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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

September 26, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe - Via Telephone

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2

3 MR. CALLAHAN: We'll go ahead and get

4 started. I appreciate everybody showing up

5 tonight.

6 We'll go ahead and stand. And we're going

7 to say the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance

8 of the Flag.

9 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Get started here.

11 So Council has an agenda before them on

12 September 26th. Is there any additions,

13 deletions, or corrections to the agenda? Okay.

14 Hearing none, the chair moves that the agenda

15 be accepted as unanimous consent.

16 Keasha, do you hear us okay?

17 MS. HAYTHE: Yes, I can hear you. Can you

18 hear me?

19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.

20 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Haythe is with us

Page 3

1 tonight. She's home tonight. So we wish her

2 good health and glad you're here.

3 All right. Next is the minutes of

4 September the 12th before us. Are there any

5 deletions or corrections to the minutes? Okay.

6 All right. Hearing none, the chair moves that

7 the minutes be accepted as unanimous consent.

8 Okay.

9 Next on the agenda is disbursements of

10 September 19th and September 26th. Council has

11 had a chance to review the disbursements. Are

12 there any additions, deletions, or corrections?

13 Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves that the

14 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.

15 Okay.

16 First up on the agenda tonight is a

17 Proclamation of Suicide Prevention Month.

18 Madam Secretary, would you please read the

19 proclamation into the record, please.

20 SECRETARY: Proclamation, No Matter What,

21 You Matter, Suicide Prevention Month.

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1 Whereas, in the United States, one person

2 dies by suicide every 11 minutes, and suicide

3 is the 12th leading cause of death overall, and

4 in Maryland, the third leading cause of death

5 for ten to 34-year-olds and the fourth leading

6 cause of death for 35 to 44-year-olds, even

7 though most of these deaths are preventable,

8 with more Marylanders dying by suicide than by

9 homicide every year.

10 And whereas, the Centers for Disease

11 Control has reported that in 2021, 48,183

12 people in the United States, including 620

13 people in Maryland, died by suicide in 2021.

14 And whereas, suicide affects us all, with

15 each death by suicide affecting an average of

16 115 people.

17 And whereas, the economic toll of suicide

18 on society is immense. With suicides and

19 suicide attempts costing the nation almost

20 \$70 billion per year in lifetime medical and

21 work loss costs.

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1 And whereas, the 2021 youth risk behavior

2 survey conducted by local school systems in

3 conjunction with the Centers for Disease

4 Control revealed that at least one in five

5 Talbot County teenagers ages 14 to 18 had

6 seriously considered attempting suicide in the

7 12 months prior to the survey, with 37 percent

8 reporting symptoms of depression and 18 percent

9 of Talbot County teens attempting suicide.

10 And whereas, according to a World Health

11 Organization scientific brief released in 2022,

12 the global prevalence of anxiety and depression

13 increased by 25 percent in the first year of

14 the pandemic, and that anxiety and depression

15 are leading precursors for suicide.

16 And whereas, because many individuals

17 experiencing mental health symptoms, suicidal

18 thoughts and behaviors, or who die by suicide

19 never receive effective behavioral health

20 services for many reasons, including the

21 difficulty of assessing the services of health

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<p>1 care providers professionally trained to reduce</p> <p>2 suicide (inaudible) the stigma of seeking</p> <p>3 behavioral health treatment, and stigma</p> <p>4 associated with losing a loved one to suicide.</p> <p>5 All Talbot County citizens are urged to</p> <p>6 support the development of accessible</p> <p>7 behavioral health services for all citizens of</p> <p>8 our county in an effort to reduce the risk of</p> <p>9 suicide and mental health challenges for people</p> <p>10 of all ages and backgrounds and recognize that</p> <p>11 suicide is a significant public health risk and</p> <p>12 declare suicide prevention and mental health</p> <p>13 support a priority.</p> <p>14 Now, therefore, we, the Talbot County</p> <p>15 Council, do hereby declare the month of</p> <p>16 September as No Matter What, You Matter Suicide</p> <p>17 Prevention Month and urge all citizens to</p> <p>18 actively work towards the prevention of suicide</p> <p>19 and to reach out to one another and ask are you</p> <p>20 okay, listen without judgment, and share vital</p> <p>21 resources to promote an inclusive and mentally</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Is Beth Anne</p> <p>4 here? Okay. Come on up.</p> <p>5 MS. THEEKE: Good evening.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening. How are you?</p> <p>7 MS. THEEKE: Good.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Good.</p> <p>9 MS. THEEKE: I'm Katie Theeke. I'm vice</p> <p>10 president of marketing and communications of</p> <p>11 For All Seasons.</p> <p>12 MS. JONES: And I'm Tina Jones, chief</p> <p>13 financial officer, For All Seasons.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome.</p> <p>15 MS. THEEKE: And for those of you who do</p> <p>16 not know us, we are your behavioral health and</p> <p>17 rape crisis center. And we offer therapy,</p> <p>18 psychiatry, victim and crisis support and</p> <p>19 education on mental health in our community.</p> <p>20 And we have seven offices across the mid</p> <p>21 shore, including two offices right here in</p>
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<p>1 healthy community.</p> <p>2 Given under our hands in the great seal of</p> <p>3 Talbot County this 26th day of September in the</p> <p>4 year of our Lord, 2023.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam</p> <p>6 Secretary.</p> <p>7 Is there a motion and a second?</p> <p>8 MR. LESHER: I'll move the proclamation.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a second?</p> <p>10 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We have a motion and</p> <p>12 second to approve the proclamation. Madam</p> <p>13 Secretary, could you call the vote.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>19 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>21 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p>	<p>1 Easton.</p> <p>2 And in the context of this conversation,</p> <p>3 we think it's really important that everyone</p> <p>4 know that we have a new program called Open</p> <p>5 Access, which allows people to walk in for</p> <p>6 mental health services. So during select hours</p> <p>7 at some of our locations, folks can actually</p> <p>8 come in and start receiving therapy in the same</p> <p>9 day. So there's no more wait list. And this</p> <p>10 is really important to our community. Many</p> <p>11 folks who have been waiting for mental health</p> <p>12 services and who need them very much.</p> <p>13 And we're really proud to serve the Talbot</p> <p>14 County community, and we think that this topic</p> <p>15 is especially important, as you heard,</p> <p>16 especially for our youth. We know that our</p> <p>17 youth are suffering. And there are many</p> <p>18 stressors that they're experiencing. And we</p> <p>19 need to be there for them.</p> <p>20 So we just want to emphasize this ask,</p> <p>21 listen, share, reach out to those in your</p>

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<p>1 community, reach out to those in your circle,                  2 ask how they're doing.                  3 Do not be afraid to ask folks if they're                  4 having suicidal thoughts. Asking the question                  5 will not cause, will not put the idea into                  6 their heads.                  7 It's important to listen with compassion                  8 and without judgment and to share the resources                  9 that are available, both at For All Seasons and                  10 the other mental health organizations in our                  11 community.                  12 So we really just ask everyone here to                  13 take the time to check in with those in their                  14 circle, to be present, and to be there for                  15 others who may be experiencing these thoughts                  16 and need immediate support.                  17 Did you want to add everything?                  18 MS. JONES: No. I think you did                  19 beautiful.                  20 MS. THEEKE: So thank you very much.                  21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p>	<p>1 you're doing because that's tough work. We                  2 really appreciate you being here for us.                  3 MS. THEEKE: Thank you.                  4 MR. CALLAHAN: We got something for you.                  5 MS KILMON: Ready? One, two, three. One,                  6 two, three.                  7 SPEAKER: One, two, three.                  8 MR. LESHER: Thank you.                  9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,                  10 could you read the next proclamation, please.                  11 SECRETARY: National Voter Education Week,                  12 October 2nd through the 6th, 2023.                  13 Whereas, voter education is important to                  14 ensuring transparency in the election process.                  15 And whereas, National Voter Education                  16 Week, held the first week of October, equips                  17 voters with the tools and information they need                  18 to participate in our democracy with confidence                  19 so that they can be informed, confident,                  20 prepared voters.                  21 And whereas, National Voter Education Week</p>
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<p>1 MS. JONES: Thank you very much.                  2 MR. CALLAHAN: Council.                  3 MR. LESHER: Just thank you for the really                  4 vital work that you do in our community. I                  5 wish it weren't so, but you're a really vital                  6 resource, and I appreciate all the work you do.                  7 And I know so many in our community that                  8 benefit from this. So thank you.                  9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.                  10 MS. MIELKE: No comment except thank you                  11 for all you do. I know you have a long                  12 history, For All Seasons does, with suicide                  13 prevention. Grateful for that.                  14 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Haythe.                  15 MS. HAYTHE: Just grateful for all the                  16 work that For All Seasons does under the                  17 leadership of Beth.                  18 So thank you all for coming in tonight for                  19 the proclamation.                  20 MR. CALLAHAN: And I'll add with that                  21 colleague. We appreciate the hard work that</p>	<p>1 helps to bridge the gap between registering to                  2 vote and actually casting a ballot.                  3 And whereas, during National Voter                  4 Education Week, corporate, public, and                  5 nonprofit sectors around the country organize                  6 activities to assist individuals with a process                  7 of voting, a fundamental element of our                  8 democracy.                  9 And whereas, the effort aims to help                  10 voters establish their voter identity and                  11 create a habit of voting in every single                  12 election.                  13 And whereas, the Talbot County Board of                  14 Elections strives to help voters feel empowered                  15 and confident in the voting process and                  16 encourages them to help others do the same.                  17 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of                  18 Talbot County, do hereby proclaim the week of                  19 October 2nd through the 6th, 2023, at Voter                  20 Education Week in Talbot County and encourage                  21 all citizens of the county to recognize the</p>

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1 importance of exercising their right to vote.  
 2 Given under our hands in the great seal of  
 3 Talbot County this 26th day of September in the  
 4 year of our Lord, 2023.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.  
 6 Okay.  
 7 MR. LESHHER: I will move for the  
 8 proclamation.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a second?  
 10 MS. HAYTHE: Second.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary. There is  
 12 a motion and second.  
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: No.  
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 16 MR. STEPP: No.  
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.  
 18 MR. LESHHER: Aye.  
 19 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 20 MS. MIELKE: No.  
 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next, Madam  
 3 Secretary.  
 4 MR. STEPP: Mr. Callahan, could I have a  
 5 moment to comment on that before we move on?  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, sure. Absolutely.  
 7 MR. STEPP: I'd just like to take a moment  
 8 of why I personally declined this request for  
 9 proclamation.  
 10 This came as a request from our Department  
 11 of Elections, which I'll wholeheartedly support  
 12 voting, one of our fundamental rights in this  
 13 country. And I encourage everyone to do so.  
 14 What I cannot back is the organization  
 15 behind this National Voter Education Week.  
 16 There's a company that you'll find at the  
 17 bottom of their website,  
 18 votereducationweek.org. At the bottom, there's  
 19 a company called neophilanthropy.org that is  
 20 kind of behind this organization.  
 21 They claim to be a non-partisan

