program whereby we are getting patients who</p> <p>4 visit the hospitals and we try to keep them</p> <p>5 more at home than to be in the outpatient</p> <p>6 hospitalized setups.</p> <p>7 We are working through the MDH to revamp</p> <p>8 this program to a higher level because we are</p> <p>9 getting now something called rural health</p> <p>10 transformation funding, which will be a good</p> <p>11 chunk, a good piece of it will be for the</p> <p>12 mobile integration and mobile integrated</p> <p>13 health. This is very exciting for our</p> <p>14 department.</p> <p>15 This is the fund that we have -- we have</p> <p>16 yet to receive it. Hopefully within the coming</p> <p>17 few weeks. It is being -- we already have it</p> <p>18 purchased, but it's getting modified to</p> <p>19 accommodate the ability to take people who are</p> <p>20 handicapped from the back.</p> <p>21 We also got a new electrical car to our</p>	Page 9	<p>1 one to our department beside the 23 we are</p> <p>2 already training for the whole community.</p> <p>3 On the Early Head Start, we are continue</p> <p>4 to now we are developing vegetable garden.</p> <p>5 This is something that we are first time ever</p> <p>6 in the Health Department to be offered. We are</p> <p>7 already in talks with different gardeners,</p> <p>8 specialists, and educators. And we are</p> <p>9 thinking about Early Head Start because that's</p> <p>10 part of the community I think will be needing</p> <p>11 that kind of service for educational, to giving</p> <p>12 them the right type of food that will be</p> <p>13 healthier and hoping those kids will get the</p> <p>14 hang of how to do that on their own as they</p> <p>15 graduate from that program. Again, that is</p> <p>16 also part of the rural health transformation.</p> <p>17 Sorry. I hope I'm not speaking too fast.</p> <p>18 I'm okay?</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p> <p>20 DR. FAHMI: Okay. About we're also adding</p> <p>21 more kids to the Maryland Children Health</p>

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1 Program and we're trying to get more teachers.
 2 We know that one of our adjacent counties have
 3 the program and move to a different setup. So
 4 we're trying to get that manpower to our
 5 department.
 6 We're also working with the DDA to support
 7 132 clients who are developmentally disabled
 8 and we are helping those as well.
 9 This is the community garden that we are
 10 hoping to plant. It's going to be fenced.
 11 We're going to have educational sessions.
 12 We're going to be hopefully also with the rural
 13 transformation, we're going to plan to give
 14 items that will help them to cook and to teach
 15 them how to be cooking lessons and so forth,
 16 not just the planting items only.
 17 And we have other counties that have done
 18 things that are more like venison meat and so
 19 forth. So we're working hopefully as we move
 20 along, we might be purchasing the freezers and
 21 whatnot and giving it to the community as we

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1 get the funding.
 2 This is a setup that have been made by the
 3 master gardeners. So it will be the entrance.
 4 This will be the shed. This is for the washing
 5 of the kids' hands and items. And this is
 6 where they could sit and get some educational.
 7 And we're going to divide it for kids' beds as
 8 well as for the parents and bigger items so
 9 that the whole family can be participating.
 10 We're looking for healthy food, which is
 11 now important for the high blood pressure and
 12 obviously the items that have high heart
 13 disease issues.
 14 This is our health services through the
 15 CHRC, which is another fund which help in
 16 immunizations for people who do not have
 17 immunization coverage. Family planning and
 18 smoking cessation. This is all within the last
 19 six months, beside preventive diseases.
 20 And for TB, we do also case tracking. We
 21 also do rabies.

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1 And we do social determinants of health,
 2 which is the last item. And we try to connect
 3 those people to the needed items with the food
 4 banks or Social Services and so forth.
 5 I'm now moving to the environmental.
 6 We're trying to reorganize our Environmental
 7 Department. We're trying to get it more
 8 electronized (sic.) and move from a paper to a
 9 digital format. So that will help our manpower
 10 as well as accessibility. We have a change of
 11 leadership, and we have now an acting deputy
 12 director there.
 13 We continue to be pushing for the season
 14 change for the rabies vaccinations for the pets
 15 as well as for items that include pools and so
 16 forth through the Environmental Health. It's
 17 good that we're having somewhat of a better
 18 rain season. So that will help us when we do
 19 our well inspection for the table, the water
 20 table.
 21 We were so lucky last time to be invited

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1 by the troops, Troop 190. Sorry. It's a typo.
 2 It's supposed to say Troop 190. To teach them
 3 about food safety.
 4 And the lecture was given by one of our
 5 environmental employee, Ms. Sarah. I, for one,
 6 have learned quite a significant amount of
 7 knowledge from her presentation. I found that
 8 the Troop members were very engaging and were
 9 asking very valid and very smart and bright
 10 questions. I think it was definitely something
 11 we're looking forward to do it again and again.
 12 It was an opportunity that we cherish, and we
 13 appreciate the Troop leadership for allowing us
 14 to do that.
 15 By the way, the one who invited us is
 16 Mr. Lesher's son. So thank you, sir.
 17 MR. LESHAR: Yes, indeed.
 18 DR. FAHMI: Appreciate it.
 19 Environmental Health continues to, as I
 20 mentioned earlier, through the rural health
 21 transformation, there's a section for

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1 modernizing and increasing our infrastructure
 2 abilities.
 3 From the IT Department, we are revamping
 4 the whole software. We are moving our
 5 Microsoft to 365. This is being implemented as
 6 we speak for better security. We are very
 7 aware of the AI, and we're getting that aspect
 8 as well as for people who have hearing deficit
 9 and visual deficit who are making our websites
 10 more friendly for those individuals.
 11 And we're trying to get more software
 12 products that can be serving the community, not
 13 just from the environmental but also from the
 14 Health Department itself to make life easier.
 15 I'm now switching from the IT to school
 16 health and preparedness. At this time, we have
 17 done 39 kids for glasses. And I will be
 18 begging the county soon to appreciate the
 19 partnership of the retina specialist, the
 20 optometrist, and the people who make those
 21 glasses for the second time given to the school

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1 kids for free.
 2 This is a second time we're doing this
 3 service, this product. And I'm really proud of
 4 the people who are running the show. So I will
 5 be coming to the county for their helping me to
 6 appreciate these people.
 7 We are going through something called
 8 healthy heart ambassadors through the American
 9 Legion. This is a program to help people with
 10 certain parameters of BMI, blood pressure for
 11 healthy living. It just started recently, and
 12 it's very, very -- having a significant
 13 traction. Very proud of the people who are
 14 doing it.
 15 Yesterday, we had a gentleman who was
 16 preparing his post-graduate degree from Johns
 17 Hopkins. I think it's also the first time we
 18 are having this level of cooperation with Johns
 19 Hopkins. Going to help us in streamlining and
 20 that dashboard for the whole department.
 21 We are continuing to help our continuum

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1 with Stevenson and University of Maryland.
 2 That is a very successful program. And the
 3 kids from Stevenson are presenting very nice
 4 topics for the department.
 5 Our addiction program had two vending
 6 machines, one of them in front of the lobby of
 7 the department and the other one is by the
 8 correction facility. They are offering for
 9 free health, personal hygiene, and protective
 10 items. And we can hardly keep it stocked. The
 11 more we add Narcan and test strips for
 12 medications that are addictive, we can hardly
 13 keep the vending machines full.
 14 And we are hoping to expand them to the
 15 rest of -- smaller versions to different places
 16 of the county. We're hoping to add three more,
 17 but they will not be as big and temperature
 18 climate controlled as the one you see. This is
 19 one of two.
 20 Our PIO has been instrumental in getting
 21 out information from the Health Department.

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1 I'm trying to go like a full season beforehand.
 2 So now we're speaking about ticks, we're
 3 speaking about pollen, we're speaking about the
 4 pool safety. So I'm trying to go one season
 5 above. And we have a special program for the
 6 Health Week.
 7 We are also going through significant
 8 changes in our emergency preparedness. We have
 9 now a special director, which is making a big
 10 impact on the department for getting us ready
 11 for in cases of emergencies. And we are doing
 12 pod trainings through the whole department.
 13 And we are attending more and more
 14 conferences. And in May, we have a full week
 15 of emergency preparedness in Baltimore and we
 16 have a subsequent one shortly in Ocean City,
 17 again, about emergency preparedness. I think
 18 for me it is very important for the Health
 19 Department to be fit for the emergencies that
 20 it might face.
 21 We are also continuing to be educating

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1 people according to the season for cancers and
 2 for smoking and for addiction. According for
 3 each week, there is a national week for each
 4 and every item of all those things.
 5 Something that I do not recall been
 6 happening, I know that I just joined almost one
 7 year ago, but I don't recall that this happened
 8 recently. We are going now through something
 9 called five-year strategic planning. We are
 10 hiring a specialist to go through the whole
 11 department to see what is our shortcomings,
 12 what is our deficits because just hearing and
 13 listening to people, I found that was not
 14 objective methodology. So we're hiring
 15 specialist people to do it objectively what is
 16 needed and so that I can strategize the
 17 manpower and the budgets and the items that are
 18 available to me to be more strategically
 19 placed.
 20 We continue to have infection control
 21 items. We got in the department in our own

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1 county our fair share of whatever it is, TB or
 2 mumps or -- so we are doing due diligence.
 3 Luckily now the things for the flu, the
 4 flu-like infections seems to be dwindling. The
 5 whooping cough happened in a more, somebody
 6 above middle age, but it was localized. And
 7 the same with the mumps.
 8 We continue to be manpower strategizing
 9 because I think any healthy department or any
 10 healthy business should always look at its
 11 manpower to shift it and move it according to
 12 its needs.
 13 This is the presentation, but I had a
 14 couple of things I want to mention that was
 15 added.
 16 In September 10th, we have 33 units of
 17 blood been given in our blood drive. And this
 18 is our second time as a department to give
 19 blood drive.
 20 In December, we gave 34. And in March, we
 21 gave again 34, March a couple of days ago.

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1 We did something called life saver
 2 marathon a few days ago where we participated
 3 with EMS to do Narcan training, CPR, and stop
 4 the bleed.
 5 Most recently, I said about the heart
 6 ambassadors from the American Legion.
 7 It behooves me to say thank you very much
 8 for the Council and the manager of the Council.
 9 They have been instrumental. The department
 10 have like -- everybody has went through
 11 difficult times, but their support meant a lot
 12 to me specifically and personally. And
 13 definitely to the department, your support was
 14 very instrumental in keeping us doing what we
 15 should give to the people of Talbot, who
 16 deserve it.
 17 Thank you for the opportunity.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Dr. Fahmi.
 19 Council.
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Dr. Fahmi, I just have one
 21 question that had come to light before we came

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1 into our Council meeting.
 2 Can you tell me what is National Public
 3 Health Week and how diversity, equity, and
 4 inclusion falls into that under National Health
 5 because we were advised that there's an issue
 6 that DEI is connected to the National Public
 7 Health Week? So can you explain that to me,
 8 please, sir?
 9 DR. FAHMI: Yes. I'm a big-time proponent
 10 in favor of the DEI being equitable.
 11 When I joined the department, I said I'm
 12 not pro political party or color or gender or
 13 sexual orientation or physical ability. I'm
 14 here for whoever makes Talbot County.
 15 We are the department serving all Talbot
 16 County people. We're going to be representing
 17 and advocating for all walks of life in Talbot
 18 County.
 19 Our previous National Health was more
 20 focused on activities within the department.
 21 We are definitely -- I've spoken with my PIO.