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1 organization, which in my opinion, any request  
 2 to encourage our voters to vote should not be  
 3 any sort of partisan movement.  
 4 They do claim, this NEO, claims to be  
 5 committed to building strong social justice  
 6 movements. And based upon their 2020 Form 990  
 7 filed to the IRS, that they've given over  
 8 550,000 to Planned Parenthood. I cannot  
 9 personally back an organization that backs an  
 10 organization such as that.  
 11 Plus, I don't even see a 2021 or 2022  
 12 filing for this organization.  
 13 They also associate themselves with some  
 14 other questionable organizations.  
 15 So for that reason, I voted no.  
 16 But I would like to encourage anyone who  
 17 wants to get voter information in Talbot  
 18 County, they can go see our wonderful Elections  
 19 Department here at 215 Bay Street, number  
 20 seven. It's right in between Acme and the Bay  
 21 Street pond. So I encourage anyone who wants

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1 to know how to vote, how to register, to go on  
 2 there and make sure they take of care that.  
 3 So thank you, Mr. President.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Any other  
 5 comments?  
 6 MS. MIELKE: No.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, next on  
 8 the agenda.  
 9 SECRETARY: Is the Health Department.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: No. Update on --  
 11 SECRETARY: National Resource Day. I'm  
 12 sorry.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.  
 14 SECRETARY: It's...  
 15 MR. LESHHER: You just want to --  
 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Poe.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. I can call them up.  
 18 You guys want to come on up.  
 19 MS. POE: The Elections?  
 20 SECRETARY: No. Catherine.  
 21 MS. POE: Oh, you're calling me up.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.  
 2 MS. POE: Hi. Good evening, everybody.  
 3 I have a little letter and one for you  
 4 also. If you would give that to them. This is  
 5 what I'm going to be talking about.  
 6 MR. STAMP: Keasha, I'll keep one for you  
 7 here.  
 8 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.  
 9 MS. POE: Yeah. Please save one for  
 10 Keasha.  
 11 My name is Catherine Poe, and I'm on the  
 12 Steering Committee for the Resource Day 2023,  
 13 which is October 14th.  
 14 And I've written this letter to you and  
 15 but also it's filled with statistics and data  
 16 that come from our county, which I'm not sure  
 17 everybody is aware of because I know when I go  
 18 out and speak, people don't know this.  
 19 So first off, I'll put my glasses on,  
 20 first off. There we go. I'm here this evening  
 21 representing the people and organizations

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1 behind our annual Resource Day to be held on  
 2 Saturday, October 14th, at Easton Elementary  
 3 School from ten a.m. to one p.m.  
 4 And I want to start at basically we  
 5 started in 2018, and it was a one-stop shopping  
 6 for our neighbors in need, offering them free  
 7 dental screening, hearing assistance, health  
 8 screening, free children's books, voter  
 9 registration, immigration help, free AIDS and  
 10 HIV screening, help and food for pets, free  
 11 legal aid, and help for victims of domestic  
 12 violence. That is only some of the 30  
 13 nonprofit vendors who will be there that day.  
 14 We will also have a motivational speaker,  
 15 a free barber, special play time for the kids,  
 16 free groceries and fresh meat, as well as  
 17 personal items and paper goods.  
 18 Plus everyone, vendors, volunteers, and  
 19 the community coming through our door that day,  
 20 will receive a free lunch provided by  
 21 (inaudible) and Eat Sprout right here in

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1 Easton.  
 2 And we will have Spanish speaking  
 3 navigators and interpreters there as well.  
 4 There is a reason there's such a day  
 5 that's direly needed. And just look at these  
 6 statistics and you will see I'm not using that  
 7 word dire lightly.  
 8 Right now, 61 percent of our school age  
 9 children K through 12, all right, are on free  
 10 and reduced meals. Seventy percent of them are  
 11 in the middle school, 77 percent of them are in  
 12 the Easton Elementary School. There are 200  
 13 homeless children K through 12. I know.  
 14 Statistic like how can that be. Go right to  
 15 that school system, they will tell you.  
 16 The unemployment rate, this may surprise  
 17 you, as of July 2023, it was 1.7 percent.  
 18 People needing help have jobs. They just don't  
 19 have jobs that pay well.  
 20 Let me point out to you the minimum wage  
 21 is 13.25 as of now. All right. If you worked

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1 a 40-hour week for 52 weeks, this is what you  
 2 would take home, \$27,560. And it goes up, by  
 3 the way, in January to \$15 an hour. You would  
 4 then take home 31,000.  
 5 What does it cost just to live in Easton?  
 6 Are you ready? 39,831. You tell me why people  
 7 are having problems. All right.  
 8 Family of four, say two adults, two  
 9 children, 83,505. All right. And by the way,  
 10 any italics are always where the statistics  
 11 come from.  
 12 People receiving SNAP, I just got these  
 13 statistics as of August 2023. They don't have  
 14 the September numbers yet, our Department of  
 15 Social Services. All right. It's 4,604.  
 16 And if you don't know what SNAP is, SNAP  
 17 is what used to be food stamps. All right.  
 18 Now we call it the Supplemental Nutritional  
 19 Assistance Program. All right. It's a little  
 20 card that looks like a debit card.  
 21 But here is what is so interesting about

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1 that. Most of those people are working poor.  
 2 And if you know, to be on SNAP, you have to  
 3 have a job. All right.  
 4 Eleven percent of our residents are food  
 5 insecure. That's one out of ten. Food  
 6 insecure is a polite way of saying hungry. And  
 7 each week our nine food pantries and three meal  
 8 providers, all right, serve 5,000 people a  
 9 week. All right. And the people coming  
 10 through are seniors and people who are on low  
 11 income.  
 12 This is why Resource Day is needed, to  
 13 help our seniors and the working poor.  
 14 Many people do not even realize the kind  
 15 of help that is out there, and there is a lot  
 16 of help. This is the way, that day, for them  
 17 to get them that help. That's why I say it's  
 18 one-stop shopping.  
 19 They just need access and learn how to  
 20 navigate the system. And believe me, as we all  
 21 know, you got to know how to navigate the

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1 system. All right. Resource Day will give  
 2 them that opportunity.  
 3 Once again, spearheaded by the  
 4 Neighborhood Service Center, the Talbot County  
 5 Network, the Talbot County Hunger Coalition,  
 6 Easton Utilities, Choptank Electric, the Talbot  
 7 Library, the Talbot Public Schools, the  
 8 Department of Social Services and Well Point.  
 9 We've been working since late spring for our  
 10 first Resource Day since the pandemic.  
 11 At the back, I've included a flyer that  
 12 we're sending out to all the people in our  
 13 community that, for instance, that use any of  
 14 our services or come to our pantries. So you  
 15 can take a look at that and you'll find a  
 16 little bit on this.  
 17 I'd like to take a moment here to  
 18 recognize a couple of the organizations who  
 19 came with us tonight. So would you all please  
 20 stand. Neighborhood Service Center, Talbot  
 21 Family Network, and Choptank Electric. I'm

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1 sorry. And Choptank Electric. So I really  
 2 appreciate you coming to be here for this  
 3 evening.  
 4 I should point out that these people and  
 5 many of the businesses and volunteers, they are  
 6 giving their time, their energy, and even  
 7 dollars to make Resource Day a success every  
 8 year. And I'm assuming it will be another  
 9 great success this year.  
 10 Last time over 200 people came through  
 11 taking advantage of our services. I am hoping  
 12 we see a number closer to 300. The more we  
 13 reach, the more we help.  
 14 Do you have any questions? I'm more than  
 15 happy to take them.  
 16 MR. LESHHER: Ms. Poe, I'm sure you are  
 17 here as part of the effort to get the word out.  
 18 MS. POE: Yes.  
 19 MR. LESHHER: To the public on this. Can  
 20 you tell us what more you'll be doing to get  
 21 the word to the folks who most need Resource

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1 Day?  
 2 MS. POE: Yeah, right. First of all,  
 3 flyers are going home in Spanish and English.  
 4 You have just the English version. Spanish and  
 5 English to every child K through 12. All  
 6 right. So they're all going to get.  
 7 Every food pantry has them. Every meal  
 8 providers, we have three meal providers as  
 9 well. Also, all the social service agencies  
 10 are going to be handing these out.  
 11 So we are really going to try to cover  
 12 every base that we can to get this out so that  
 13 people know and come there.  
 14 MR. LESHHER: Thank you.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. Anything?  
 16 MS. MIELKE: Just want to thank you for  
 17 all your efforts. It's people like you and  
 18 like your coalition that make this county  
 19 great.  
 20 MS. POE: It's these guys. I have to say  
 21 that's what it is.

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1 And no more questions. I have one more  
 2 thing.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Sure.  
 4 MS. POE: While I have your attention.  
 5 I'm going to give you an invitation. October  
 6 is Hunger Action Month. And I am inviting each  
 7 of you and all the elected officials. I'm  
 8 going to get this to every elected official,  
 9 all right, from Andy Harris down to the town  
 10 councils in each town. All right.  
 11 Join us at one pantry for one session.  
 12 All right. And the reason we're asking you to  
 13 do this is I gave you statistics. This puts a  
 14 human face on that statistic.  
 15 We, who work in the food pantries, I work  
 16 at one at Brookletts Senior Center, when the  
 17 people come through, we know those people and  
 18 they know us. We know their stories, and those  
 19 stories are heartbreaking.  
 20 Just join us for one for two hours. All  
 21 right.

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1 And on the back, you will see we have all  
 2 the different food pantries and times and  
 3 everything. Just call me. I'll be happy to  
 4 guide you or help you, wherever you'd like.  
 5 But please come. You have all month to do it.  
 6 Thank you very much.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 8 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Catherine.  
 9 MS. POE: All right.  
 10 MS. HAYTHE: I just have a comment for  
 11 Catherine.  
 12 MS. POE: Yes.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Sure. Go ahead.  
 14 MS. HAYTHE: I do have October the 14th on  
 15 my calendar to come to the Resource Fair.  
 16 First, I want to say thank you for all the  
 17 work that you've done. This will be the first  
 18 time I believe that I participated in a  
 19 Resource Fair.  
 20 And I know that you have been out there,  
 21 you know, holding up the banner for the food

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1 pantries as well as the Resource Fair and your  
 2 partners as well.  
 3 But is there going to be any type of  
 4 housing information?  
 5 MS. POE: Yes, there will be. Yes, there  
 6 will be.  
 7 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Perfect. Well, I will  
 8 see you on the 14th.  
 9 MS. POE: Okay. I hope all of you.  
 10 Please drop by anytime. We're there from ten  
 11 to one. You're more than welcome. Thank you.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Appreciate it.  
 13 Next on the agenda is an update from the  
 14 Health Department. Dr. Maguire.  
 15 DR. MAGUIRE: Good evening, everyone.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening. How are you?  
 17 DR. MAGUIRE: Good. I hope you're all  
 18 well and staying dry.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.  
 20 SECRETARY: It's on the bottom left.  
 21 DR. MAGUIRE: There we go. All right.

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1 Well, like I said, good evening. So for  
 2 those of you who don't know, I'm Maria Maguire.  
 3 I'm the health officer for Talbot County and  
 4 director of the Talbot County Health  
 5 Department. And so I wanted to come and  
 6 present to the County Council, who serves as  
 7 our Board of Health, an update on the health  
 8 status of the county.  
 9 And tonight, I want to just focus on  
 10 basically three topics of interest.  
 11 So moving on, because I know it's a packed  
 12 agenda, so we are in the end of September. And  
 13 guess what, we're starting to enter respiratory  
 14 season, one of our favorite seasons. And so  
 15 what is the expectation this year?  
 16 So for the past few years, things in terms  
 17 of winter respiratory illnesses have been  
 18 extremely disrupted. And that's because of a  
 19 few illnesses you may hear about in the news.  
 20 Of course, COVID was a big one. Last year, RSV  
 21 respiratory syncytial virus, really affected

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1 both seniors and young children, especially  
 2 babies, and happened at the wrong time of year.  
 3 And then, of course, there's always influenza.  
 4 So what is the expectation this year,  
 5 because every year it changes? So the CDC has  
 6 said that this year they expect the intensity  
 7 of the respiratory viruses to be about the same  
 8 as last year. So that's good for our hospitals  
 9 in terms of planning purposes and how to  
 10 adequately respond to these added stressors in  
 11 the winter. And that the total  
 12 hospitalizations for COVID-19, RSV, and flu  
 13 should be about the same as last year.  
 14 And so as with last year, the total number  
 15 of hospitalizations this year is expected to be  
 16 higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic. So  
 17 we're still not quite back to normal in terms  
 18 of winter hospitalizations.  
 19 And one of the reasons why we expect this  
 20 year to be the same as last year is, you know,  
 21 this year, there's widespread what they call

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1 population level protective immunity to  
 2 COVID-19 from people having, you know, at least  
 3 one, if not multiple, COVID infections and/or  
 4 vaccinations. So we don't expect these crazy  
 5 spikes that we had certainly a couple of years  
 6 ago. And that is good news for our EMS, and  
 7 it's good news for our hospitals.  
 8 We do expect that COVID-19 might peak a  
 9 little bit earlier than last season, and that's  
 10 because there wasn't a lot of activity over the  
 11 summer. And we are starting to see that a  
 12 little bit with the start of school. We've  
 13 seen a lot of kids getting sick. Fortunately,  
 14 not severely ill.  
 15 And influenza season, we expect to have  
 16 the typical range of severity, which can be a  
 17 broader range I will say. Influenza can be a  
 18 bit unpredictable.  
 19 And then RSV, like I said, respiratory  
 20 syncytial virus, is likely to return to its  
 21 normal seasonal patterns. And so I said last

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1 year, it peaked in October. That was before we  
 2 are ready for it. It usually peaks between  
 3 November and March.  
 4 And that's a disease that, like I said,  
 5 really affects seniors and especially babies  
 6 and hospitalizes them and puts them in the ICU.  
 7 So we have already started to -- so the  
 8 good news is this year there are some new  
 9 vaccines that we have in our arsenal. So  
 10 influenza we have every year. Every year it  
 11 changes slightly to address the most common  
 12 variants that have been circulating. And those  
 13 are available now. So go to your pharmacy,  
 14 your doctor. They should be easily available,  
 15 the flu vaccines.  
 16 COVID-19 I'll talk a little bit more about  
 17 in a couple of slides, but there is a new  
 18 vaccine that was approved on September 11th and  
 19 is somewhat available now. It should get more  
 20 available later.  
 21 RSV, there is a new vaccine available.

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1 This is the first time there has been a vaccine  
 2 available ever for adults and also for infants.  
 3 So for people 60 years old and older and for  
 4 pregnant women, they're recommended to get this  
 5 vaccine. Because those are, with the elder  
 6 adults, there's a higher risk of  
 7 hospitalization from this respiratory virus.  
 8 And then for women and pregnancy, they can  
 9 actually help prevent transmission to their  
 10 newborn. Okay. Because it's really those  
 11 very, very young babies that really suffer from  
 12 this.  
 13 And so those are going to be available.  
 14 They should be coming onto the market now.  
 15 And then for infants less than eight  
 16 months old, there is a new -- it's not  
 17 technically a vaccine, but we'll just put it in  
 18 that category. It's called the monoclonal  
 19 antibodies. So this is really exciting because  
 20 before we haven't really had much in our tool  
 21 kit to help prevent those infections.

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1 So what's going on with flu. We're  
 2 starting to see some activity. Technically,  
 3 we're actually at the end of last year's flu  
 4 year. The way the CDC starts the year, it  
 5 starts in October. So we're in the very like  
 6 week of last year's flu year.

7 And I just circled on this graph just a  
 8 tiny little smidge up of the labs having  
 9 positive cases of flu. And this graph, just to  
 10 orient you, red is the season year 2022 to  
 11 2023. So you know, whatever this year's winter  
 12 season hasn't even started yet. Green is 2021  
 13 to 2022, so last year. Two years ago really.  
 14 Blue is 2020 to 2021. And then yellow is 2019  
 15 to 2020, which you could consider like probably  
 16 the last normal year, so to speak.

17 And the reason only the red line has the  
 18 longer tail into the summer is because they  
 19 only started collected the data over the summer  
 20 this past year. So next year we'll have more  
 21 information about what's been going on in the

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1 summer because in the southern hemisphere, they  
 2 have flu season in the summer.

3 So where can you get your flu vaccine?  
 4 You can go to your primary care doctor.  
 5 There's several pharmacies in the county. I  
 6 believe there are eight. And you can easily  
 7 get them anywhere.

8 The Health Department, we do some flu  
 9 vaccinations for higher risk residents. This  
 10 includes having clinic in assisted living  
 11 facilities and congregate care facilities. And  
 12 then if there's supply left over from those  
 13 clinics, we do offer it up into the public.  
 14 But it depends on the uptake at those sort of  
 15 privately-arranged clinics.

16 And then for kids, those who are eligible  
 17 for what's called the Vaccines for Children  
 18 Program any, which is any child on Medicaid up  
 19 to the age of 18 and any uninsured child, can  
 20 come into the Health Department for honestly  
 21 any vaccination, but that does include flu and

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1 COVID as well.

2 For COVID, we're seeing some increases in  
 3 hospitalizations. So this is a graph of the  
 4 hospitalizations in Maryland since the kind of  
 5 tail end of the summer. That's actually not  
 6 correct. It should say August 2023. Sorry  
 7 about that. I'm sorry. That is correct.  
 8 That's last summer, August 2022.

9 And we had a peak of in our  
 10 hospitalizations in January to almost 1,000 in  
 11 a day. And then it really went down in the  
 12 summer to below 100. And now as of today,  
 13 there are 276 people admitted in hospitals  
 14 throughout Maryland with COVID-19 infection.  
 15 So we're starting to see it ramp up. Hopefully  
 16 that will either just plateau or go down again.  
 17 But we'll see throughout the winter.

18 And so just a brief update on what's going  
 19 on with COVID. So the public health emergency,  
 20 so what we officially termed the pandemic,  
 21 ended officially at the federal level on

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1 May 11, 2023. So what does that mean? No more  
 2 funding for it.

3 So what does the average person do if they  
 4 want to get tested or vaccinated? Well, we  
 5 have to rely on our standard health system at  
 6 this point.

7 So for tests, where can you get tests? So  
 8 the Health Department does have quite a lot of  
 9 take-home tests, not enough to give everyone in  
 10 the county one. But we've been getting in a  
 11 couple of orders of about 1,000, which from  
 12 different sources and purchasing some as well.  
 13 And so anyone right now who wants to get a  
 14 take-home test can go into the Health  
 15 Department lobby or one of the two libraries in  
 16 the county and pick one up.

17 Another great option is the federal  
 18 government as of yesterday is offering yet  
 19 again the option to order some for free on  
 20 their covid.gov website. So it's really  
 21 simple. You just go to covid.gov and order.

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1 And I think it's up to four tests. And it  
 2 comes to your home a matter of weeks later. So  
 3 those are some good options for free tests.  
 4 And you can also go to your doctor and  
 5 everything. But these home tests are a lot  
 6 more convenient, to be honest.  
 7 But we are not doing those widespread  
 8 testing clinics anymore. And quite frankly,  
 9 there really hadn't been the demand for it at  
 10 this point.  
 11 So for vaccines, like I mentioned, there's  
 12 this new what they call monovalent vaccine that  
 13 was approved on September 11th. So both  
 14 brands, Pfizer and Moderna, were approved by  
 15 the FDA on that date. And that's for everyone  
 16 age six months and older.  
 17 And the next step in that approval is for  
 18 the CDC's Advisory Committee on immunization  
 19 practices to determine who it's recommended  
 20 for. And so they did recommend it be added on  
 21 the standard immunization schedule for everyone

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1 six months and older.  
 2 So those are available at pharmacies and  
 3 physician offices. So I know in town, and it  
 4 keeps kind of changing where things are  
 5 available, but there are right now a couple of  
 6 pharmacies that do have them, because we've  
 7 been getting loads of calls. So CVS and  
 8 Walgreens definitely have appointments.  
 9 I got my COVID vaccine on Friday night and  
 10 it was fine. Certainly much easier to handle  
 11 than the first one.  
 12 And there will be more availability as the  
 13 manufacturing and distribution ramps up. So  
 14 this is a case of we're now in normal vaccine,  
 15 normal medicine distribution, not the federal  
 16 government is putting all sorts of resources to  
 17 get this out ASAP. Why? Because the urgency  
 18 is not there as it was in two, three years ago.  
 19 So for instance, the Health Department has  
 20 ordered some doses, but certainly not enough to  
 21 vaccinate the tens of thousands of people we

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1 were used to. And part of the reason is these  
 2 now cost something. They cost \$110 per dose  
 3 for someone to buy. And again, we don't have  
 4 funding for that. So we bought some. We're  
 5 going to be doing some vaccination clinics at,  
 6 again, some high-risk facilities.  
 7 And but there is a program being offered  
 8 for uninsured individuals, and that's called  
 9 the Bridge Program. It's a federal program.  
 10 So anyone uninsured can get a COVID vaccine at  
 11 health departments and federally-qualified  
 12 health centers. So in this region, we have  
 13 Choptank.  
 14 And so they will be getting vaccines. We  
 15 have not gotten them yet. I've been told  
 16 sometime in October we should get some. We're  
 17 getting a very small amount. Our first, our  
 18 first allotment will be 20. So and I'm hoping  
 19 to get some more. But it will not be enough to  
 20 cover every uninsured person. And that, again,  
 21 goes back to funding at the federal level.