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<p>1 And we are going to work on going after</p> <p>2 activities to be presenting items out of the</p> <p>3 department.</p> <p>4 But unfortunately, when I had this</p> <p>5 discussion a week or two ago, the time factor</p> <p>6 was not in our best interest. So we're trying</p> <p>7 to expand outside and move from the previous</p> <p>8 inside house education, in-house</p> <p>9 (indiscernible) information and to using our</p> <p>10 media only. So we are trying to do activities</p> <p>11 out of the department.</p> <p>12 Yes. I'm very cognizant of minority. I'm</p> <p>13 very cognizant of -- and that's why we're</p> <p>14 actively engaged with trying to do our best</p> <p>15 with BAAM and DFN to reach that section of the</p> <p>16 community.</p> <p>17 MS. HAYTHE: But your National -- your</p> <p>18 proclamation is not connected to that</p> <p>19 particular, those particular words or that</p> <p>20 particular acronym is my question?</p> <p>21 DR. FAHMI: We categorize it I mean --</p>	<p>1 proclamation speaks to this county and what you</p> <p>2 guys are working on. So I believe it's fine.</p> <p>3 Thank you.</p> <p>4 DR. FAHMI: Thank you, ma'am.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.</p> <p>6 MS. MIELKE: No comments.</p> <p>7 MR. LESHER: I just want to thank you. No</p> <p>8 questions for you. But for your engagement</p> <p>9 with the community.</p> <p>10 You mentioned you put a slide of your</p> <p>11 staff's visit to my son's Scout Troop. And you</p> <p>12 got to observe their engagement.</p> <p>13 What you not did get to observe was how</p> <p>14 that changed how they practiced on their</p> <p>15 camp-out this past weekend.</p> <p>16 This commitment to education of the</p> <p>17 community in all that you do, whether it is</p> <p>18 from immunization and family planning services</p> <p>19 for those who could not afford it who might not</p> <p>20 have the insurance access to it, to the school</p> <p>21 health programs that you facilitate, to the</p>
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<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: No, it's not. I don't see it</p> <p>2 in there. I don't see it in there. So I was</p> <p>3 just asking just to clarify, to clarify that.</p> <p>4 DR. FAHMI: We are going to do something</p> <p>5 for the National Health Week.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: Yes.</p> <p>7 DR. FAHMI: But we are thinking it is as a</p> <p>8 product. We're not thinking it as a verbiage.</p> <p>9 But if the verbiage will reflect better for the</p> <p>10 community of being a proclamation, I don't see</p> <p>11 why we shouldn't do it.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.</p> <p>13 DR. FAHMI: You're welcome.</p> <p>14 It's good that you're raising this point,</p> <p>15 but I was focusing more on what products or</p> <p>16 what items we're going to be (indiscernible)</p> <p>17 out.</p> <p>18 But if the proclamation would reflect more</p> <p>19 and be understandable easier, we can do that.</p> <p>20 That's not a problem.</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. I think the</p>	<p>1 environmental health, you touch every single</p> <p>2 restaurant here and, therefore, keep us all</p> <p>3 safe every time we go out to eat anywhere in</p> <p>4 this county.</p> <p>5 Your partnerships across the county,</p> <p>6 clearly you don't operate in a silo, but you</p> <p>7 partner in school health with the public</p> <p>8 schools, you partner with probably a program</p> <p>9 that's unique in the State, what you started</p> <p>10 out with, with your Senior Care Program,</p> <p>11 partnering with our area agency for aging.</p> <p>12 Your engagement with the community, your</p> <p>13 commitment to this community and services to it</p> <p>14 is really, is really extraordinary and second</p> <p>15 to none and I just want to thank you.</p> <p>16 DR. FAHMI: Thank you for the opportunity.</p> <p>17 Thank you for the words.</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: And I'd just like to add that</p> <p>19 I agree with your commendation, Pete.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: Thank you.</p> <p>21 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.</p>

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1 DR. FAHMI: Thank you. Appreciate it.
 2 MR. STEPP: I'll add the one that really
 3 got me, Dr. Fahmi, the vending machines. I
 4 look in there, that 263. So 525 doses of
 5 Naloxone. That could be equally the amount of
 6 lives that were just saved here in Talbot
 7 County because of that. So that really stood
 8 out to me just as well as some of the other
 9 prevention, how you guys are doing narcotics in
 10 our schools and things like that.
 11 So just thank you for taking those steps.
 12 DR. FAHMI: Appreciate it. I'm really
 13 proud that we don't have that amount of
 14 narcotic issues because I think I would agree
 15 with you 100 percent that the more we give
 16 Narcan, the less likelihood we get into
 17 fatalities and the rest of the -- I mean the
 18 more Narcan we get, the happier I get.
 19 MR. STEPP: Yeah. And we have some
 20 legislation later on in today's Council meeting
 21 with regards to cannabis that we hope we can

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1 make sure we're in alignment to try to help
 2 those endeavors as much as possible.
 3 DR. FAHMI: Understood. Thank you, again.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Dr. Fahmi. You
 5 did a perfect job. Appreciate you.
 6 DR. FAHMI: Thank you for the opportunity.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda
 8 we've got a presentation of the Delmarva
 9 Community Transit. You guys want to come on
 10 up?
 11 MS. NICHOLS: Thank you. Good evening. I
 12 am Michelle Nichols. I am the interim chief
 13 executive office of Delmarva Community
 14 Services.
 15 Thank you for the opportunity to come this
 16 evening. Just wanted to introduce myself as we
 17 are in a period of transition at Delmarva
 18 Community Services and Delmarva Community
 19 Transit. We're grateful for the partnership
 20 that we have with you as the Council and to be
 21 able to serve Talbot County.

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1 And so I'm excited that we are just moving
 2 forward. Just wanted to reassure you that we
 3 continue to have the best interest of Talbot
 4 County citizens at the forefront of all that we
 5 do at Delmarva Community Transit.
 6 We have an excellent team. Here with me
 7 this evening is Samantha Parker, who has joined
 8 us as our special projects consultant. She has
 9 immersed herself in transportation, all things
 10 transportation. And we'll be sharing some data
 11 with you in just a second.
 12 But also, we have Henry Teets, who is our
 13 transit director, and Brittany Baker, our
 14 deputy director, along with Andrea Waters, who
 15 does an excellent job with all of our grants.
 16 You're very familiar with Andrea.
 17 So just wanted to reassure you that we are
 18 continuing to move forward with new leadership
 19 but with a vision to continue to serve Talbot
 20 County in the best way we possibly can.
 21 We are excited about the prospects of

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1 doing some new partnerships, and we've had the
 2 opportunity to meet with Mr. Stamp and his
 3 team. And so we're excited.
 4 So thank you, again, for the opportunity.
 5 Samantha is going to talk to you a little
 6 bit about the Annual Transportation Plan.
 7 MS. PARKER: I think Michelle covered it,
 8 right? There we go.
 9 Thank you so much for having us here.
 10 Again, different administrative team but the
 11 same committed services.
 12 So I want to give you an idea of what's
 13 happening in transit right now. Right?
 14 Everybody is aware. Fixed routes that are
 15 happening on a regular basis, but also mobility
 16 on demand that occurs, senior transports, ADA
 17 services.
 18 Mobility on demand is a particular area of
 19 interest. Customers access this by calling the
 20 dispatch center the same way that they would to
 21 be able to do the route services.

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1 I have to give such huge kudos to our
 2 dispatchers, who really are, you know, unfunded
 3 social workers. When they are just figuring
 4 out a way to map and get people on whatever way
 5 to be able to do so, whether they are mobility
 6 on demand or ADA or a general paying customer
 7 that it wants to use one of those route
 8 services.

9 The question comes then, though, what does
 10 that mean when I say the route services and
 11 such? It equates to 22,388 duplicated rides
 12 through the route services just themselves. In
 13 addition to that, another 20,600 on-demand
 14 rides.

15 The on-demand rides, currently we are
 16 calculating them for all three counties at one
 17 time, whereas the routes are specifically to
 18 Talbot.

19 And when I looked forward to the future,
 20 what are some of the things that we could, you
 21 know, improve or do a little bit better for you

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1 would be that data.

2 We want to begin taking a look at, you
 3 know, how do we parse those out, what zip codes
 4 are being served, what zip codes are not being
 5 served, you know, where we can look at future
 6 planning and such.

7 In that vain, you're going to see coming
 8 in the future invitations for an annual
 9 transportation meeting. Coming together not
 10 somebody has complained about something, but we
 11 see an opportunity to advance in this area or
 12 there is another funding source to advance in
 13 this area. And so kind of projecting forward
 14 in that way rather than reactively.

15 So that will be coming with an invitation
 16 fairly soon. And then we're hoping to continue
 17 that every year before we come with this
 18 request so that we can actually know does this
 19 request equate to people getting
 20 transportation.

21 Another thing we're looking forward to in

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1 the future is advertisements. We talked about
 2 this one, you know, as an idea.

3 Unfortunately, this MTA grant we used
 4 doesn't cover advertisement. And people need
 5 to know. What they don't know, they can't
 6 access. And so taking a look at how can we
 7 work on that more creatively, make our bus
 8 routes even make more sense. Right? It's a
 9 little bit difficult sometimes to read if
 10 transit isn't your, you know, everyday. So how
 11 can we, you know, help and advance in some of
 12 those areas.

13 So that's where we are with numbers.
 14 That's where we're looking at in the future.

15 This is what made up our request for a
 16 hundred seventy-eight thousand, four hundred
 17 and twenty-four thousand dollars (sic.) for
 18 this year.

19 So what that means, it is our operating,
 20 which is our -- Andrea will be able to tell you
 21 what the numbers are. It is the operating of

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1 the routes and the MOD and the ADA. There are
 2 certain percentages that are required for that.

3 It also is a capital allocation. We want
 4 to replace two vans and one bus. We have found
 5 that for the most part, we are able to move
 6 just as many people efficiently in the vans.
 7 So we try to keep the larger buses for where
 8 it's necessary in those larger route areas but
 9 also move to the more efficiency of those vans.

10 So that is just some replacements that are
 11 needed.

12 Preventive maintenance. We have a vintage
 13 of bus that are having some motor troubles. So
 14 we are, you know, projecting for some changes
 15 there, as well as a required Transportation
 16 Development Plan.

17 This is something Michelle and I have
 18 never participated in before. It happens every
 19 three years. And when I say required, MTA
 20 tells us when it's time and tells us how much
 21 it costs.

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1 However, we feel like there's an
 2 opportunity to fold this with our annual
 3 transportation conversation. What is it that
 4 they're asking? What is it that we need to
 5 know that we can kind of push into that plan?
 6 So I don't have a lot of detail on that
 7 yet. It will be our first time, but we think
 8 there's a great opportunity to use that in our
 9 projections going forward.
 10 Questions?
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great. Okay.
 12 MS. PARKER: What I'd love to do, if there
 13 are no questions, is to invite Andrea Waters to
 14 join us. She is the knower of all things for
 15 the grants.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely. Sure.
 17 MS. PARKER: To be able to talk about what
 18 next year looks like.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds great.
 20 MS. PARKER: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome.

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1 MS. WATERS: Good evening, ladies and
 2 gentlemen. I'm glad to be here this evening
 3 and, once again, submit our Annual
 4 Transportation Plan for your approval.
 5 This year in operating, for 5311, which is
 6 the fixed route buses, the federal and State
 7 portion is \$925,820. The local share, which is
 8 shared by Talbot, Kent, and Caroline County, is
 9 \$308,607. For a total of \$1,234,427.
 10 The SDTP, which is our senior and
 11 disability transportation program, the State
 12 operating share is \$421,768. The local portion
 13 is shared by Talbot, Kent, and Caroline
 14 Counties, is \$140,589. For a total of
 15 \$562,357.
 16 The Americans with Disabilities Act
 17 operating is, the State portion is \$40,000.
 18 Only Talbot County receives ADA services, and
 19 the local share for that is \$4,444.
 20 For capital, our preventive maintenance
 21 capital cost, federal and State share is

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1 \$65,557. The local share shared by Talbot,
 2 Kent, and Caroline Counties is \$11,569. For a
 3 total of \$77,126.
 4 Vehicles, as Samantha said earlier, we are
 5 requesting replacement for three of our
 6 vehicles, two will be minivans, a little bit
 7 larger than a minivan, transit van and one bus.
 8 The federal and State share of the vehicle cost
 9 is \$261,641. The local, which is shared by
 10 Talbot, Kent, and Caroline Counties, is
 11 \$46,173. For a total of \$307,814.
 12 The Transportation Development Plan, the
 13 federal and State portion is \$85,000. The
 14 local portion, shared by Talbot, Kent, and
 15 Caroline Counties, is \$15,000. For a total of
 16 \$100,000.
 17 Altogether, for all these programs, the
 18 federal and State portion is \$1,799,786. The
 19 local portion shared by Talbot, Kent, and
 20 Caroline Counties, is \$526,382. For a total of
 21 \$2,326,168.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great job.
 2 MS. PARKER: Any questions?
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 4 MR. STEPP: I'll just start here. Just
 5 thank you, guys, every year. I don't think
 6 there's a time where I swing by Walmart and I
 7 don't see one of y'all's buses out there. Just
 8 giving folks the access to their daily needs,
 9 their medications or whatever it is.
 10 So thank you for doing what y'all do.
 11 MS. NICHOLS: Thank you, sir.
 12 MR. LESHER: You have one of the toughest
 13 jobs, which is providing transit in a rural
 14 area. And given the resources you have, I
 15 really applaud you for the job you do.
 16 And particularly want to note the mobility
 17 on demand services, which allows some of our
 18 seniors to get to medical appointments that
 19 they might not otherwise be able to reach.
 20 You really facilitate. You help people
 21 age in place, to stay in their homes, which is