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1 So that is the update on vaccines. So if  
 2 you want a COVID vaccine, which is a very good  
 3 idea right now, go. You can make an easy  
 4 appointment at some of the bigger pharmacies.  
 5 And then more of our pharmacies, we've called  
 6 all of them and they all plan to obtain it.  
 7 They've all preordered, but they just haven't  
 8 gotten them in quite yet.  
 9 So I wanted to shift gears and talk about  
 10 where are we with the opioid epidemic because  
 11 this is something that has received so much in  
 12 terms of resources and attention the past few  
 13 years. And I really wanted to see are we  
 14 making any progress, what are the trends.  
 15 And so this is a graph of all the drug and  
 16 alcohol overdose deaths in Maryland from 2011  
 17 to 2022. It doesn't break down which type of  
 18 substance caused the death, but what I wanted  
 19 to show was that really our opioid epidemic  
 20 started in this early 2010 years. Some of you  
 21 may remember when we started obtaining funding

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1 for it.

2 And it looked like in the sort of 2018/19

3 time frame, overdoses may have started to

4 plateau. But of course, what happened at that

5 point, unfortunately, was we had a life and

6 world altering pandemic and they increased.

7 I'm just starting to see over the past two

8 years with preliminary data that or what data

9 from those two years that the number of deaths

10 from overdoses statewide is starting to

11 decrease. And if that is the trend, we want to

12 certainly have that continue.

13 This graph, it's a little hard to see, but

14 what it shows is basically that the overdose

15 deaths in Maryland are predominantly related to

16 fentanyl, which is this green line. The other

17 substances on here are cocaine. And the blue

18 line that went up and then came down actually

19 is heroin. So that seems to be less, less of

20 an issue. Fentanyl has really replaced things.

21 And so what I wanted to see is this true

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1 in the mid shore, this trend, is it true in

2 Talbot County.

3 And so in the mid shore, we do have, we do

4 see that same trend line of the overdoses for

5 the past five years increased during the

6 2020/2021 year and then last year did start to

7 decrease. So we're hoping this trend does

8 continue.

9 And then in Talbot specifically, we have a

10 lot fewer, which is good news. But they also

11 went up in 2018 and then peaked in 2020.

12 So is this a real trend? We'll see.

13 Every trend, you have to look at the

14 year-to-year data. And if so, does this mean

15 things are finally working? And so I think if

16 this is real, it's probably a combination of a

17 lot of things.

18 One of the things is there's a lot of

19 widespread distribution of Narcan. So what I

20 didn't show was the non-fatal overdoses. So

21 these are overdoses that don't result in death

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1 but may show people going to the ER, calling

2 EMS. And so those data do show -- I got some

3 from Shore Health showing the same time period.

4 There was the same type of curve that peaked in

5 2020.

6 In Talbot specifically, for Talbot

7 residents who went to Shore Health ER and had

8 diagnosis codes of overdose, there was actually

9 a significant decrease. So in 2018, there were

10 745 of those overdoses that showed up in those,

11 in that, in those EDs. And in 2022, there was

12 190. So that's a significant decrease for

13 Talbot residents presenting to their EDs.

14 We don't have the number of overdoses that

15 happened just in total because they touch

16 different sources. You know, some are with law

17 enforcement, some are with EMS, some just show

18 up to the hospitals.

19 So Narcan will help prevent death. And

20 we've distributed I think something like 700 of

21 those kits this year. And so that's -- what we

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1 want to do, though, is prevent all overdoses,

2 which involves preventing use. Right?

3 And so there has been quite a lot of

4 engagement by our peer recovery specialists,

5 who help guide someone in substance use along

6 the recovery journey. And our peer recovery

7 specialists at the Health Department have

8 engaged 755 individuals in the past year.

9 And another variable that has been helping

10 is the increased availability of

11 medication-assisted treatment, which is the

12 standard of care for getting someone started on

13 the recovery process.

14 So I'm hoping that this shows maybe a

15 trend to the good news. But it's taking quite

16 a lot of effort and resources still.

17 All right. So moving on to the next

18 topic, I wanted to mention about what's going

19 on with maternal child health in this county.

20 So I asked my epidemiologist to give me

21 some data on what is the health of our

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1 pregnancies and our young children, our births  
 2 in this county.  
 3 And so every year there's about 300 to 400  
 4 births in the county. And this shows the  
 5 racial and ethnic makeup of those births.  
 6 And the infant mortality is higher than  
 7 we'd like. So in Talbot County, the rate of  
 8 infant mortality, which is the death of an  
 9 infant between birth and age one, is 66.4 per  
 10 100 live births. And just to, you know, frame  
 11 that, we have about 350 live births a year. So  
 12 with statistics, sometimes with our county we  
 13 have to do a little translation, you know.  
 14 In Maryland, the rate is actually a tiny  
 15 bit lower, 6.1 deaths per 1,000 live births.  
 16 And in the US, it's 5.4.  
 17 So where does this, how does this compare  
 18 to, quite frankly, the rest of the world. So I  
 19 looked at the other OECD countries, which these  
 20 are typically your, you know, wealthy  
 21 countries, your established developed

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1 countries. And it starts way on left with  
 2 Japan with the lowest infant mortality and on  
 3 the right is South Africa. So where do we fit?  
 4 Well, the US, out of most of these  
 5 countries, we never had a great infant  
 6 mortality rate compared to some of our peer  
 7 countries. And so we are this red line here.  
 8 And then where does Talbot fit, if Talbot were  
 9 a country? We are equivalent to Argentina.  
 10 And so, you know, if you think about what  
 11 are our resources, what is the wealth of this,  
 12 you know, community and the country, that's --  
 13 we should be a little bit better.  
 14 So why is this happening? And so the  
 15 March of Dimes gives ratings to different  
 16 states. They don't give ratings to counties,  
 17 especially small counties. But they give the  
 18 State of Maryland a D-plus rating in terms of  
 19 maternal child health. And of the reasons is  
 20 because of high preterm birth rate and  
 21 inadequate prenatal care. And we see this

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1 resulting in high rates of low birth, low birth  
 2 rate, and also preterm births.  
 3 And so when you have a baby who doesn't  
 4 develop adequately during pregnancy and is born  
 5 too early, they need not only quite a lot of  
 6 medical help, but they're off to a worse start.  
 7 They're already behind when they're born.  
 8 And so the rates of both low birth weight  
 9 and very low birth weight are slightly higher  
 10 in Talbot than in the rest of Maryland. And  
 11 the rates of preterm births is also slightly  
 12 higher in Talbot than the rest of Maryland.  
 13 So this is opposite of what I usually  
 14 present when I say usually Talbot, when you  
 15 take all health issues, is a bit healthier than  
 16 other counties more than the average for  
 17 Maryland. But so that's why I've labeled this,  
 18 you know, a maternal child health crisis. We  
 19 can do better because we do better in other  
 20 realms.  
 21 And so one of the indicators of the

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1 problems we're seeing is the participation in  
 2 WIC. And this is Women, Infant, and Children  
 3 program, which is a nutrition program for women  
 4 during pregnancy and for women and children  
 5 after birth to provide healthy nutrition. It's  
 6 a federal program available throughout the  
 7 country.  
 8 And so what this graph just shows is that  
 9 the participation in the WIC program from  
 10 Talbot families is higher than the rest of  
 11 Maryland. And this is a means tested program.  
 12 So it shows that our women who are families who  
 13 are having babies are eligible for this  
 14 program. So they are struggling more with  
 15 poverty.  
 16 And the other thing, the other indicator I  
 17 looked at was smoking during pregnancy. So  
 18 it's universally recommended that everyone  
 19 abstain from smoking during pregnancy because  
 20 it is very problematic for healthy pregnancies  
 21 and births in so many different ways. It

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1 really disrupts the development of babies.  
 2 And so what we're seeing also is that  
 3 Talbot is in the red line and Maryland is in  
 4 the blue line. And so our smoking rates during  
 5 pregnancy are higher than the rest of Maryland.  
 6 And so this is not the most up-to-date data,  
 7 unfortunately. But sometimes we have to wait a  
 8 few years to get the right data or the most  
 9 recent data.  
 10 But the percent of live births in Talbot  
 11 in 2017, 10.7 percent were born to women who  
 12 smoked during pregnancy. And so that really  
 13 does not bode well for healthy pregnancy.  
 14 And so there's some other contextual  
 15 issues that have been going on that have caused  
 16 some difficulties for our pregnancies in this  
 17 county.  
 18 In 2021, there had been two obstetric  
 19 gynecology practices located in the county.  
 20 They served the entire mid shore, quite  
 21 frankly. And unfortunately, one of those two

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1 closed. And so that really decreased access to  
 2 women's health care and prenatal care in the  
 3 county.  
 4 So what we're seeing actually is a lot of  
 5 women when they're pregnant, calling us and  
 6 saying they're having trouble getting into  
 7 prenatal care up to about the third and even  
 8 the fourth month. And so that's a struggle  
 9 because we always want, you know, the goal is  
 10 always to get early prenatal care to get women  
 11 off to a right start.  
 12 And this is also in the context of just  
 13 some of the general issues we have with, quite  
 14 frankly, rural health access, where it's  
 15 difficult to obtain general primary care. And  
 16 then, of course, a lot of people struggle with  
 17 transportation.  
 18 And so there's, you know, in the context  
 19 of everything, it's a hard problem to fix. And  
 20 so what can -- you know, it's a systemic  
 21 problem that we all have to work together to

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1 fix.  
 2 So what does the Health Department do to  
 3 help this problem? There's a few things we've  
 4 been doing.  
 5 One of my strategic priorities when I came  
 6 on board was to put some focus on maternal  
 7 child health because, quite frankly, if we can  
 8 improve that, it's a very high rate of return  
 9 on investment.  
 10 And so some of the things we do is we  
 11 offer case management during pregnancy. We  
 12 counsel women to stop smoking during pregnancy.  
 13 We help enroll them in substance use treatment.  
 14 And we have a new program I'll mention in a  
 15 minute that provides comprehensive support to  
 16 women during pregnancy who are at high risk of  
 17 problems.  
 18 Clinical services, this is something that  
 19 we used to provide and then over the years  
 20 stopped. And so because we are finding women  
 21 have a hard time getting into women's health

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1 providers, we're hoping to take off some of the  
 2 demand for some of the services that we can  
 3 provide. Things like pap smears, cervical  
 4 cancer screening, some basic vaccination like  
 5 HPV vaccination and basic contraception care.  
 6 And so if this can, if we can provide  
 7 those services, that will offload the demand on  
 8 our physicians, who need to provide the more  
 9 complicated care.  
 10 And we also support families during the  
 11 first critical years of life through some other  
 12 programs. We have some home visiting programs,  
 13 and then we have a program that is actually  
 14 early child education that one of its goals is  
 15 to help alleviate poverty.  
 16 So these are some of the programs that we  
 17 offer. The one on the left is called SPOT, and  
 18 it is the Supporting Pregnancy Outcomes in  
 19 Talbot County. This officially started in May  
 20 of this year. And since May, we have ramped up  
 21 our caseload to 33 women who are enrolled.

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1 Some of these are women with substance use  
 2 disorders. Some of these are teens. But  
 3 they're all women at high risk of having  
 4 problems with pregnancy. And so this program  
 5 really supports the women throughout their  
 6 pregnancy and provides -- addresses needs.  
 7 And so we're really excited that this has  
 8 really taken off, and our referrals are through  
 9 the roof.  
 10 We also have Healthy Families America.  
 11 This is a home visiting program that provides  
 12 developmental education and assessment, again,  
 13 for high-risk families.  
 14 Our Early Head Start program is  
 15 developmentally appropriate education that  
 16 prepares children for preschool and optimizes  
 17 kindergarten readiness. And that's for babies  
 18 six weeks to three years of age, which are  
 19 really the very critical developmental years.  
 20 And again, I mention the clinical service  
 21 expansion we're trying to offer, not just in

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1 the women's health realm but in some other  
 2 realms so that we can really help alleviate  
 3 some of the health access issues in the county.  
 4 So that is what I wanted to present to you  
 5 this evening and give you a taste of what are  
 6 some of the issues we face. And I appreciate  
 7 your attention.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Appreciate it, too.  
 9 So Council, any questions?  
 10 MR. LESHER: Thank you. Thank you for all  
 11 you're doing to save lives in this county.  
 12 A couple of questions.  
 13 You did talk about how few COVID  
 14 vaccinations you are now able to offer because  
 15 of the federal funding ending and such.  
 16 When you do administer those vaccinations,  
 17 do you routinely provide a vaccine information  
 18 statement and what does that typically contain?  
 19 DR. MAGUIRE: Yes. Exactly. So the  
 20 vaccine information statements, these are  
 21 pretty standard statements provided by the CDC

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1 with all the information about a vaccine that a  
 2 recipient would need to know to make an educated  
 3 decision about vaccinating.  
 4 So anyone who is issuing any vaccination,  
 5 not just COVID, is required to provide a  
 6 vaccine information statement. And if you get,  
 7 you know, I don't know, flu shot or any  
 8 vaccine, if you don't get one, it is your right  
 9 to receive a vaccine information statement.  
 10 And this includes information about what  
 11 disease the vaccine is trying to prevent. It  
 12 includes information about the risks and  
 13 benefits of the vaccine, and it includes  
 14 information about, you know, what you should  
 15 expect after you receive it, you know, some  
 16 side effects.  
 17 And so those are very important because it  
 18 provides an educated, you know, we always have  
 19 to get informed consent anytime health  
 20 providers administer any intervention. And so  
 21 that is one of the ways we can provide

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1 education and make sure the patient is informed  
 2 when they choose to receive the health service.  
 3 In this case, the vaccination.  
 4 MR. LESHER: And when either you or any  
 5 private provider administer vaccines, who is it  
 6 that is administering the vaccine, what kind of  
 7 qualifications?  
 8 DR. MAGUIRE: So there's certain types of  
 9 providers who can give vaccines. They're not  
 10 anyone off the street. And so often these are  
 11 nurses or pharmacists. Physicians can give  
 12 them, too.  
 13 And during the height of the pandemic,  
 14 there were some governor orders that expanded  
 15 that to include things like paramedics and  
 16 different categories. Those were temporary  
 17 solutions to allow more people to be able to  
 18 vaccinate.  
 19 But typically there are certain licensed  
 20 providers that have to have certain  
 21 qualifications to be able to administer a

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1 vaccine because it is, you know, introducing  
 2 something into the skin. It is an  
 3 intervention.  
 4 MR. LESHER: And you noted the rise of the  
 5 respiratory illnesses as expected during this  
 6 winter at a rate that will likely you said  
 7 parallel last winter's --  
 8 DR. MAGUIRE: Last year, yeah.  
 9 MR. LESHER: -- experience.  
 10 Is there any discussion at the State level  
 11 or in any other jurisdiction about masking  
 12 requirements once again?  
 13 DR. MAGUIRE: That is -- there's no  
 14 current discussion about that this year. We  
 15 don't expect that to be anything that would be  
 16 proposed.  
 17 We expect that, you know, certainly a lot  
 18 of people are choosing to wear masks when they  
 19 go out and about, when they travel. Maybe it's  
 20 because they are, you know, on an airplane or  
 21 whatever. And so that's certainly something

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1 anyone can do to be safe.  
 2 And that's really a matter of assessing  
 3 your own risk profile. So you know, a  
 4 25-year-old marathon runner may not choose to  
 5 wear a mask, but someone who is 80 years old  
 6 with emphysema would.  
 7 So I think that's a matter of risk-based  
 8 decision-making. And really everyone should  
 9 discuss with their own health care provider  
 10 what's the best solution for them.  
 11 But at this time, there's no, there's no  
 12 discussion or plans for any type of  
 13 recommendation at the State level about  
 14 masking.  
 15 MR. LESHER: And finally, just a comment,  
 16 which is every time that you present to us, I'm  
 17 always learning something new. You are  
 18 presenting us with different information,  
 19 different areas in which you are doing work.  
 20 And this time around, the day you  
 21 presented on maternal child health, it sounds

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1 like a wake-up call. It's pretty alarming that  
 2 clearly we should be able to do better in a  
 3 place like Talbot County.  
 4 So thank you for raising the awareness of  
 5 that issue.  
 6 DR. MAGUIRE: Thank you.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.  
 8 Ms. Mielke.  
 9 MS. MIELKE: Nothing.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stepp.  
 11 MR. STEPP: Yeah. I have a couple of  
 12 statements here and one question for you,  
 13 Dr. Maguire.  
 14 So to Mr. Lesher's point earlier so about  
 15 the vaccine information statement, just to  
 16 understand the process and how that works back  
 17 when we had the location over on Marlboro  
 18 Avenue.  
 19 Went in there just to inquire about it and  
 20 to actually receive one of those statements in  
 21 advance of me inquiring about it. And the

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1 gentleman who was working the front counter  
 2 there could not -- had no clue what I was  
 3 talking about. Right. As we know, under State  
 4 law, they're required to, as you mentioned, to  
 5 hand that over. And I could not get that from  
 6 the person that was working in there.  
 7 Even more shocking, after I left or as I  
 8 was getting ready to leave, the gentleman  
 9 there, who was not the administrator of the  
 10 vaccines, proceeded to make a recommendation on  
 11 which one he thinks I should get. And not  
 12 coming from someone who shouldn't be  
 13 administering those, that was a big concern of  
 14 mine. I brought that up to several people, and  
 15 that was a concern to me. So I just wanted to  
 16 get that one out there.  
 17 The statistics you mentioned here, and you  
 18 spent a lot of time on COVID, flu, RSV,  
 19 opioids, which that's going down according to  
 20 the data, that's a good thing, infant  
 21 mortality.

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1 But I think when you were here on the 14th  
 2 of February, we had talked about -- do we have  
 3 any campaigns for any of the bigger killers  
 4 here in Talbot County?  
 5 From your presentation on the 14th of  
 6 February, heart is number one, cancer,  
 7 accident, stroke, Alzheimer's. I mean are we  
 8 doing anything to try to mitigate those  
 9 effects?  
 10 Because I see advertisements in the  
 11 newspaper for diabetes, which you know is our  
 12 number seven on the list here. I even heard  
 13 radio advertisements for AIDS and hepatitis C.  
 14 So it seems to me like we're focusing on a  
 15 lot of the wrong things and not the number one,  
 16 two, three, four, five, six killers in Talbot  
 17 County.  
 18 So what are we doing in those areas?  
 19 DR. MAGUIRE: So there's a lot that's  
 20 going on. And if I were to give you a  
 21 presentation on every program administered by

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1 the Health Department, which, of course, is  
 2 just one element of the health system in this  
 3 community, it would take more than the ten  
 4 minutes I was allotted.  
 5 So yes. Exactly. So we have at least in  
 6 the Health Department, you know, heart, blood  
 7 pressure screening, we have diabetes coaching  
 8 and screening. And so those are things that  
 9 really up until now have been more centered in  
 10 the, you know, private health world, to be  
 11 honest. So when people go see their primary  
 12 doctor.  
 13 And that's why when you go to, and even  
 14 now dentists do blood pressure screenings every  
 15 visit. And so those are, you know, and those  
 16 are elements that we, the entire health system,  
 17 works together to prevent.  
 18 This Health Department, we do not  
 19 administer, we do not manage heart disease, we  
 20 do not manage high blood pressure. That is not  
 21 our role.

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1 And so we provide education. We provide  
 2 some case management services. We provide  
 3 education.  
 4 And so and we would do, we would love to  
 5 do more. And if you find some funding to help  
 6 us, we would love to use it and implement it.  
 7 But yeah. There's several -- and if you  
 8 want more details on the specificities of the  
 9 programs we have to deal with those chronic  
 10 illnesses, then I'd love to provide that.  
 11 But I do say I share the same concern and  
 12 complaint in terms of the lack of focus on  
 13 chronic health diseases. And so these are, as  
 14 you say, you're correct, in that these are the  
 15 number one killers, these are, they're the  
 16 highest prevalence, you know, conditions.  
 17 Do we get any funding from the State or  
 18 federal government or county government to deal  
 19 with these issues? No, we do not. And so it  
 20 kind of comes from we just piece things  
 21 together.