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<p>1 where they want to be. That service is 2 absolutely critical in the web of services that 3 we need to support these citizens of ours. 4 I applaud your move toward smaller, more 5 efficient vehicles where the demand will allow 6 for that. 7 And I certainly -- I've actually had the 8 occasion to witness this in action when I was 9 riding the St. Michaels shuttle. And the 10 driver asked for permission to divert to do a 11 mobility on demand pickup. And I got to watch 12 somebody board that bus with the wheelchair 13 lift. It is pretty incredible. And the 14 service that -- the professionalism of those 15 drivers and the service they provide is 16 absolutely critical to the community. 17 So thank you. 18 MS. NICHOLS: Thank you, sir. 19 MS. MIELKE: Thank you for keeping Talbot 20 County mobile and continuing that for all 21 generations and all ages. Thank you very much.</p>	<p>1 MR. STAMP: Yeah. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 6 MR. STEPP: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 8 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 10 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 11 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 12 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 14 MR. LESHNER: And that was approval of the 15 plan. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct. 17 Okay. Next, introduction of 18 administrative resolution. Madam Secretary. 19 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution, a 20 resolution authorizing Talbot County to file an 21 application with the Maryland Transit</p>
Page 39	Page 41
<p>1 MS. NICHOLS: Thank you very much. 2 MS. HAYTHE: And I'll echo what my 3 colleagues said. Thank you so much. 4 And it's exciting to hear, too, what you 5 project for the future and the goals and the 6 things that you're trying to do, such as the 7 annual meeting in the future and bringing 8 everyone together as well and being proactive 9 with that. 10 So all great news. Thank you so much for 11 all that you do. 12 MS. NICHOLS: Thank you, all, for your 13 continued support. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Appreciate it. 15 MS. NICHOLS: Thank you for your kind 16 words. Look forward to the continued 17 collaboration. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely. Thank you, 19 guys. 20 SECRETARY: You need to vote on the plan. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: We do?</p>	<p>1 Administration of the Maryland Department of 2 Transportation for a Section 5303, 5304, 5307, 3 5309, 5310, and 5311 grant under the Federal 4 Transit Act. 5 You want me to keep on? 6 MR. CALLAHAN: I don't think so. No. 7 MR. LESHNER: The title should be 8 sufficient. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. That's fine. 10 MR. LESHNER: You want a show of hands to 11 introduce? 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. 13 MR. LESHNER: Introduced by Leshner, 14 Callahan, Mielke, and Haythe, and Stepp. 15 Introduced by Council. 16 MR. STAMP: You can vote on that if you'd 17 like. 18 SECRETARY: Yes. And you can now vote on 19 it. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: We can? Okay. Want to 21 call the vote, Madam Secretary.</p>

Page 42	<p>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: Aye. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next up is Easton 12 Utilities. You guys want to come on up? 13 MR. HORNER: Good evening. My name is 14 John Horner. I'm the president and CEO of 15 Easton Utilities. 16 With me tonight is Ted Book, our vice 17 president of Easton Velocity. 18 And we're here to share an exciting update 19 on the Connect Talbot project, which many of 20 you are familiar with. 21 This was a transformational initiative.</p>	Page 44	<p>1 that, the drops of the services to those 2 properties that needed access. We currently 3 have 2,300 new customers who have signed up for 4 service through this project. 5 A quick timeline. It all started in 2016 6 when the Rural Broadband Task Force was formed 7 at the State of Maryland. 8 In 2017, Talbot County proactively issued 9 an RFI for a partner to solve this rural 10 broadband problem in Talbot County. 11 In 2019, Easton Utilities was identified 12 by the county as an ideal partner and solution. 13 And the Town of Easton approved Easton 14 Utilities to move forward with this project. 15 We then entered into a formal agreement 16 with Talbot County as a partner. And Talbot 17 County provided \$3 million of their own money 18 to invest in the project as matching funds to 19 get us started. 20 In 2020, we were awarded a USDA Reconnect 21 grant in the amount of about \$14 million. And</p>
Page 43	<p>1 It was set in place to ensure all the unserved 2 residents of Talbot County had access to 3 broadband. And as of this evening, we are 4 proud to say that that mission is complete and 5 we did that together. So thank you very much 6 for that. 7 We'll provide you with a little bit more 8 detail. 9 So this slide here shows the status 10 indicating 100 percent access and availability. 11 So not only was Talbot County the first 12 fully-funded county in the State of Maryland, 13 it's also the first county to provide 14 ubiquitous access. And I'm going to hold onto 15 that word ubiquitous for a couple of minutes 16 because it was coined by someone else in the 17 room that I want to acknowledge here in a few 18 minutes. 19 This means we completed 360 miles of 20 mainline fiber throughout the county to all the 21 nooks and crannies, plus the drops on top of</p>	Page 45	<p>1 we held a kick-off event at that time to get 2 the project rolling. 3 Construction officially began in April of 4 2022, after design was completed. And this was 5 just after we started coming out of the 6 pandemic. 7 Additional grant funding became available 8 due to the clear impact of COVID on those 9 without access to broadband. And as a result, 10 we were also awarded additional grant funding 11 from the FCC, additional grant funding from the 12 USDA, and several grant opportunities through 13 the State of Maryland and even through you, 14 once again. Through your American Rescue Plan 15 Act funding, you provided additional funds for 16 the project. 17 In 2023, we held a celebration event for 18 our 1,000th customer. And the USDA and all of 19 you joined us at the Triple Creek Winery to 20 celebrate. 21 And in 2024, we celebrated the milestone</p>

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1 of connecting our 1,500th customer.
 2 Fast forward to this evening. We're here
 3 to celebrate having provided access to everyone
 4 in those grant-funded areas and in Talbot
 5 County.
 6 The total amount of grant funding that we
 7 received was \$35 million. The total cost of
 8 the project is around \$45 million. And the
 9 county investment alone was well over
 10 \$5 million in a combination of county funds and
 11 grants.
 12 With that, I'm going to turn it over to
 13 Ted to talk a little bit more about the
 14 project.
 15 MR. BOOK: Thank you, John. Thank you for
 16 having us here tonight to share this good news
 17 with you.
 18 Let's see. This here is a time lapse
 19 video showing our connections over time
 20 starting -- we actually started hooking up
 21 customers a little bit before the actual

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1 funding got started. So it started from '21 up
 2 to current.
 3 You can see the properties being filled in
 4 that we've connected. This is a really cool
 5 slide. Takes a little bit to get to the end.
 6 So you can see we've got customers
 7 splattered all over the county now.
 8 And in the blue area was our existing
 9 service territory that we had prior to starting
 10 the project.
 11 Don't want to do that again. How do we
 12 get out of here? There we go.
 13 This is just a map showing the actual
 14 fully-covered service area. So what this is
 15 really showing is all of those properties that
 16 you saw being connected fall within all the
 17 gold areas here where we have service
 18 available.
 19 As John stated, we have service available
 20 to all properties within the county that are
 21 considered unsevered. However, we don't have

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1 every property covered or connected because not
 2 every customer has reached out to us, which is
 3 really the important message that I want to get
 4 across tonight, is that there is still some
 5 grant funding available. It is running out.
 6 We anticipate having funding at least to
 7 the end of this year. Can't really say if it's
 8 going to go past that or not. So we're urging
 9 anyone that feels that they're eligible for
 10 service to reach out to us to see. If they go
 11 to our web page on eastonvelocity.com, go to
 12 the Connect Talbot page. We used to have a map
 13 there that basically showed that coverage map.
 14 We have taken that map down. And now if
 15 you scroll to the bottom of the page, there's
 16 just a quick box that says am I eligible for
 17 service. Put in your address, hit the button.
 18 It will say yes or no.
 19 So if a resident goes there, sees that
 20 they're eligible for service, they should call
 21 us immediately and we can get them on the

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1 schedule to get them connected.
 2 So that's really my message tonight, is
 3 to, you know, tell all those residents who may
 4 be eligible for access but aren't aware of it
 5 or just haven't reached out yet, you know,
 6 please reach out to us so we can get you
 7 connected while we still have funding.
 8 With that, I'm going to turn it back over
 9 to John.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: One question, Ted. If
 11 they're not eligible, does that mean they have
 12 to pay to get it?
 13 MR. BOOK: Yes. That means they have to
 14 pay for their drop.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 16 MR. BOOK: So we have to go to the closest
 17 point of access to get it to them. So there
 18 will be a cost involved. We would come out.
 19 We would evaluate that and then discuss that
 20 with them. Correct.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: So really everybody is

Page 50	<p>1 eligible, it's just if you're eligible for the</p> <p>2 grant money?</p> <p>3 MR. BOOK: Correct.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Got you. Okay.</p> <p>5 MR. HORNER: Another way of answering that</p> <p>6 is if you're not eligible for the grant funds,</p> <p>7 you're probably already served by another</p> <p>8 service provider in the county.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Got you. Okay.</p> <p>10 MR. HORNER: So tonight really is about a</p> <p>11 thank you and about gratitude, especially to</p> <p>12 the county for their support of this project</p> <p>13 over the past several years.</p> <p>14 Partnerships are the keys to success. The</p> <p>15 logos of our great partners are shown up here</p> <p>16 on the slide. And this has helped solve a</p> <p>17 significant issue in the county. And</p> <p>18 ultimately, it's made life better for our</p> <p>19 community.</p> <p>20 We want to recognize some of the important</p> <p>21 people and groups who were instrumental in the</p>	Page 52	<p>1 Department of Housing and Community</p> <p>2 Development Secretary Jake Day.</p> <p>3 Office of Statewide Broadband Directors</p> <p>4 Rick Gordon and now Ronny Hammond and Deputy</p> <p>5 Director Ray Bargi have been very instrumental</p> <p>6 in making this successful.</p> <p>7 And most importantly, very, very early on,</p> <p>8 former Senator Addie Eckardt and current</p> <p>9 Senator Johnny Mautz, who was then Delegate</p> <p>10 Johnny Mautz, worked together with Hugh</p> <p>11 Grunden, our former president and CEO.</p> <p>12 He's here with us this evening. I wanted</p> <p>13 to make sure that Hugh was here to enjoy this</p> <p>14 recognition.</p> <p>15 They were the ones that really put</p> <p>16 together the Rural Broadband Task Force in 2016</p> <p>17 and they pushed for legislation to prioritize</p> <p>18 rural broadband at the State level.</p> <p>19 Hugh very much pushed this project and was</p> <p>20 a champion for the partnerships. He realized</p> <p>21 this couldn't happen just with Easton Utilities</p>
Page 51	<p>1 vision for this project.</p> <p>2 For Talbot County, everyone in this room</p> <p>3 has had their fingerprints on this project.</p> <p>4 President Callahan, Vice President Leshner,</p> <p>5 Council Members Mr. Stepp, Ms. Mielke, and</p> <p>6 Ms. Haythe. Certainly County Manager Clay</p> <p>7 Stamp. The Director of Economic Development</p> <p>8 and Tourism Cassandra Vanhooser has been there</p> <p>9 since day one. And Mark Cahoon, another name</p> <p>10 that was on the project team early on.</p> <p>11 Actually developed the first set and map of</p> <p>12 unserved properties in Talbot County.</p> <p>13 Past Talbot County Council Members Corey</p> <p>14 Pack, Laura Price, Frank Divilio, and Former</p> <p>15 County Manager Andy Hollis.</p> <p>16 USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue, Deputy</p> <p>17 Administrator Laurel Leverrier, and General Field</p> <p>18 Representative Richard Jenkins been heavily</p> <p>19 involved in helping make this project</p> <p>20 successful.</p> <p>21 Governors Larry Hogan and Wes Moore.</p>	Page 53	<p>1 alone and really worked together. Even when</p> <p>2 our first round application was denied, helped</p> <p>3 pursue a bipartisan letter from Congressman</p> <p>4 Harris, Senator Van Hollen, and Senator Cardin</p> <p>5 to the USDA asking for a site visit.</p> <p>6 And we all got in our vehicles and drove</p> <p>7 down to meet with them to make sure that they</p> <p>8 really understood the importance of this</p> <p>9 project to Talbot County. And very soon</p> <p>10 thereafter, we received our first grant award.</p> <p>11 Certainly also need to recognize our past</p> <p>12 Easton Utilities commissioners and elected</p> <p>13 officials at both the town and county level.</p> <p>14 And then the original team that really put</p> <p>15 together that first application. Those from</p> <p>16 Talbot County included Andy Hollis, Cassandra,</p> <p>17 and Mark Cahoon.</p> <p>18 This is truly a legacy project. It</p> <p>19 happens once in a career to be able to do</p> <p>20 something like this. And each of us should be</p> <p>21 proud to have made life better for our</p>

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1 community.
 2 And it was Hugh who coined the phrase we
 3 need to find a way to get to ubiquitous access
 4 for everyone in Talbot County.
 5 And it's just a thrill to be here tonight
 6 and share that with you. And thank you for all
 7 of the work that you did to help make this
 8 happen for Talbot County's residents.
 9 So in closing, just to echo what Ted said,
 10 we're going to do a huge media blitz. We're
 11 going to be talking to real estate agents and
 12 the Mid Shore Realtors Board. We'll be on the
 13 radio sharing that if you're one of the
 14 remaining 2,000 or so properties in the county
 15 that now has access to broadband and have not
 16 called to sign up and use those grant funds to
 17 get that service installed, please do so. Even
 18 if you don't take our service, take advantage
 19 of the grant funds to get it from the curb to
 20 the side of the house because you can do that
 21 now, even if you don't sign up for service.

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1 That at least allows you to have the access
 2 later without having to pay for that service
 3 drop once the grant funds are closed.
 4 And finally, I mentioned Hugh. But I
 5 really need to thank Ted. It was his team and
 6 Ted that really made this happen. Certainly
 7 Hugh was incredibly pushy, as Ted would say,
 8 and only the way that Hugh can be. But Ted and
 9 his team pulled it off in less time than we
 10 expected.
 11 We didn't expect this project to be
 12 completed from a mainline perspective until
 13 probably the middle of next year. So really
 14 within less than four years of construction
 15 time, we're ready to say that the job is done.
 16 So thank you, Ted.
 17 MR. BOOK: Thank you, John. Appreciate
 18 it.
 19 MR. HORNER: And congratulations. Any
 20 questions?
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. Keasha.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: No questions. Just a huge
 2 congratulations to you and your team, Ted,
 3 John. I mean you really do have a great team
 4 over there at Easton Utilities, all the
 5 partners.
 6 You are indeed correct when you said this
 7 is a legacy project that the previous Council
 8 that had the, you know, foresight to see this
 9 and provide the necessary partnership and
 10 funding with you guys to make this happen.
 11 This not only benefits the residents of
 12 Talbot County, but also those that have small
 13 businesses and, you know, may have their
 14 business from home as well.
 15 So kudos to you and your team. You pulled
 16 it off. You've done it. It's amazing. It's
 17 great.
 18 And just thank you for all your hard work
 19 and thank you for your continued partnership.
 20 MR. HORNER: You're welcome.
 21 MR. BOOK: Thank you.

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1 MS. MIELKE: Thank you very much.
 2 When I first came on the Council, I had a
 3 lot of constituents say when are we going to
 4 get broadband, when are we going to get
 5 broadband. And so they're all happy today
 6 because of you. So thank you so much.
 7 MR. HORNER: (Indiscernible.)
 8 MR. LESHNER: Thank you. You've delivered.
 9 This, for me this is possibly my proudest
 10 moment on this Council, to see this come to not
 11 only a conclusion but a conclusion ahead of
 12 schedule. You've really delivered.
 13 So that we don't have to have digital
 14 haves and have nots in this county. No matter
 15 how remote your property, no matter how long
 16 your driveway, you've made this successful.
 17 You've broken down that wall.
 18 You have opened up these economic
 19 possibilities for our residents and our
 20 businesses in a way that rural electrification
 21 did back in the 1930s. This is fully as

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1 transformational as that rural electrification
 2 program was back in the Great Depression.
 3 Congratulations. And thank you.
 4 And we are proud to be first to be able to
 5 offer this service in a ubiquitous fashion.
 6 MR. STEPP: So my map is loading right now
 7 on my iPad to check my address, for what that's
 8 worth.
 9 So I'll echo the thanks.
 10 I will ask one question because this has
 11 been asked of me to kind of parlay off of a
 12 previous one. So now that we're complete and
 13 everyone is considered served, can those who
 14 were considered served previously but the line
 15 went right in front of their home, can they now
 16 call in and request a drop?
 17 MR. HORNER: So that's a great question,
 18 Mr. Stepp. Yes.
 19 MR. STEPP: Awesome.
 20 MR. HORNER: Everyone should call. The
 21 answer might be you're not in the grant-funded

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1 area.
 2 But we are keeping track of everyone who
 3 is interested in service, and we are proceeding
 4 with a design for the entire county to be able
 5 to take a look at whether or not and how much
 6 the cost might be for those residents that are
 7 interested in service but were declared served
 8 by another Internet service provider.
 9 MR. STEPP: Because, keep me honest, we
 10 had to have completed and considered everyone
 11 served before anyone else could request access
 12 to the line, correct?
 13 MR. HORNER: We --
 14 MR. STEPP: Because we used ARPA funds.
 15 MR. HORNER: We need to be about
 16 95 percent complete, and we're very close to
 17 that.
 18 MR. STEPP: Awesome.
 19 MR. HORNER: So we will be able to start
 20 exploring how we can connect certain parts of
 21 the county that are, you know, were not part of

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1 the grant-funded areas.
 2 MR. STEPP: Perfect.
 3 MR. HORNER: So while we can't make any
 4 commitments or guaranties, some customers may
 5 or may not like the cost of the service
 6 extension.
 7 Certainly if it's right in front of their
 8 house already, you would image that that
 9 service extension will be less than if it's
 10 several miles away.
 11 MR. STEPP: That's where I'm on the map
 12 right now. Thank you, guys.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So John and Ted and
 14 Hugh, you basically pulled off one of the most
 15 positive situations to put this Council and us
 16 in in history of these meetings.
 17 And I really appreciate all the
 18 positivity, all the hard work, all the
 19 leadership. I mean it took leadership to do
 20 this.
 21 And that's what's fascinating about

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1 getting us together and serving this community.
 2 That's what it's all about.
 3 And Hugh, you're back there hiding. Okay.
 4 I can't thank you enough. You worked hard.
 5 We've been doing it for 11 years in the makings
 6 and, you know.
 7 And Ted, all your guys and stuff, not only
 8 the leadership. It's the guys that are out
 9 there in the wintertime digging.
 10 MR. BOOK: It's a team. It's not me.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: It's a team.
 12 MR. BOOK: Absolutely.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: It's a team.
 14 So you know, you took it over, John. And
 15 you brought it to the end here. And what a
 16 phenomenal, positive end to -- and really not
 17 necessarily the end, but you've got it done and
 18 other people got options now.
 19 And not only that, it's what you've
 20 brought to the community as far as safety, you
 21 know, illness, people needing that service. It

Page 62	<p>1 just never ends what you've actually allowed 2 people to have and maybe have a life and save 3 lives. You know, the aspect of saving lives is 4 there. 5 So anyway, I won't go on and on. But man, 6 thanks so much for all you've done and putting 7 this Council and this county in a position to 8 be one of the first, like Pete said, first in 9 the State and putting us in this position to 10 make us look that good. 11 And thanks for all the towns and all 12 the -- Easton, I should say, for helping out. 13 So really appreciate your great job. 14 Thank you. 15 MR. HORNER: My pleasure. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda, 17 Cassandra. It's a big deal now. Come on up, 18 Cassandra. 19 Okay. How are you? 20 MS. VANHOOSER: Wonderful. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a lot of</p>	Page 64	<p>1 four of the Talbot Works Business Academy. 2 Those are 12 individuals who invested their 3 time and made the decision to grow their 4 businesses. 5 They represent the diversity of Talbot 6 County's economy. Health care, retail, 7 hospitality, marine services, and professional 8 services. Different industries, different 9 paths, but a shared commitment to building a 10 stronger foundation. 11 Growth doesn't happen by chance. It 12 happens by design. And that's exactly what 13 this program is built to do. 14 When we launched the Talbot Works Business 15 Academy three years ago, the goal was simple. 16 Give small businesses the tools, the 17 competence, and the support they need to 18 compete and succeed. 19 The results are real. Across the program, 20 and I want you to make note of these numbers, 21 50 businesses will have graduated after this</p>
Page 63	<p>1 people out here. 2 MS. VANHOOSER: We got some friends here 3 tonight. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: We've got some friends 5 here. They're just ready to get in business; 6 aren't they? 7 MS. VANHOOSER: Yes. 8 So Mr. President, Members of the County 9 Council. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. 11 MS. VANHOOSER: It's a proud night; isn't 12 it? 13 MR. CALLAHAN: It is a proud night. 14 MS. VANHOOSER: I mean we are seeing on 15 full display the results of the investments you 16 have made in broadband, which serves our 17 residents and our businesses. And it's just a 18 really exciting night. But not just for that, 19 because we're here to celebrate, too. 20 So tonight we are celebrating 12 21 entrepreneurs who are graduating from cohort</p>	Page 65	<p>1 evening. 2 Members of the first three cohorts have 3 invested nearly \$600,000 back into their 4 operations, into equipment, inventory, 5 marketing, and expansion. They've created 6 jobs; full time, part time, apprenticeships, 7 and contract work. Six of them have launched 8 new businesses in addition to the ones they 9 already own. Four graduates report securing 10 the largest contracts in their company's 11 history. 12 And I'm going to make that five because I 13 was talking to a gentleman who works here at 14 the courthouse, and he told me tonight that 15 he's got one of his largest contracts as of 16 today. 17 So one of those businesses has got a 18 contract that's nearly \$1 million. So again, 19 this does not happen by accident. It happens 20 because someone had the preparation and the 21 confidence to say yes when the opportunity came</p>

Page 66	Page 68
<p>1 along.</p> <p>2 This is what we're building in Talbot</p> <p>3 County. We're building businesses that are</p> <p>4 stronger, more resilient, and more competitive.</p> <p>5 I want to offer a special thank you to</p> <p>6 Scott Warner and the Mid-Shore Regional Council</p> <p>7 for their financial support. Their investment</p> <p>8 is helping make this work possible and is</p> <p>9 directly fueling the small business growth here</p> <p>10 in Talbot County.</p> <p>11 And to you, our Talbot County Council</p> <p>12 members, thank you for your continued support</p> <p>13 of this program and your commitment to the</p> <p>14 small businesses that power the local economy.</p> <p>15 And a special thank you to Council Woman</p> <p>16 Keasha Haythe, who shared this idea and helped</p> <p>17 water it and bring it along. And we now have</p> <p>18 this full bloom of a beautiful program with 50</p> <p>19 graduates. And it's just a special thank you</p> <p>20 to you, Keasha, for bringing the idea to Talbot</p> <p>21 County and help making it come to fruition.</p>	<p>1 that they have spent the last eight weeks</p> <p>2 working very diligently on growth plans that</p> <p>3 will ensure the growth of their businesses, but</p> <p>4 also the creation of jobs here in the county.</p> <p>5 The purpose of the program is to have not</p> <p>6 just an immediate economic impact, but a</p> <p>7 continued economic impact.</p> <p>8 It has been an honor to work with these</p> <p>9 incredible graduates, and we look forward to</p> <p>10 future cohorts and to serving the Talbot County</p> <p>11 region.</p> <p>12 Thank you so much.</p> <p>13 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you, Mr. Holmes.</p> <p>14 And then I always like for you to hear</p> <p>15 from one of our students. So at this time, I'm</p> <p>16 going to invite Mr. Kevin Rosenthal to join us</p> <p>17 up here and talk about what the experience has</p> <p>18 been like for him.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome.</p> <p>20 MR. ROSENTHAL: Thank you. Thank you to</p> <p>21 the Talbot County Council, Mid-Shore Regional</p>
Page 67	Page 69
<p>1 Small businesses are not just part of our</p> <p>2 economy. They are the backbone of our</p> <p>3 communities.</p> <p>4 And tonight we celebrate 12 more who are</p> <p>5 now part of that story in a bigger, bolder way</p> <p>6 across the industries that keep Talbot County</p> <p>7 working every day.</p> <p>8 Now I'm pleased to invite Mr. Holmes,</p> <p>9 Mr. Will Holmes, the program facilitator, to</p> <p>10 share what the journey looks like from his</p> <p>11 side. Mr. Holmes.</p> <p>12 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Ms. Vanhooser.</p> <p>13 First, greetings to the members of the</p> <p>14 County Council of Talbot County.</p> <p>15 My name is Will Holmes, founder of WHC and</p> <p>16 facilitator of the program, Talbot Works</p> <p>17 Business Academy.</p> <p>18 I want to thank you for your continued</p> <p>19 support.</p> <p>20 Tonight we celebrate cohort four</p> <p>21 graduates. And I can tell you I can attest</p>	<p>1 Council, Dr. Vanhooser and her team at the</p> <p>2 Economic Development and Tourism Office,</p> <p>3 Mr. Holmes and his team at WHC, and my fellow</p> <p>4 cohort members for this incredible experience.</p> <p>5 I am Kevin Rosenthal. My wife, Allison</p> <p>6 Baynard, and I, we own and operate Nightingale</p> <p>7 Health, located at 6 South West Street, just</p> <p>8 half a block from here. Connects to Roma</p> <p>9 Pizza. Great slice.</p> <p>10 I cannot recommend this program highly</p> <p>11 enough. Talbot Works Business Academy is for</p> <p>12 any business owner who is seeking to scale and</p> <p>13 expand their operations. And the remarkable</p> <p>14 thing about this program is that it's not for a</p> <p>15 grade or a certification. What you put into it</p> <p>16 is what you're going to get out of it. The</p> <p>17 deliverable of this program is your expansion</p> <p>18 plan.</p> <p>19 And the knowledge, tools, and the access</p> <p>20 to experts and consultants at WHC and</p> <p>21 Dr. Vanhooser helped cultivate, empowers</p>