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1 And I think that's where, that's a  
 2 byproduct of what's called the boom and bust,  
 3 you know, public health funding, where when  
 4 there's a big issue, Ebola, COVID, we get  
 5 funding and resources. And then for the  
 6 chronic issues, we really don't get much to be  
 7 able to build that infrastructure. So that's  
 8 something I also kind of struggle with.  
 9 MR. STEPP: Thank you.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Good. Ms. Haythe.  
 11 MS. HAYTHE: Yes. I just had one question  
 12 for Dr. Maguire.  
 13 In regards to the -- well, two things I  
 14 want to say you touched on.  
 15 The reason why I'm not in front of you  
 16 today is I'm quarantining because I was exposed  
 17 to someone that had COVID and tested positive  
 18 yesterday. So COVID is among us still,  
 19 unfortunately.  
 20 But second, the reason for the infant  
 21 mortality, do you have that information by age?

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1 Do you see that we're having pregnancies,  
 2 teenage pregnancies that's causing the reason  
 3 for infant mortality? Do you have anything  
 4 along those lines?  
 5 DR. MAGUIRE: And do you mean for the  
 6 State or for Talbot locally?  
 7 MS. HAYTHE: Talbot County, Talbot County  
 8 specifically, yes.  
 9 DR. MAGUIRE: Well, so I'd have to look  
 10 back at the cases over the past few years  
 11 because we have luckily very few each year. So  
 12 it averages maybe one or two per year,  
 13 according to that rate.  
 14 And so honestly, one of the bigger  
 15 problems we have noticed is substance use. And  
 16 I can't go into details about particular cases,  
 17 but sometimes, you know, babies can get access  
 18 unintentionally to substances.  
 19 You mentioned teen pregnancy. I'll have  
 20 to look to see if any of our recent deaths over  
 21 the past five years were related to that. And

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1 a lot of times it's sudden infant death. So we  
 2 do a lot of education on how to, you know, help  
 3 prevent that. So safe baby sleep.  
 4 And so yeah. I'll look and see if I can  
 5 find more specific data on the specific causes  
 6 of death. And sometimes those are congenital  
 7 anomalies I will say. There was -- there have  
 8 been some, there's been some cases where it's a  
 9 congenital anomaly that's not discovered until  
 10 the autopsy. But again, that comes down to  
 11 could we have discovered that with better  
 12 prenatal care.  
 13 So yeah. Let me look into that and see if  
 14 I can get more specific information for you.  
 15 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. And just one more  
 16 question. Do you give out information  
 17 regarding the signs of premature labor, like  
 18 the signs that women can look for if they're  
 19 having cramps, you know?  
 20 For the younger mothers, sometimes they  
 21 don't know the signs, what to look for if

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1 they're going into labor or potentially going  
 2 to have a miscarriage.  
 3 Is there information at the Health  
 4 Department that you give to those that may be  
 5 part of your groups or that you're working with  
 6 as part of your social work?  
 7 DR. MAGUIRE: Yeah. Exactly. So like I  
 8 mentioned, our SPOT program, our Supporting  
 9 Pregnancy Outcomes. That is run by a maternal  
 10 child health nurse. And so she counsels women  
 11 on how to, you know, what are the signs of a  
 12 healthy pregnancy and what are the signs of an  
 13 unhealthy pregnancy. You know, make sure you  
 14 have movement and all this.  
 15 And so that is done with the individual  
 16 caseload and with the groups.  
 17 And so one of the things that I hope to  
 18 increase is to get that education more out to  
 19 the community. And so we actually just hired a  
 20 director of community health education, who is  
 21 on his fourth day on the job. And so we're

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1 hoping to get that education more widespread  
 2 because you're right, it is important for women  
 3 to learn that. And that's one of our roles,  
 4 one of our responsibilities as a health  
 5 department is not just to administer programs  
 6 one on one or directly. It's to educate the  
 7 community and give them the information they  
 8 need to optimize their own health.  
 9 MS. HAYTHE: Yes. Well, thank you for  
 10 that.  
 11 This is something near and dear to my  
 12 heart. I lost my first child at 20 weeks. She  
 13 was 20 weeks old. I delivered early and she  
 14 lived for 20 minutes. And in three days is  
 15 actually her death date. So this is something  
 16 that's near and dear to my heart.  
 17 So if I can help you with educating the  
 18 public in any way, please feel free to reach  
 19 out and let me know. So thank you.  
 20 DR. MAGUIRE: Oh, thank you. I definitely  
 21 will reach out. Thank you for that.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other  
 2 discussion? Okay.  
 3 Thank you, Dr. Maguire. We appreciate it.  
 4 Okay.  
 5 Next up is presentation of Talbot County  
 6 Public Schools. Kevin, you want to come on up?  
 7 FY25 Capital Improvement Plan. Okay.  
 8 MR. SHAFER: Thank you, President  
 9 Callahan. Good evening, Members of the Council  
 10 and staff.  
 11 SECRETARY: Want me to get it?  
 12 MR. SHAFER: I'm sorry. Yeah.  
 13 MR. STAMP: There you go.  
 14 SECRETARY: No. It's already on slide  
 15 show.  
 16 MR. SHAFER: It's on where? I'm sorry.  
 17 SECRETARY: It's already on slide show.  
 18 MR. SHAFER: My apologies. I'm having  
 19 some technical difficulty. Thank you, Susan.  
 20 And sorry about that. All right.  
 21 So once again, good evening everyone. I

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1 come before the Council this evening to request  
 2 consideration of the Talbot County Public  
 3 Schools FY25 Capital Improvement Plan. The  
 4 entire CIP document has been provided, and my  
 5 presentation tonight focuses on the details  
 6 surrounding the construction funding request  
 7 for the Chapel District Elementary School  
 8 renovation and addition project.  
 9 So the first few slides of this  
 10 presentation are going to be excerpts from the  
 11 IAC form 102B, which is a request for major  
 12 construction funding. And this first slide is  
 13 just a summary of the request that will be  
 14 submitted to the State with this submission.  
 15 So highlighted in blue is the FY25 request  
 16 of 6.2 million. In green is the balance of the  
 17 construction funding of 5.5 million. For total  
 18 construction funding request of 11.7 million.  
 19 Highlighted in yellow is just this year's  
 20 request, the FY24 request for the design of the  
 21 project.

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1 Next slide just shows a enrollment  
 2 projection. And also highlighted in blue is  
 3 just the partial adjacent school waiver that we  
 4 received during the planning request, which was  
 5 this year.  
 6 And just to kind of refresh what that is,  
 7 the State accepted our request to waive the  
 8 excess enrollment at Easton Elementary School,  
 9 which garnered about four and a half million  
 10 more dollars towards the project from the  
 11 State.  
 12 So right now I'm asking the State to  
 13 recognize 392 students, which is our seventh  
 14 year enrollment projection.  
 15 Now, that, I just want to caution the  
 16 Council that that is in flux for a number of  
 17 reasons. So that may not be the number we go  
 18 with. Also can provide updates when that  
 19 determination is made by the State.  
 20 MR. LESHER: Mr. Shafer, can you explain  
 21 why that shows enrollment going up? Is that

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1 because of redistricting? Is that because of  
 2 proposed development in this? What are the  
 3 factors behind that?  
 4 MR. SHAFER: So Mr. Leshner, there's a  
 5 number of factors. Good question.  
 6 So number one, I think it's important to  
 7 frame it in the context in which we have to  
 8 make determinations. So the Maryland  
 9 Department of Planning gives enrollment  
 10 projections for each county, and we have to  
 11 kind of work within the confines of those  
 12 projections and have to be within five percent  
 13 of those numbers that they come up with.  
 14 But specific to Chapel, I would say that  
 15 there's a couple of issues. Normal  
 16 fluctuation, and normally it's based on trend  
 17 data. And also, I think this number also  
 18 factors in the anticipated increase with the  
 19 three-year-old program that's going to be  
 20 required as part of the Maryland Blueprint. So  
 21 I think that's what we're looking at for that

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1 392.  
 2 So this slide just is a summary of the  
 3 budget. And just want to reiterate, and I know  
 4 I've said this before to the Council, but these  
 5 are budget projections based on the State  
 6 formula for funding.  
 7 So with the State's formula in mind,  
 8 starting at the far right, we're looking at  
 9 about 12.4 million in State participation  
 10 total, including this year's design funding.  
 11 The estimated local funding would be 17.5. And  
 12 a total estimated project cost of 29.9 for the  
 13 complete project.  
 14 Now, there's a number of factors that are  
 15 excluded from that, one of which, just an  
 16 example, is the Critchlow Adkins portion of the  
 17 project that is included in this projection.  
 18 That is something that the county could be  
 19 reimbursed for at the time of construction.  
 20 And also, just once again, similar to the  
 21 enrollment projection number, there are a

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1 number of factors that are changing at the  
 2 State and currently being considered. So I  
 3 just want to reinforce the fact that this is  
 4 based on their estimations and some changing  
 5 inputs related to how many square feet the  
 6 State will recognize per student, the dollar  
 7 amount recognized per square foot and that type  
 8 of thing.  
 9 So this is going to be refined. We're  
 10 just, we're required to submit this in the  
 11 standard calendar process of the State. And so  
 12 it kind of works in conflict with the  
 13 construction schedule. So as we move forward,  
 14 I'm hoping to refine this better.  
 15 MR. LESHHER: Mr. Shafer, would you repeat  
 16 one piece there?  
 17 The Critchlow Adkins portion of the  
 18 building will or will not be eligible for  
 19 reimbursement from the State?  
 20 MR. SHAFER: So the way that we allow that  
 21 portion of the building to participate is

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1 through something called a cooperative use  
 2 space. The State recognizes 3,000 square feet  
 3 of cooperative use space within a building that  
 4 we are allowed to kind of dictate how he  
 5 utilize those square footage.  
 6 And the partnership with Critchlow Adkins  
 7 certainly supports our families. So you know,  
 8 we garnered some of the State support through  
 9 that process.  
 10 Now, I want to be clear, though. It will  
 11 not be all of it. So Critchlow is going to, a  
 12 portion of this building is going to be larger  
 13 than that 3,000 square feet. What we're  
 14 planning to do, though, just to kind of  
 15 quantify it for Critchlow, is one of the  
 16 classrooms, they're looking to add three there,  
 17 but one of those classrooms is going to be an  
 18 add alternate. So we will be able to see what  
 19 the real cost is at the time of bid. And if  
 20 they can afford it, then we'll move forward and  
 21 we'll back that out.

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1 MR. LESHHER: Thank you.  
 2 MR. SHAFER: And the last slide is not  
 3 required by the State, but I like to include it  
 4 both for the State and the board and the  
 5 Council.  
 6 Highlighted in blue is just this year's  
 7 request for Chapel's funding, the 6.2 million  
 8 from the State. And then it just kind of gives  
 9 a breakout of what the local anticipated  
 10 portion would be.  
 11 And also, next year's, in FY26, for the  
 12 balance of the Chapel project.  
 13 And then also, priority two, looking out  
 14 into the future, obviously this could change,  
 15 you know, this is something that's a bit of a  
 16 moving target should something come up. But  
 17 Easton Middle School roof. And then in FY28,  
 18 we'd be looking at replacing rooftop units at  
 19 Easton High School.  
 20 But once again, just kind of laying the  
 21 groundwork and letting everybody know that

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1 that's what we're looking at.  
 2 So I know that's a brief presentation, but  
 3 I wanted to kind of keep it short. But I can  
 4 certainly answer any questions that the Council  
 5 might have, but I am asking that the Council  
 6 consider supporting the document as submitted  
 7 this evening.  
 8 MR. LESHER: So the request tonight is for  
 9 us to?  
 10 MR. SHAFER: Yeah. So the request is,  
 11 similar to any funding request, is to provide a  
 12 support letter for the project, which would  
 13 allow us to submit that to the State as part of  
 14 the CIP project.  
 15 Once again, I think there is always a  
 16 disclaimer in that letter that just basically  
 17 says that pending available funding.  
 18 MR. LESHER: One other question. I don't  
 19 recall this detail with the HVAC replacement in  
 20 this project.  
 21 I do recall that with Easton Elementary

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1 School, we added geothermal for lower  
 2 operational costs down the road.  
 3 I recall also that a previous Council did  
 4 not move forward with rooftop solar simply  
 5 because of the upfront capital cost of that.  
 6 Were any of those considered in this and  
 7 were any of those included in this project?  
 8 MR. SHAFER: Yeah. Another great  
 9 question.  
 10 So yes. As far as the geothermal goes, we  
 11 are planning to move forward with the  
 12 geothermal installation for this project. It  
 13 makes sense for a number of reasons. But  
 14 obviously, most importantly, reducing the  
 15 operational cost of the building. There is an  
 16 upfront, just full disclosure, there is an  
 17 upfront, you know, cost for the geothermal  
 18 system. And but over the long term, the life  
 19 cycle cost would be reduced and so ultimately  
 20 save money.  
 21 As far as the solar, we are looking at

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1 that right now as to whether or not it could be  
 2 included. It will certainly be an add  
 3 alternate for the project. And so once again,  
 4 depending on where the bid comes in for the  
 5 project, we would certainly keep the Council in  
 6 the loop on what the cost would be should that  
 7 be problematic.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 9 MR. LESHER: Thank you.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Good. Any questions?  
 11 MS. MIELKE: No questions.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stepp?  
 13 Keasha? Any questions, Keasha?  
 14 MS. HAYTHE: No, no questions.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I'm sorry. Go  
 16 ahead.  
 17 MR. LESHER: Well, if there are not  
 18 further questions, I'll move for the letter of  
 19 support to allow this project to go forward and  
 20 leverage the State funding.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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1 MS. MIELKE: Second.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
 3 second to go ahead and have a letter of  
 4 support. Madam Secretary, could you call the  
 5 vote.  
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 9 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 11 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 13 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 15 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job.  
 17 MR. SHAFER: Thank you very much.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.  
 19 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda,  
 21 Madam Secretary, could you go ahead and we got

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1 introduction of administrative resolution.  
 2 Could you go ahead and read the resolution into  
 3 the record, please.  
 4 SECRETARY: Administrative resolution  
 5 regarding facial coverings and vaccinations in  
 6 Talbot County, Maryland.  
 7 Whereas, the County Council of Talbot  
 8 County, Maryland, the County Council,  
 9 recognizes all businesses in Talbot County,  
 10 Maryland, the county, to be essential to their  
 11 owners, operators, employees, and patrons.  
 12 And whereas, the County Council recognizes  
 13 all places of worship in the county to be  
 14 essential to their clergy, staff, and  
 15 congregations.  
 16 And whereas, the County Council recognizes  
 17 all public and private schools in the county as  
 18 essential to the education and wellbeing of the  
 19 schools's administration, staff, and students.  
 20 And whereas, the County Council recognizes  
 21 and respects health privacy and parental

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1 rights.  
 2 And whereas, the County Council believes  
 3 that health care decisions should be made  
 4 solely by individuals or parents or guardians  
 5 acting on behalf of those they are caring for  
 6 and encourages individuals to seek guidance  
 7 from health care professionals of their  
 8 choosing.  
 9 And whereas, the County Council respects  
 10 and recognizes parental and student medical and  
 11 religious rights pursuant to Code of Maryland  
 12 Regulations, COMAR, 10.06.0404 and 10.060405.  
 13 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the  
 14 County Council of Talbot County, Maryland, that  
 15 in furtherance of the foregoing, the County  
 16 Council shall not require citizens, employees,  
 17 worshipers, students, or visitors in the county  
 18 to wear a face mask or facial covering in any  
 19 indoor or outdoor setting or produce any form  
 20 of vaccination record or passport to be  
 21 employed, conduct business, practice their

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1 religious beliefs, or go about their daily  
 2 activities.  
 3 And be it further resolved to the extent  
 4 required under State law and regulations,  
 5 including, but not limited to, COMAR section  
 6 10343206, whenever the Talbot County Department  
 7 of Health administers a vaccination, they  
 8 should provide a current vaccine information  
 9 statement, a VIS, to the patient for future  
 10 reference, as well as a consent form disclosing  
 11 the credentials of the pharmacist administering  
 12 the vaccination.  
 13 The VIS and consent form should be  
 14 provided to the patient prior to administering  
 15 the vaccination so that the patient can make an  
 16 informed decision.  
 17 Be it further resolved that this  
 18 administrative resolution should take effect  
 19 immediately upon adoption.  
 20 Introduced by the County Council of Talbot  
 21 County, Maryland, at a regular meeting on

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1 September 26, 2023, at which meeting copies  
 2 were made available to the public for  
 3 inspection.  
 4 Adopted by the County Council of Talbot  
 5 County, Maryland, at a regular meeting on  
 6 September 26, 2023, at which meeting copies  
 7 were made available to the public for  
 8 inspection.  
 9 Given under our hands in the great seal of  
 10 Talbot County this 26th day of September in the  
 11 year of our Lord, 2023.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.  
 13 Good job.  
 14 Discussion? Mr. Leshner. Okay.  
 15 Mr. Stepp.  
 16 MR. STEPP: Yeah. I'd love to take a  
 17 moment to review this.  
 18 So this is a piece of legislation that I'm  
 19 introducing today. I wanted to give a brief  
 20 little history about how we got to where we are  
 21 today.

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1 So back on August 25th I believe it is of  
 2 2020, there was an enforcement resolution that  
 3 came down, basically an unconstitutional  
 4 mandate from the State of Maryland that our  
 5 County Council here adopted by a vote and  
 6 measure of three to two.  
 7 I did want to take a moment to thank  
 8 Mr. Leshner for his objection to this piece of  
 9 legislation back in 2020. So Pete, thank you  
 10 for that.  
 11 Fast forward here to February 14th of this  
 12 year. We put forth a resolution that we passed  
 13 unanimously as this Council here five to  
 14 nothing repealing all of that resolution  
 15 itself.  
 16 So fast forward to today, this is being  
 17 introduced basically just to give folks their  
 18 rights and freedoms back. Right? That's  
 19 basically what this is all about.  
 20 This is not saying that you have to do  
 21 this, you have to do that. This is not saying

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1 you can't wear a mask if you so choose to.  
 2 This is not saying you don't have to be  
 3 vaccinated. This is basically giving health  
 4 freedom back to those in our county, whether  
 5 that be just regular folks, citizens, students,  
 6 worshipers, businesses, all of the above. So  
 7 that's what this legislation is about.  
 8 So Mr. Callahan, thank you.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup. No problem.  
 10 MS. MIELKE: Yes. I'm not supportive of  
 11 this resolution. I will say that I was, I  
 12 never drank the Dr. Fauci Kool-Aid. So I'm not  
 13 coming from that standpoint.  
 14 But it seems to me that this is just  
 15 stating what the law is. But in one, that is  
 16 reciting the COMAR regulations, but in one  
 17 important aspect this resolution does not  
 18 really reflect what the law is in the State of  
 19 Maryland.  
 20 And Maryland Code of Regulations, COMAR,  
 21 10.06.04.05 says that the exemption for

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1 religious beliefs and practices does not apply  
 2 when the secretary declares an emergency or  
 3 epidemic of disease.  
 4 So this proposed resolution is  
 5 inconsistent with the law of the State of  
 6 Maryland. And for that reason, I oppose it.  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,  
 8 Ms. Mielke.  
 9 SPEAKER: It's written by the lawyer.  
 10 MR. STEPP: Could I have more (inaudible)?  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Sure, sure.  
 12 MR. STEPP: So obviously this bill is  
 13 going to have my full support. That's  
 14 basically because we took an oath when we took  
 15 office here to uphold the constitution of the  
 16 US as well as the State of Maryland and as well  
 17 as the laws of the State of Maryland.  
 18 But I think that anyone that, you know, is  
 19 looking at this being an unconstitutional  
 20 mandate, we have a duty to uphold the  
 21 constitution before we do any unjust laws.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Okay. Ms. Haythe?  
 2 MS. HAYTHE: Yes. Is Patrick there  
 3 tonight?  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yeah, sure. He's  
 5 here. Yup.  
 6 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Patrick, in regards to  
 7 what Lynn said, is that, you know, is that the  
 8 truth?  
 9 I mean I'm not saying is that the truth.  
 10 I'm not saying that she's lying.  
 11 But is that consistent? Would this be in  
 12 opposition to the Maryland law?  
 13 MR. THOMAS: I don't believe so because  
 14 what the recital says is that the County  
 15 Council respects and recognizes parental and  
 16 student medical and religious rights pursuant  
 17 to COMAR 100604 and 1006 -- I'm sorry.  
 18 10060404 and 10060405, which I think those  
 19 regulations do speak to parental and student  
 20 and medical and religious rights. So that's  
 21 really all it says.