Page 70	<p>1 business owners like us to produce a scale and 2 expansion plan that's implementable. 3 For Nightingale Health, this plan includes 4 a new larger clinical space this summer so we 5 can hire staff by next cold and flu season. It 6 also includes a marketing campaign, a new 7 financial analysis platform, and operational 8 training and documents. 9 Talbot Works Business Academy not only 10 helped me create our expansion plan, it also 11 provided me with the confidence I need to 12 implement it. 13 Business involves risk. And expansion, 14 frankly, is really intimidating. 15 My experience with the Talbot Works 16 Business Academy equipped me with the knowledge 17 and tools necessary to overcome the challenges 18 that our expansion will present. And I look 19 forward to what we can all build thanks to this 20 program. 21 And for your support of the Talbot Works</p>	Page 72	<p>1 high school student who is working in his 2 family business and he's taken over a portion 3 of the business. So Van, we're very proud of 4 you. 5 Dustin Good, C.J. Weisman Balancing. 6 Sandra Maier, Roma Wedding Updos. 7 Stephanie Doeler, All in the Mix Bakeshop. 8 Patricia King, Gluten Free Bakery Girl. 9 Dr. Michael Meier, The Snuggery Inn & 10 Suites in St. Michaels. 11 Marguerite Spies, St. Michaels Winery. 12 LaShelle Lewis, Shelly's Passionate Care. 13 And last but certainly not least, 14 Mr. Kevin Rosenthal, Nightingale DPC. 15 MS. KILMON: It's going to be tight guys. 16 We're going to have some of you guys come in a 17 little bit. 18 MS. HAYTHE: Vertically challenged in the 19 front. That's what I tell my students, like I 20 am. 21 MS. KILMON: There we go. Look at that.</p>
Page 71	<p>1 Business Academy, please accept my gratitude. 2 Thank you. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. 4 MS. VANHOOSER: See. Thank you, Kevin. 5 Thank you so much. 6 We've had a fantastic group this time. 7 And they have brought their friends and family 8 members to celebrate with them. 9 And so at this time, I will call out the 10 name of the person and the name of the business 11 and have them join you up here. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 13 MS. VANHOOSER: And receive their 14 certificate. 15 Ms. Elizabeth Kelly, Sanctuary Interiors. 16 Congratulations. 17 Joshua Richardson, Richardson Marine 18 Repair. 19 Dylan Mathias, Mathias Marine. 20 The Loft at Dover Station, Van Topjian. 21 I think it's worth noting that Van is a</p>	Page 73	<p>1 We're all in the frame. Let me see. I 2 see all the heads. The person behind Keasha, 3 if you want to -- 4 (Cross talk.) 5 MS. KILMON: Just scoot a little bit. 6 There we go. There we go. Perfect. 7 All right. You guys ready? One, two, 8 three. Okay. 9 SPEAKER: I'm good. I'm using your photo. 10 MS. KILMON: Let me make sure it's good, 11 then. All right. I think we are good, guys. 12 Anybody else? 13 MS. VANHOOSER: All right. Thank you, 14 Council. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys. Good job. 16 MR. LESHER: Congratulations. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Congratulations. 18 MR. STAMP: Congratulations. 19 MS. MIELKE: Thank you for all you do. 20 Congrats. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: That was awesome. That's</p>

Page 74	<p>1 what it's about.</p> <p>2 All right. Next on the agenda, Madam</p> <p>3 Secretary, we've got what's eligible for vote.</p> <p>4 Would you mind going ahead and reading Bill</p> <p>5 1624 in the record, please.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1624, a bill to</p> <p>7 amend Chapter 190, zoning, subdivision, and</p> <p>8 land development, of the Talbot County Code for</p> <p>9 the purposes of providing that cannabis growing</p> <p>10 and the processing of cannabis grown on site</p> <p>11 shall be permitted by special exception in the</p> <p>12 agricultural conservation, countryside</p> <p>13 preservation, and western rural conservation</p> <p>14 zoning districts, providing that the processing</p> <p>15 of cannabis grown off site shall be permitted</p> <p>16 by special exception in the village mixed,</p> <p>17 general commercial, and limited industrial</p> <p>18 zoning districts, and providing that cannabis</p> <p>19 dispensaries shall be permitted by special</p> <p>20 exception in the limited commercial, general</p> <p>21 commercial, and limited industrial zoning</p>	Page 76	<p>1 The requirements for growing and</p> <p>2 processing are much stricter than they were in</p> <p>3 the original version of the bill that the</p> <p>4 Council considered previously. So that, for</p> <p>5 example, the setbacks for growing and</p> <p>6 processing have to be a thousand feet from any</p> <p>7 property containing a preexisting residential</p> <p>8 or institutional use, which institutional uses</p> <p>9 include things like schools, libraries, houses</p> <p>10 of worship.</p> <p>11 The minimum lot size for growing and</p> <p>12 processing is 75 acres. They require a major</p> <p>13 site plan approval, which means they have to go</p> <p>14 to the Planning Commission.</p> <p>15 So there are a lot of safeguards and</p> <p>16 oversight in this legislation if it passes,</p> <p>17 that any of these uses have to undergo quite a</p> <p>18 bit of review before they're allowed to move</p> <p>19 forward.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Okay.</p> <p>21 That sounds great.</p>
Page 75	<p>1 districts, each subject to certain conditions</p> <p>2 and defining terms associated therewith.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam</p> <p>4 Secretary.</p> <p>5 Okay. Council, do we want to discuss</p> <p>6 anything?</p> <p>7 MR. LESHAR: You might want Mr. Thomas to</p> <p>8 give --</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Give a brief on this.</p> <p>10 MR. THOMAS: Yes. I know we've talked</p> <p>11 about this at length over the past several</p> <p>12 months.</p> <p>13 And I mean just to I guess touch on a few</p> <p>14 key points.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>16 MR. THOMAS: So one, this bill would allow</p> <p>17 the growing, processing of cannabis as well as</p> <p>18 cannabis dispensaries in the county. All these</p> <p>19 uses would be only permitted by special</p> <p>20 exception, which means they would need to go to</p> <p>21 the Board of Appeals to get approval.</p>	Page 77	<p>1 Any other discussion from Council?</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: I don't think I have any.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: I'll just say it's been some</p> <p>4 work to get it to where it is.</p> <p>5 I will be in support of this as it is.</p> <p>6 It's hard to believe that we even have to do</p> <p>7 something along these lines, especially what we</p> <p>8 heard from our health director earlier today.</p> <p>9 But I'm glad we're doing it in the fashion that</p> <p>10 we're doing it and keeping our, especially our</p> <p>11 children safe, getting this as far away from</p> <p>12 schools and churches and things like that.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: I agree with Mr. Stepp on</p> <p>15 that.</p> <p>16 MS. MIELKE: Ditto.</p> <p>17 MS. HAYTHE: We just -- it was hard to do</p> <p>18 it because in spite of having to do this</p> <p>19 because of the State, being forced to do it</p> <p>20 because of the State, it's still, you know,</p> <p>21 hard to accept to a certain extent, especially</p>

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1 if you don't necessarily agree with it.
 2 But I do think that we have a strict bill
 3 here and we have guardrails in place through
 4 the Planning Commission. And so I think it's a
 5 good bill the way we worked together to create
 6 and write it.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. I'm sorry. Go
 8 ahead.
 9 MR. THOMAS: Yes. I apologize. I just
 10 want to make two more quick points.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. No problem.
 12 MR. THOMAS: One is that with regard to
 13 the dispensaries, the restrictions in this bill
 14 are the maximum that the county can do under
 15 State law.
 16 State law, they set the parameters for
 17 things like the distances from schools, child
 18 care centers, places of worship, things like
 19 that.
 20 Counties and municipalities can weaken
 21 those, but they can't go beyond what the State

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1 allows. So these are as strict as we can go
 2 under State law.
 3 And why we're doing this, just kind of go
 4 even further back. There was a Constitutional
 5 amendment that passed I think at the 2022
 6 election where this is put into the
 7 Constitution that adult use cannabis is now
 8 legal in the State of Maryland. And the
 9 General Assembly spent an inordinate amount of
 10 time developing a bill, providing all these
 11 rules and regulations for the use.
 12 So all of these jurisdictions now are
 13 having to grapple with this very same issue and
 14 how they want it to look in their counties.
 15 And I think this legislation is about as
 16 stringent as it can be.
 17 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.
 18 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you, Patrick.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: So I will comment a little
 20 bit on it. I've been struggling for a while
 21 with this. And I've told Council a little bit.

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1 I've struggled with this, especially when
 2 you have people like Dr. Fahmi in front of us,
 3 you know, that deal with the addictions and
 4 stuff like that.
 5 And, you know, I just, I've been thinking
 6 long and hard about it.
 7 I think this Council has done a really
 8 good job to create what's here, and I really,
 9 really commend you guys what you've done in
 10 trying to be as strict as you can.
 11 I know it's law. But this is one time
 12 where I feel like I can't get on board on this.
 13 I really can't in good conscience of people
 14 growing marijuana and we're walking down the
 15 streets. I know it's law. I just can't get on
 16 board with it.
 17 And, you know, we can sit here all night
 18 and debate it and everything, but we got to
 19 move on with this. But I just want to let you
 20 guys know that you've done a great job, but I
 21 can't be on board with this one.

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1 So anybody else?
 2 MR. STEPP: I'm on board because if we
 3 don't do this, then it would just default to
 4 the State parameters. So being we have the
 5 opportunity to strengthen it, that's why I am
 6 on board.
 7 Like you said, I'm with you. It's a
 8 struggle because that I can't believe that, you
 9 know, all counties in the State except for
 10 Garrett County decided that this was a good
 11 idea.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yeah.
 13 MS. MIELKE: It's the best we could do
 14 under the circumstances.
 15 MR. STEPP: It is indeed.
 16 And like I said, this is for the county
 17 portion.
 18 Now, there's going to be municipalities
 19 that can come up with their own zoning laws,
 20 too.
 21 But this is for the county. And I'm glad

Page 82	<p>1 we're able to strengthen it as much as we have.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: I understand. I</p> <p>3 understand, Council. Yup.</p> <p>4 MS. HAYTHE: And the work that's been done</p> <p>5 with the Planning Commission, too, and their</p> <p>6 feedback has been instrumental in getting us to</p> <p>7 the place that we're at right now.</p> <p>8 All right. Do we need to entertain a</p> <p>9 motion?</p> <p>10 MR. LESHHER: No. Just the president just</p> <p>11 needs to ask Madam Secretary to call the roll.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>13 call the roll, please.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: No.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>19 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>21 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p>	Page 84	<p>1 project. They just update us to where we are</p> <p>2 on the project currently.</p> <p>3 And there's a change we do need to make to</p> <p>4 this listing on page four. We've got the US50</p> <p>5 Norris Taylor Drive traffic signal as part of</p> <p>6 the Town of Easton's projects, and that's been</p> <p>7 completed. So it's no longer a priority to be</p> <p>8 done.</p> <p>9 And then if you would like, I can give a</p> <p>10 quick run through of each project.</p> <p>11 So priority ranking number one, we have</p> <p>12 the Maryland 322 US50 intersection north. Of</p> <p>13 course, this is where you cross 50 and then</p> <p>14 have to make the turn into the left-hand side</p> <p>15 of Route 50. I think everyone here has</p> <p>16 experienced some issue with that. We've had</p> <p>17 considerable safety issues in the past.</p> <p>18 Maryland Route 33 capacity safety and</p> <p>19 excavation improvements. As we continue to get</p> <p>20 increased population down St. Michaels,</p> <p>21 Tilghman, Bellevue, two lanes in, two lanes out</p>
Page 83	<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job. Okay.</p> <p>4 Madam Secretary, could you go ahead on the</p> <p>5 next. I think Department of Transportation.</p> <p>6 Ray, you guys. Josh, you want to come on</p> <p>7 up?</p> <p>8 MR. CLARKE: Thank you, Council. I'm Ray</p> <p>9 Clarke, county engineer. And I'm here with</p> <p>10 Josh Elliott, the assistant county engineer.</p> <p>11 And ultimately, we met with the Public</p> <p>12 Works Advisory Board last Wednesday on</p> <p>13 March 19th.</p> <p>14 And I'll just turn it over to Josh to give</p> <p>15 you (indiscernible).</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hi, Josh.</p> <p>17 MR. ELLIOTT: Good evening. We've got a</p> <p>18 largely unchanged priority listing from last</p> <p>19 year.</p> <p>20 There have been some updates, especially</p> <p>21 in the airport airfield modernization program</p>	Page 85	<p>1 continues to be a priority for us.</p> <p>2 329 safety improvements on Royal Oak Road.</p> <p>3 This is where we have, of course, two-lane</p> <p>4 narrow road with flat drop-off ditches either</p> <p>5 side.</p> <p>6 The Oxford Causeway. Right there when you</p> <p>7 make that sharp right into the Town of Oxford,</p> <p>8 that's a flooding issue there. Continues to</p> <p>9 stay on the priority list.</p> <p>10 Ray, did we shuffle any of these?</p> <p>11 MR. CLARKE: No.</p> <p>12 MR. ELLIOTT: I didn't think so.</p> <p>13 MR. CLARKE: And again, Council, just so</p> <p>14 you're aware and the public, these are actually</p> <p>15 State Highway projects. They are our</p> <p>16 priorities for having the State do that.</p> <p>17 Yeah. The next item is for the town. And</p> <p>18 we did not have any change in that order.</p> <p>19 So I'll let you go.</p> <p>20 MR. ELLIOTT: Yeah. US Route 50</p> <p>21 improvements at several intersections.</p>

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1 Goldsborough Street and Dover Street, as well
 2 as Chapel Road. Of course, those are the three
 3 major crosses across Route 50.
 4 And as we all know, during summertime it's
 5 I think as Clay would like to say, the Great
 6 Wall of China. I think I've heard Clay put it
 7 that way before.
 8 US Route 50, 309, 662 intersection. So
 9 this intersection, it got some discussion at
 10 the Public Works Advisory Board about moving it
 11 up. We decided to keep it down at number six
 12 because the State is not going to be able to do
 13 anything until the hospital is done. Once the
 14 hospital is done, this might move up.
 15 There's going to be increased traffic to
 16 this intersection, possibly necessitating a
 17 second traffic light at Airport Road and 662.
 18 And there's going to need to be some serious
 19 coordination there if there are two traffic
 20 lights side by side.
 21 Idlewild Avenue merging into Route 50.

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1 This is there at Wishing Well where you get
 2 long queuing. I believe -- Ray, do you know if
 3 the town or if State Highway put the block the
 4 box?
 5 MR. CLARKE: I think the State Highway did
 6 that.
 7 MR. ELLIOTT: Okay. So State Highway has
 8 addressed that slightly, but it's a marginal
 9 improvement.
 10 And then we go on. We've got the Easton
 11 Airport updates. I'm going to read through
 12 these real quick.
 13 Easton Airport continues to advance its
 14 airfield modernization program for runway four
 15 by 22. 1,000 -- shifting the runway 1,900 feet
 16 southwest of its current location to bring the
 17 airfield into full compliance.
 18 All enabling objectives have been
 19 completed, including major earthwork and site
 20 preparation. The airport is now finalizing
 21 electrical infrastructure upgrades to support

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1 the new airfield configuration.
 2 In fiscal year 27, Easton Airport will
 3 begin construction on the pavement sections for
 4 the new runway four and taxiway alpha, key
 5 steps that will enable the opening of the new
 6 runway.
 7 This is designated by the FAA as a
 8 National General Aviation Airport. Easton
 9 Airport plays a vital role in supporting both
 10 the State and national aviation system by
 11 connecting the region to domestic and
 12 international markets.
 13 Completion of the airfield modernization
 14 program is essential to ensuring the airport's
 15 long-term financial sustainability and
 16 maximizing the benefits that it delivers to
 17 Talbot County and the broader region.
 18 And then we have the town listings for the
 19 State priority listing.
 20 The 322 Glenwood intersection. This is
 21 kind of the last busy intersection along 322

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1 that doesn't have any signalization or
 2 crosswalks.
 3 The US50 Goldsborough and US50 Dover,
 4 these are in our priority listings from the
 5 county.
 6 The next one has been taken off or will be
 7 taken off.
 8 The US50 Chapel Road dedicated
 9 acceleration, deceleration lanes. So the town
 10 has added the turn lanes onto US50, the turn
 11 lane coming from in town. This would be a
 12 dedicated acceleration lane for that turn lane.
 13 US50 improved cross traffic for summertime
 14 traffic. That goes to the other projects we've
 15 already got listed. Same for the next project.
 16 Matthewstown Road sidewalks, Rails to
 17 Trails, each west trail. So this is over US50
 18 at Easton Club East.
 19 Chapel Road, dedicated right-turn lane.
 20 That can come off as that has been added.
 21 The Town of Oxford bikeway project. This

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1 is a Talbot Thrive suggestion for a Rail to
 2 Trails concept.
 3 Town of Queen Anne. We have no contact
 4 with the Town of Queen Anne and no projects on
 5 the list.
 6 The Town of Trappe, they have no projects.
 7 Town of St. Michael's. They've had a
 8 long-running project to extend their nature
 9 trail and then a sidewalk extension for the
 10 Perry Cabin, sidewalk to the Perry Cabin Inn.
 11 And then finally, we have our State
 12 transportation improvement projects. Black Dog
 13 Alley. This is -- actually I do want to bring
 14 up one more project that's been discussed a few
 15 times this week. It was brought up at the
 16 Public Works Advisory Board by Talbot Thrive
 17 and it was also brought up by Cassandra today
 18 for us to bring up the Frederick Douglass Rails
 19 to Trails project was on the listing in 2024.
 20 It was taken off last year.
 21 And it's been suggested to us to add it

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1 back to the listing in case funding
 2 opportunities arise.
 3 I believe it was a Council decision to
 4 remove that project from the listing. Clay, do
 5 you recall?
 6 MR. STAMP: I was under the impression it
 7 was inadvertently dropped from the project
 8 listing. I do not, I do not remember any
 9 action to remove it.
 10 MR. ELLIOTT: Okay. So that can be put
 11 back on the listing. We have no issues with
 12 that. It belongs on the listing, especially if
 13 it will help provide funding for the project.
 14 MR. CLARKE: The only comment I would
 15 make, Council. Just I don't know anything too
 16 much about that Rails to Trails project. And
 17 that's one of the things just lay it out.
 18 I think there has been I think a work
 19 group on this, if I'm not mistaken. I know
 20 that there was a meeting a couple of years ago.
 21 And I think the Farmers Bureau came out, the

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1 Talbot County Farm Bureau. And they were a
 2 little bit against it.
 3 I don't know anything that's happened
 4 since that one meeting that was held. So I
 5 just let the Council know that as well.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Fair enough.
 7 MR. ELLIOTT: I attend monthly update
 8 meetings from the State project team. They're
 9 early in the project.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good. Okay. Is
 11 that it, Josh, pretty much?
 12 MR. CLARKE: That it is.
 13 MR. ELLIOTT: Yeah. We can go real quick
 14 on the State improvement projects.
 15 Black Dog Alley south end. This has been
 16 a long-running project for us. We're still
 17 currently working on it.
 18 Airport Road, I went into this on the
 19 priority listing.
 20 And then Goldsborough Neck Road is also in
 21 the priority listing.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great. Good
 2 job.
 3 Okay. Any other questions, Council?
 4 MS. MIELKE: No.
 5 MR. LESHER: Well, thank you for
 6 highlighting all of these and the progress.
 7 It's nice to actually see a couple of these
 8 actually taken off.
 9 So I'll move adoption of this with the
 10 deletion of the two projects from Easton's list
 11 as noted by Mr. Elliott are completed and the
 12 addition back in of the Frederick Douglass Rail
 13 Trail project so that we can pursue options
 14 there.
 15 MS. HAYTHE: Second.
 16 MS. MIELKE: Second.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Second. Okay. We got a
 18 motion and second. Madam Secretary, could you
 19 call the vote.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

Page 94	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 2 MR. STEPP: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 4 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 6 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 8 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job, guys. 10 MS. HAYTHE: And I just want to recognize 11 Josh for being at the St. Michaels Library 12 expansion, opening of the library on Saturday 13 and for all the work that Public Works did to 14 help them with that project. So kudos to Ray 15 and to Josh and staff for working with them. 16 It was a great reopening of that facility. 17 MR. ELLIOTT: I agree. It was a great 18 reopening. Probably, what, 200 people there. 19 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. And I hope you got 20 your son ice cream, too. 21 MR. ELLIOTT: He got ice cream.</p>	Page 96	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 2 MR. STEPP: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 4 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 6 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 8 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 9 MR. STAMP: Next is the Commission on 10 Aging. Requesting the reappointment of Kate 11 Stinton, citizen; Wendy Palmer, citizen; and 12 Sandra Weiland, nursing home mental health 13 consultant. 14 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve. 15 MS. MIELKE: Second. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Got a motion and second. 17 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote. 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 21 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p>
Page 95	<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Good, good, good. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. 3 Now we're coming winding down to Clay's 4 stuff. 5 MR. STAMP: Yes, sir. Thank you. Good 6 evening, Council. Under county manager report 7 this evening, we have several items under board 8 and committee appointments. 9 The first one is for the Adult Public 10 Guardianship Review Board. The Department of 11 Social Services is recommending the appointment 12 of William Chapman as the board's attorney and 13 Christine Montague to complete Kerri Engels 14 Roberts' term on that board. 15 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the 16 request. 17 MS. MIELKE: Second. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Got a motion and second. 19 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p>	Page 97	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 2 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 4 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 6 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 7 MR. STAMP: And the next is the Talbot 8 County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board. 9 Requesting a letter of recommendation to the 10 governor for the appointment of Tom Costigan, 11 alternate member. Moving from an alternate to 12 a regular board member. It would necessitate a 13 letter from Council to effect that. 14 MS. MIELKE: So moved. 15 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 17 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 18 vote. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p>

Page 98	<p>1 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>8 MR. STAMP: Finally, Upper Shore Aging</p> <p>9 Board of Directors. The Upper Shore Aging is</p> <p>10 requesting the appointment of Judy Simon to</p> <p>11 serve on that board.</p> <p>12 MS. MIELKE: So moved.</p> <p>13 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.</p> <p>14 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>15 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Got a motion and second.</p> <p>17 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>21 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p>	Page 100	<p>1 As you know, many, many organizations</p> <p>2 would love to see that stage put back into</p> <p>3 place. So we're trying our best for the</p> <p>4 community.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the</p> <p>6 request.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>9 call the vote.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>13 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>15 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>17 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>19 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go.</p> <p>21 MS. D. KILMON: Thank you, guys.</p>
Page 99	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>4 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>7 MR. STAMP: I'd like to invite Deena</p> <p>8 Kilmon forward, the executive director of the</p> <p>9 Waterfowl Festival Foundation.</p> <p>10 The Waterfowl Festival is seeking a letter</p> <p>11 of support from the Talbot County Council for</p> <p>12 their grant application to the Maryland</p> <p>13 Heritage Area Authority to restore their</p> <p>14 historic stage.</p> <p>15 No county funds will be required.</p> <p>16 Deena.</p> <p>17 MS. D. KILMON: That's your favorite part</p> <p>18 right there.</p> <p>19 Yeah. Basically we are requesting for the</p> <p>20 MHA grant just a letter of support. We'd love</p> <p>21 to have your support on that.</p>	Page 101	<p>1 And thank for the MHT request. I don't</p> <p>2 know if you heard, but we are starting</p> <p>3 construction on the roof in April. And we are</p> <p>4 thrilled. So thanks for that letter last year.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHHER: Congratulations.</p> <p>6 MR. STEPP: Congrats. Thank you for</p> <p>7 having us in for tours just to see how well</p> <p>8 this is needed.</p> <p>9 MS. D. KILMON: Yes. Yes, it is.</p> <p>10 Watch the video, if you haven't seen it.</p> <p>11 MR. STAMP: Thank you.</p> <p>12 Council, the next item is the Department</p> <p>13 of Parks & Recreation is requesting Council</p> <p>14 approval to renew a contract with Marshall's</p> <p>15 Professional Property Management Company, LLC</p> <p>16 for the 2026 season in the sum of \$89,500.</p> <p>17 The contract allows for four one-year</p> <p>18 renewal options upon Council's approval.</p> <p>19 Parks & Recreation has been pleased with</p> <p>20 the services and has sufficient funds in their</p> <p>21 budget for this contract.</p>

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<p>1 MR. STEPP: I'll make a motion to approve.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Motion and second.</p> <p>4 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>8 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>12 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>15 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.</p> <p>16 We have a request from the Town of Easton</p> <p>17 to enter into a deed of right of way, an</p> <p>18 easement with Talbot County, Maryland, for the</p> <p>19 extension of the town's Rails to Trails over,</p> <p>20 through, across, and under county property</p> <p>21 located in the Town of Easton, Talbot County,</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>10 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.</p> <p>11 And I'll ask Josh and Ray to come forward</p> <p>12 again. It's an exciting evening. We get to</p> <p>13 move forward finally with The Preserve at Wye</p> <p>14 Mills, taking over and upgrading, moving toward</p> <p>15 upgrading their sewer system solution up there.</p> <p>16 So they're here this evening to recommend</p> <p>17 the award of Bid 25-15, Talbot County Region IV</p> <p>18 wastewater treatment plant improvement plans</p> <p>19 for The Preserve at Wye Mills, Rustling Oaks</p> <p>20 Drive and Wye Mills.</p> <p>21 This is the first two-part ask. The first</p>
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<p>1 Maryland. Described as tax map 104, grid EA,</p> <p>2 parcel 1367.</p> <p>3 The Town of Easton is requesting an</p> <p>4 easement over this property, which is known as</p> <p>5 the Moton School property.</p> <p>6 Patrick is here and can answer more</p> <p>7 questions about this.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any questions,</p> <p>9 Council? Are we good? Okay. There's a</p> <p>10 motion?</p> <p>11 MR. LESHNER: It's just great to see that</p> <p>12 project be able to move forward and connecting</p> <p>13 the pieces of their Rail Trail. They still</p> <p>14 have to get across Route 33, but this is an</p> <p>15 important step in that process.</p> <p>16 I'll move for the request.</p> <p>17 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>19 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>20 vote.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p>	<p>1 one is contract and scope adjustment and</p> <p>2 commissioning.</p> <p>3 I'm going to hand it over to them, and</p> <p>4 I'll fill in where necessary.</p> <p>5 MR. CLARKE: Council, I'll just, and then</p> <p>6 I'll turn it over to Josh, but I wanted to just</p> <p>7 highlight that the county did enter into a</p> <p>8 consent order back in November 1, 2022. So</p> <p>9 basically this is our effort to try to move</p> <p>10 forward and replace that wastewater treatment</p> <p>11 plant with a new MBR wastewater treatment</p> <p>12 plant. And it's spray irrigation.</p> <p>13 And one of the things we worked with MDE</p> <p>14 on, we did get a grant through the Bay</p> <p>15 Restoration Fund. And ultimately, I think it's</p> <p>16 up to about 75 percent grant funding that's</p> <p>17 being allocated.</p> <p>18 And MDE, through negotiations with Jean</p> <p>19 and Josh, ultimately we received about 75 or a</p> <p>20 little, around 75 percent grant funding for</p> <p>21 both these change orders that we're looking at.</p>

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<p>1 MR. ELLIOTT: So as Ray stated, all of our 2 project monies is at 75 percent grant. 3 The base construction contract for the 4 project was \$1.8 million. That's been awarded. 5 This is for a contract addendum to add in 6 the commissioning of the wastewater treatment 7 plant. And so that is the startup, equipment 8 calibration testing, bringing actual wastewater 9 into the plant and having representatives from 10 the -- this is a package treatment plant. So 11 it largely comes in in pieces and is put 12 together on site. 13 And representatives from the manufacturer 14 of the package treatment plant will be there 15 for an extended amount of time to ensure that 16 the plant is started up and running correctly. 17 This is a change order in the amount of 18 \$110,000. And that's what we have here first. 19 Questions? 20 MR. STAMP: And that would be covered. 21 This portion of this would be covered, let's</p>	<p>1 MR. CLARKE: One of the questions I think 2 prior to award was to try and have a startup 3 package. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. 5 MR. CLARKE: So our guys would be trained 6 on how to operate this wastewater system. So 7 that's where the commissioning comes in. 8 We had requested a proposal from Premier 9 Services Group to provide us that, their 10 manufacturer to come in and train our guys on 11 the operation. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. 13 MR. STAMP: So in this overall project and 14 change order would reflect contracting with 15 Premier Services Group, LLC for the amounts 16 that were discussed. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. Sounds great. 18 MR. CLARKE: So we would be adding to the 19 \$1.8 million. It's now 1.92. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Got you. Okay. 21 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the</p>
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<p>1 see, through \$83,160 in grant funds and \$26,840 2 in State revolving loan funds. 3 MR. ELLIOTT: Yes. 4 MR. STAMP: SRF funds. 5 MR. CLARKE: And just so the Council is 6 aware, too. This is actually the first MBR 7 within the county. It's a treatment process. 8 It's a membrane technology. 9 And so ultimately, our staff have never 10 operated an MBR. So this is one of the reasons 11 we're trying to move forward with this 12 commission, is to provide them with some 13 insight on how to do this. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: When you're saying a change 15 order, I mean we're putting a whole new 16 plant -- 17 MR. CLARKE: Yes. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: -- and everything? 19 MR. CLARKE: That's correct. I think when 20 we came, we were wrapping things up. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p>	<p>1 request. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 3 MR. STEPP: Second. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second. 5 Madam 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. LESHNER: Aye. 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 13 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 15 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 17 MR. STAMP: And the next item would be a 18 request from the Department of Public Works. 19 Recommendation to award Bid Number 25-15 for 20 construction and engineering inspection. 21 And this is a request for a change order,</p>

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1 another change order. This one with Rauch,
 2 Incorporated for construction, engineering
 3 inspection at the new Preserve at Wye Mills
 4 Region IV wastewater treatment plant in the
 5 amount of \$62,350.
 6 This would be covered through \$47,137 in
 7 grant funds and \$15,213 in State revolving loan
 8 funds through the Department of Environment.
 9 Again, Josh and Ray can fill in where
 10 necessary.
 11 MR. ELLIOTT: I don't have much to add.
 12 Rauch, Incorporated did the preliminary
 13 engineering report as well as the design and
 14 bidding for the project.
 15 I don't have anything other to add.
 16 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the request
 17 for Rauch.
 18 MR. LESHER: Second.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second.
 20 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

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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. STAMP: I'd just like to recognize Ray
 11 especially for all his work on this. It's been
 12 a long time coming.
 13 This is going to give us the opportunity
 14 to try new technology in the county.
 15 And just, you know, also a shout out to
 16 the folks that led the effort up at The
 17 Preserve at Wye Mills to help us with this,
 18 Mr. Jackson in particular.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yup.
 20 MR. STAMP: So thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.

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1 MR. CLARKE: Good working relationship.
 2 MR. LESHER: This has been a long time
 3 coming. It was started by a previous Council
 4 or under the previous Council.
 5 And with State foot dragging, I don't
 6 think we would be this far if it weren't for
 7 the persistence of our staff. So I want to
 8 give you guys credit for driving this project
 9 forward. Thank you.
 10 MR. CLARKE: Well, it took patience.
 11 MR. STEPP: Just, Ray and Josh, just a
 12 real quick question, too, if I could.
 13 So this technology, how does this compare
 14 to the I guess ENR that we're accustomed to?
 15 Is this equivalent?
 16 MR. ELLIOTT: Oh, yes. So it will fall
 17 into ENR treatment limits. It's just a
 18 different way of getting there than we have at
 19 the St. Michaels' plant.
 20 MR. STEPP: Okay.
 21 MR. CLARKE: Yeah. I think the other

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1 thing, the way to look at it, this is going to
 2 be actually a higher level of filtration-type
 3 treatment.
 4 So you probably are going to be able to
 5 get a higher total nitrogen and phosphorus
 6 removal as well.
 7 MR. STEPP: Awesome. Thank you.
 8 MR. STAMP: Thank you.
 9 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.
 10 MR. STAMP: And Council, I just have one
 11 final piece of business. It's an announcement.
 12 I want to announce Household Hazardous Waste
 13 Day hosted by the Maryland Environmental
 14 Service will be held on Saturday, April 11th,
 15 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Queen Anne's
 16 County Public Works, 312 Safety Drive in
 17 Centreville.
 18 The event is open to residents of
 19 Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot
 20 Counties and will be held rain or shine.
 21 With that, that completes your county

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1 manager report for this evening. I thank you
 2 for your ongoing support.
 3 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good. Good
 5 job. Okay.
 6 Next on the agenda is public comment.
 7 MR. RIGGIN: Several things I want to
 8 summarize very quickly.
 9 Again, my name is Phil Riggin, 29736
 10 Sullivan Drive here in Easton.
 11 And I want to talk to one comment to all
 12 those hundreds of people out there right now
 13 who are watching this by video, residents of
 14 the county, you picked a great meeting to watch
 15 because you get a pretty clear view of the
 16 breadth and width of your responsibilities.
 17 I mean this agenda has been all over the
 18 place. It truly has been. And none of them
 19 are insignificant issues. So anybody who is
 20 watching got a tutorial today.
 21 I would like to say thank you for

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1 supporting the initiative to upgrade the
 2 Armory, as I would call it. It's the Waterfowl
 3 Building or whatever. But it's one of these
 4 National Guard Armories across the State of
 5 Maryland where they were built exactly the
 6 same. And the fact that Easton has taken the
 7 responsibility and opportunity to recycle that
 8 building or to make a continued use out of that
 9 building is a testament to whoever was involved
 10 and certainly is a gift to the residents in the
 11 area.
 12 Mr. Leshner, I have to say I agree with
 13 you, your comment earlier that rural broadband
 14 was akin to the Rural Electrification Act of
 15 whatever it was, 1930s. Having grown up with
 16 two grandparents who were still reading by
 17 candle when I was a little kid and didn't have
 18 access to electricity, I know what we're
 19 talking about. So thank you for making that
 20 analogy because it's very apropos.
 21 I'm actually here for the first time since

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1 I've been attending these meetings to actually
 2 speak on behalf of my community, Easton Club
 3 East.
 4 I want to make a very quick statement
 5 about an issue that is very serious I think.
 6 Has to do with Dutchmans Lane and access to
 7 Dutchmans Lane.
 8 And specifically it has to do with the
 9 left-turn lane as you go east on Route 50
 10 toward Cambridge and the issues that are
 11 created by how difficult it is to make that
 12 left turn because of the length of the turn
 13 lane itself, particularly in the summertime as
 14 traffic volume increases.
 15 So I guess I'm adding, you know, an item
 16 to the list of what you've already -- you've
 17 described all the other places or many of the
 18 other places along Route 50 where there's a
 19 problem. And we all know there are multiple
 20 problems that should, frankly, have been dealt
 21 with by predecessors of yours and the town

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1 officials years and years and literally decades
 2 ago, you know, for cross traffic purposes.
 3 Dutchmans Lane has an annual vehicular
 4 traffic volume of 7,000 cars a day, which is
 5 interesting. Other intersections, like along
 6 Route 50, have even more.
 7 On behalf of those 1,300 single-family
 8 housing units along Dutchmans Lane, I'm asking
 9 for some kind of consideration to lengthen that
 10 left-turn lane as you go east on Route 50.
 11 I realize that we're not on the list of
 12 projects that you've just been presented. But
 13 I also realize that -- and those were all very
 14 important projects. No question about it.
 15 Every one of them are extremely important and
 16 will be.
 17 But I do think that maybe our project
 18 could be thrown into the mix. And when
 19 compared to the cost of some of the other
 20 projects that are road efficiencies and
 21 improvements, we would be relatively cheap.

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1 You just cut out a section of the median strip,
 2 another three or 400 feet straight back, and it
 3 would meet our needs as long as you paved it
 4 also.
 5 So again, you're left with, you're left
 6 with having to deal with things that should
 7 have been dealt with by your predecessors. I
 8 fully acknowledge that. And I will, you know,
 9 if you want to back away from that statement, I
 10 don't care. I believe it, I always have.
 11 So I would ask you to consider that. And
 12 consider the fact that it would be one of the
 13 really great fixes along Route 50 that wouldn't
 14 necessarily cost an arm and a leg.
 15 I have had to turn off into the median
 16 strip itself to avoid traffic hitting me from
 17 the rear as I get off on that turn to get onto
 18 Dutchmans, particularly in the summertime when
 19 those light cycles are a lot longer and traffic
 20 gets backed up. So it's an accident waiting to
 21 happen.

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1 And on behalf of my community, please do
 2 whatever you can, talk to your friends and
 3 neighbors, talk to the State delegates to try
 4 to throw some money at that. I would deeply
 5 appreciate it.
 6 Thank you very much. Thank you for your
 7 patience all night long. You've had some
 8 interesting stuff here tonight.
 9 MR. LESHER: Thank you, Mr. Rigglin.
 10 If I may, Mr. Stamp, could you ask our
 11 engineering staff to sort out. Obviously
 12 that's a county road turning onto a State. To
 13 sort out county responsibility versus State
 14 responsibility for making a change like that?
 15 MR. STAMP: If I might, just a point of
 16 clarification. We're talking about the turn
 17 lane on US Route 50.
 18 MR. RIGGIN: I'm talking about Route 50,
 19 yes.
 20 MR. STAMP: Going eastbound.
 21 MR. RIGGIN: Yes.

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1 MR. STAMP: At Dutchmans. We're turning
 2 left onto Dutchmans Lane.
 3 MR. RIGGIN: Yes.
 4 MR. STAMP: You want to extend the State
 5 Highway turn lane?
 6 MR. RIGGIN: That's exactly right.
 7 MR. STAMP: So what we're asking is to add
 8 to our list to State Highway for consideration
 9 to extend their turn lane, which we can do if
 10 Council so desires to do.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: I don't see why we
 12 couldn't.
 13 MS. MIELKE: Yeah. Let's do it.
 14 MR. STEPP: I support that --
 15 MR. RIGGIN: I know I'm only presenting
 16 this to the current audience. I realize I
 17 could probably go ten other places --
 18 MR. STAMP: I think you did a good job,
 19 and I'm getting some shaking of the heads. So
 20 you may have made progress.
 21 MR. RIGGIN: Thank you, sir.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: Has it increased? Has the
 2 traffic increased because of the housing
 3 development on that road? Did it make it
 4 worse?
 5 MR. STEPP: It's just starting. People
 6 are just starting to move in. So it will
 7 continue to get worse.
 8 (Cross talk.)
 9 MS. HAYTHE: Okay.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 11 MR. RIGGIN: We've got another community
 12 going in.
 13 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah, yeah. And yeah.
 14 MR. RIGGIN: Our neighbors, you know. But
 15 it's remarkable. But other intersections
 16 are -- I'm just throwing this out because I
 17 think it's cheaper to do.
 18 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Yeah. Well, thank you
 19 for that. And we'll work on it.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Mr. Rigglin, thank
 21 you.

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<p>1 MR. RIGGIN: Thank you.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>3 MR. RIGGIN: Thank you.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Anybody else want to</p> <p>7 come up? Okay.</p> <p>8 We didn't have anybody sign up out there?</p> <p>9 MR. STAMP: I don't believe we did.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: I don't think we did.</p> <p>11 Yeah. All right. I don't want to leave</p> <p>12 anybody out.</p> <p>13 Go ahead.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHHER: Mr. Thomas, can I have just a</p> <p>15 procedural question?</p> <p>16 MR. THOMAS: Yes.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHHER: For us to amend that, is that</p> <p>18 something that we can do at this point in the</p> <p>19 meeting or do we need to put that onto our next</p> <p>20 agenda in order to achieve that change?</p> <p>21 Obviously the agenda item has been passed.</p>	<p>1 (Cross talk.)</p> <p>2 MR. THOMAS: Right. It's on the record.</p> <p>3 I'm not sure.</p> <p>4 MR. STAMP: So I think you just adopted</p> <p>5 this. Did they adopt it by administrative</p> <p>6 resolution?</p> <p>7 MR. THOMAS: No.</p> <p>8 (Cross talk.)</p> <p>9 MR. STAMP: -- vote.</p> <p>10 MR. THOMAS: -- vote.</p> <p>11 MR. STAMP: So you can take a vote to add</p> <p>12 this to that list.</p> <p>13 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. I think it's still</p> <p>14 within, it's the same meeting, it's still</p> <p>15 within your authority. So I think you could</p> <p>16 just --</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: Should we do a motion and a</p> <p>18 second just to be extra cautious?</p> <p>19 MR. THOMAS: Yeah.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. Just do a motion</p> <p>21 and second, yes.</p>
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<p>1 We've acted on it.</p> <p>2 MR. THOMAS: When is it due to be</p> <p>3 submitted?</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: It's due at the State</p> <p>5 April 1st.</p> <p>6 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. So we would need to</p> <p>7 amend it now. We can't wait until next</p> <p>8 meeting.</p> <p>9 MR. STAMP: Procedurally.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: So would that require just a</p> <p>11 motion and a second and then a Council vote,</p> <p>12 being that we're still in a public session in</p> <p>13 order to add that to that list?</p> <p>14 MR. STAMP: I can smell smoke.</p> <p>15 MR. THOMAS: And I'm not familiar with the</p> <p>16 process, I mean what the State requires for</p> <p>17 that.</p> <p>18 I mean if it's simply a consensus of the</p> <p>19 Council, then I think just --</p> <p>20 MR. LESHHER: We don't need a formal</p> <p>21 motion.</p>	<p>1 MR. STEPP: I'll do the motion, then.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHHER: And that's a motion to add to</p> <p>3 the State Department of Transportation priority</p> <p>4 listing, to add this left-turn lane from</p> <p>5 eastbound 50 onto to Dutchmans Lane?</p> <p>6 MR. THOMAS: Yes.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: You got it.</p> <p>8 MR. LESHHER: I'll second.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>10 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>11 vote.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>15 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>19 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p>

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 2 MR. STEPP: Well done, Mr. Riffin.
 3 (Cross talk.)
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. So we've gone
 5 through that.
 6 So let's start off with Council comments.
 7 MR. STEPP: I'm good here. Thank you.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: You're good.
 9 MR. LESHER: Several of us were,
 10 Ms. Mielke, Ms. Haythe, and I were at the
 11 opening for the St. Michaels Community Center
 12 new facility right on the corner of Railroad
 13 Avenue and Talbot, South Talbot Street. I
 14 guess actually that's North Talbot Street
 15 there.
 16 Great turnout from the community for
 17 what's really a vital community institution
 18 that now will be able to serve the community
 19 even better with its expanded space.
 20 We were in the space that is going to
 21 be -- that is now the new consignment shop.

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1 Significant fundraiser. But they are -- that
 2 building will have youth activity area, it will
 3 have food storage area, it will contribute so
 4 much more to the capabilities of that
 5 organization and the way it serves the
 6 community.
 7 One of our major food banks for this
 8 county is hosted by St. Michael's Community
 9 Center.
 10 So congratulations to them, and thanks to
 11 all who came out to support them.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Good.
 13 MS. MIELKE: I just have to give a shout
 14 out to Easton High School and their production
 15 of The Wizard of Oz, which was outstanding.
 16 The sets, the costumes, the everything.
 17 Particularly all the kids that had so much
 18 talent. I mean they were right up there with
 19 Judy Garland and, you know, Ray Bolger and all
 20 that. Just incredible.
 21 And I'm just so proud of what they did and

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1 the direction that they got and the support
 2 that they get from staff. I mean they even had
 3 the students from Easton Elementary School
 4 playing munchkins, which was so sweet. It
 5 was -- anybody who missed it, you really missed
 6 it. And I hope maybe they made a video
 7 recording of it and they'll show it sometime
 8 because it's just fabulous.
 9 Thank you.
 10 MS. HAYTHE: I just want to say
 11 congratulations to the St. Michaels Library,
 12 again, for their opening of their expansion.
 13 That place is really remarkable. It looks
 14 great.
 15 And the libraries are the very backbone of
 16 any community and having that social space.
 17 But President Callahan, Councilwoman
 18 Mielke, and myself were able to attend that
 19 event on Saturday. And it was great. It was a
 20 great community gathering. So just congrats to
 21 Dana and her staff and their team on that. Job

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1 well done.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: And to add to that, like
 3 Josh said, Josh was there.
 4 I think you come later, didn't you, Dave?
 5 MR. STEPP: No. I was there for the
 6 construction tour.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Were you?
 8 MR. STEPP: I made sure to thank Dana.
 9 But I told her the heart thing, when she all
 10 handed us our stack of hearts, that always
 11 helped, too.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: The whole community, it
 13 seemed like the whole community was there.
 14 There was a couple hundred people there. And
 15 so appreciative, so happy. I mean it's a
 16 phenomenal job.
 17 And I think Josh and Ray and their
 18 services really did a really good job running
 19 that thing. And it really went smooth, the
 20 contractor was great. So it was a home run.
 21 That's for sure.

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1 So all right. Mr. Lesher.
 2 MR. LESHHER: The County Council's next
 3 meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14th,
 4 beginning at 5 o'clock p.m. The Council will
 5 be convening in open session at 3:30 p.m. and
 6 then adjoining into closed session, as listed
 7 on the statement for closing that meeting.
 8 On Thursday, March 26th, and Thursday,
 9 April 5th (sic), the County Council will be
 10 holding meetings at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom with
 11 Provident Strategies for a briefing on the
 12 Maryland General Assembly. The meetings are
 13 open to the public.
 14 The Council will also be holding a fiscal
 15 year 27 budget work session on Thursday,
 16 March 26th, at 5 o'clock p.m. and Tuesday,
 17 March 31st, at 2 o'clock p.m. Those meetings
 18 are open to the public.
 19 Finally, on Tuesday, March 31st, at
 20 5 o'clock p.m., the County Council will be
 21 meeting with municipalities in the meeting room

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1 of the Talbot County Free Library Easton
 2 Branch. That meeting is open to the public.
 3 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
 4 this meeting and reconvene as noted?
 5 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.
 6 MS. MIELKE: Second.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 8 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
 9 vote.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.
 13 MR. STEPP: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.
 15 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.
 17 MS. MIELKE: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.
 19 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 21 (Meeting concluded at: 7:01 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF MARYLAND
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 3 for the State of Maryland, County of Talbot, do
 4 hereby certify that the within named, Talbot County
 5 Council Audio, personally appeared before me at the
 6 time and place herein set according to law, was
 7 interrogated by counsel.
 8
 9 I further certify that the examination was
 10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 13 in a true and accurate manner.
 14
 15 I further certify that the stipulations
 16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 17 presence.
 18
 19 I further certify that I am not of counsel
 20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 interested in the outcome of this action.
 AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 3rd
 day of April, 2026, at Easton, MD.


 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2029

[& - 5:00]

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