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1 I don't think it's inconsistent with those  
 2 regulations.  
 3 MR. STEPP: So actually, while we're on  
 4 COMAR, in the last section here I read about  
 5 the vaccination sheets, obviously that stems  
 6 from my personal experience over there at the  
 7 Marlboro vaccination center.  
 8 Hence, the reason looking into this and  
 9 making sure that's included in this  
 10 legislation, make sure that we know we are  
 11 going to stand with, you know, a State law  
 12 that's protecting folks as they get a vaccine.  
 13 We want to make sure they are protected and  
 14 they are getting the right that they are -- or  
 15 the information that they are due by State law.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 17 MS. HAYTHE: -- in consideration, the fact  
 18 of the matter is we ask as the Board of Public  
 19 Health when any type of pandemic comes down.  
 20 And none of us knows what the future is going  
 21 to hold. And regardless if it's a mandate or a

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1 law, federal and State laws supersede our local  
 2 laws and decisions anyway.  
 3 So you know, when we talk about the  
 4 constitution, and Dave and I have discussed  
 5 this, in addition to us, you know, talking  
 6 about Christianity and being believers, we must  
 7 obey the laws of the land. I mean that is  
 8 something that we must do.  
 9 So we say that we are in accordance with  
 10 that as believers and Christians, then that's  
 11 what we're going to do and we have to do that.  
 12 And I don't think we can foresee the future to  
 13 put something like this in place. If we were  
 14 to have a pandemic next year and then something  
 15 is handed down at a federal or State law, then  
 16 we wouldn't be in compliance as the Board of  
 17 Public Health.  
 18 Or would we, Patrick? I guess this is a  
 19 question for you.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 21 MS. MIELKE: I think she asked a question.

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1 MR. THOMAS: I'm sorry. Clay was asking  
 2 me a question. I didn't hear the Council  
 3 member's question.  
 4 I'm sorry. Ms. Haythe, could you please  
 5 repeat your question?  
 6 MS. HAYTHE: You were talking while I was  
 7 talking?  
 8 MR. THOMAS: No. I'm sorry. Clay was  
 9 asking me a question. I apologize.  
 10 MS. HAYTHE: Oh, so Clay was talking while  
 11 I was speaking. Note to self.  
 12 My question was as acting as the Board of  
 13 Public Health, in which we do, the County  
 14 Council, if something was to come down from a  
 15 federal or State level say next year, pandemic  
 16 or whatever the case may be, by adopting  
 17 something like this, would we be in compliance  
 18 with State and federal law or would we be in  
 19 opposition to that?  
 20 Because federal and State law supersede  
 21 our local laws.

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1 Don't understand the question?  
 2 MR. THOMAS: No. I understand the  
 3 question.  
 4 MS. HAYTHE: There's a lot in that  
 5 question.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Give him a minute to answer  
 7 it.  
 8 MR. THOMAS: I would say this is an  
 9 administrative resolution. As Council Member  
 10 Stepp said, it's not requiring anything or  
 11 prohibiting anything. It's just, it's really  
 12 just a statement of policy. So it's not law.  
 13 So if that helps clarify your question or  
 14 concern.  
 15 MS. HAYTHE: Yes. So I'm on speaker  
 16 phone, but I'm actually watching you guys on  
 17 TV. So I could see your face.  
 18 MS. MIELKE: If it's not law, then what's  
 19 the point of having this resolution?  
 20 And my point is if you're going to have  
 21 this resolution, you might as well state what

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<p>1 the law that you're referring to states because</p> <p>2 the section that says that the County Council</p> <p>3 respects and recognizes parental and student</p> <p>4 medical and religious rights pursuant to the</p> <p>5 section of the COMAR sections, that's all it's</p> <p>6 saying.</p> <p>7 It's not going on to say that that is</p> <p>8 overridden if the secretary of the Department</p> <p>9 of Health and Mental Hygiene declares an</p> <p>10 emergency.</p> <p>11 So why is that omitted from this proposed</p> <p>12 administrative resolution? It should state</p> <p>13 that so it's not misleading to the public.</p> <p>14 That's my point.</p> <p>15 MR. THOMAS: Do you want me to address</p> <p>16 that?</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, if you would.</p> <p>18 MR. THOMAS: Again, I think those</p> <p>19 regulations speak to parental and student</p> <p>20 medical and religious rights. So that's just</p> <p>21 saying we're respecting that.</p>	<p>1 respiratory virus season for COVID or anything</p> <p>2 else.</p> <p>3 This, while it is true that with an</p> <p>4 administrative resolution, what this Council</p> <p>5 can impose, it can also repeal two weeks later.</p> <p>6 There's nothing, there's no permanence about</p> <p>7 such a thing. But it could make us less agile</p> <p>8 in the future should a need arise. We would</p> <p>9 have to actually act.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: Could I conclude with one last</p> <p>11 statement?</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.</p> <p>13 MR. STEPP: Last statement.</p> <p>14 Constitutional rights are not suspended due to</p> <p>15 any emergency. They are (inaudible).</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other discussion</p> <p>17 for Council? Okay.</p> <p>18 MR. STEPP: Motion to approve.</p> <p>19 MR. LESHHER: Has this been introduced?</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: You don't have to. It's</p> <p>21 administrative resolution.</p>
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<p>1 I mean, of course, if there was an</p> <p>2 emergency and those --</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: -- what's the problem with</p> <p>4 stating the entire section of COMAR that says</p> <p>5 but that doesn't apply if there is a State</p> <p>6 emergency declared?</p> <p>7 That's my point. That's my only point</p> <p>8 because you should be transparent. And if</p> <p>9 you're going to put this out there for the</p> <p>10 public to rely on, you should have all the</p> <p>11 facts. That's my point.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>13 MS. MIELKE: So nobody is misled.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council, any other</p> <p>15 discussion?</p> <p>16 MR. LESHHER: Just, you know, it's clear</p> <p>17 that there's no imminence to a problem that</p> <p>18 we're addressing here.</p> <p>19 We've heard from our health officer this</p> <p>20 evening that there is no discussion of any such</p> <p>21 mandates coming down from the State for this</p>	<p>1 MR. LESHHER: No introduction is required,</p> <p>2 no sponsor?</p> <p>3 MR. THOMAS: Not for an administrative</p> <p>4 resolution.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHHER: Okay.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: Right. All right. Madam</p> <p>7 Secretary, first of all, is there a motion?</p> <p>8 MR. STEPP: Motion.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Is there a second?</p> <p>10 I'll second it.</p> <p>11 Madam Secretary, could you call the 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: Nay.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>19 MS. MIELKE: Nay.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: Nay.</p>

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Let's  
 2 move on. Okay. Madam Secretary, could you go  
 3 ahead and next agenda, please. Public hearing.  
 4 SECRETARY: It's introduction of numbered  
 5 resolution?  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes. I'm sorry.  
 7 SECRETARY: A resolution to place  
 8 questions on the ballot at the 2024 General  
 9 Election to amend section 102 of the Charter of  
 10 Talbot County to provide that the citizens of  
 11 Talbot County shall be accorded equal treatment  
 12 in all matters under the jurisdiction of the  
 13 county government regardless of age,  
 14 disability, health or genetic information, in  
 15 addition to race, creed, sex, or national  
 16 origin.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.  
 18 Mr. Thomas, you want to go ahead and start us  
 19 off on that.  
 20 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. I'll defer to Council  
 21 Member Stepp on the substance of the proposed

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1 resolution, but just to speak a little bit  
 2 about the process.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 4 MR. THOMAS: Because this is a resolution  
 5 proposing to amend the charter.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.  
 7 MR. THOMAS: So tonight reading by title  
 8 only. Then we'd have a public hearing.  
 9 It requires a four-fifths, at least a  
 10 four-fifths vote of the Council to be adopted,  
 11 in which case it would then go to the ballot on  
 12 the 2024 presidential election for vote of the  
 13 voters of the county.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Okay. And  
 15 Mr. Stepp, you want to go ahead and talk about  
 16 this?  
 17 MR. STEPP: As Patrick just mentioned,  
 18 that's basically the process how it is.  
 19 Introducing this today. It would require  
 20 four-fifths by the Council, but this will go  
 21 to -- keep me honest here. This is a numbered

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1 resolution. So this is going to go to public  
 2 hearing?  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.  
 4 MR. THOMAS: Yes.  
 5 MR. STEPP: Okay. So we will have public  
 6 hearings on this. And then it will go to, if  
 7 passed by four-fifths, it will go to the ballot  
 8 for folks to look at as a referendum question.  
 9 Basically we're adding anti-discriminatory  
 10 clauses for age, disability, health, and  
 11 genetic information. We already have on there  
 12 race, creed, or religion, sex, national origin.  
 13 We would just be adding those four items to the  
 14 county charter.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other  
 16 discussion? Okay. Any other discussion?  
 17 Okay. Raise our hands for introduction.  
 18 MS. HAYTHE: Oh, I had a question.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Sure. Go ahead.  
 20 MS. HAYTHE: And this is probably for  
 21 Patrick, too.

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1 So under the, under the Genetic  
 2 Information Act that was adopted in 2008 under  
 3 the EEO, would Talbot County already be  
 4 included under that since the EEO is our  
 5 hierarchy for any type of complaints regarding  
 6 the genetic information or age or sex, etc.?  
 7 MR. THOMAS: I will have to look at that.  
 8 I'm not familiar with that EEO that you  
 9 mentioned. So I'd have to look at that and I  
 10 could address that later with you.  
 11 MS. HAYTHE: So my -- okay. So in  
 12 addition to that, would we have to do a charter  
 13 amendment if we're already covered under EEO  
 14 federally?  
 15 MR. THOMAS: Well, some of these are  
 16 already covered, are already covered as well  
 17 that are currently in the charter.  
 18 MS. HAYTHE: Right. Correct. Okay. And  
 19 they're covered federally, too.  
 20 MR. STEPP: Keasha, under the existing  
 21 Charter in Section 102, it's race, creed, sex,

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1 and national origin.  
 2 We'd be adding age, disability, health,  
 3 and genetic information.  
 4 MS. HAYTHE: Age, disability, and what was  
 5 the other one?  
 6 MR. STEPP: Health and genetic  
 7 information.  
 8 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Got it. But the age  
 9 and the disability is already under federal  
 10 law? Is that correct, Patrick?  
 11 MR. THOMAS: I believe the existing  
 12 language speaks to race, creed, sex, national  
 13 origin are already covered.  
 14 MR. LESHER: So Mr. Thomas, those items  
 15 are covered in employment law?  
 16 MR. THOMAS: Yes.  
 17 MR. LESHER: Though we're not restricting  
 18 these to employment.  
 19 MR. THOMAS: No. This speaks to the  
 20 citizens of Talbot. When the exercise of the  
 21 powers under the Charter, that the citizens are

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1 afforded equal treatment in all matters under  
 2 the jurisdiction of the county government  
 3 regardless of those items.  
 4 MR. LESHER: Is one of those matters say  
 5 the right to vote in county and school board  
 6 elections?  
 7 MR. THOMAS: Not specifically mentioned  
 8 here, no.  
 9 MR. LESHER: No. But that would be a  
 10 right?  
 11 MR. THOMAS: Sure, of course.  
 12 MR. LESHER: If we prohibit discrimination  
 13 by age, does that mean that let's say an  
 14 engaged 14 or 15-year-old could not be denied  
 15 the franchise in local elections?  
 16 You don't need to answer that now. But  
 17 it's something perhaps to research as we move  
 18 this along.  
 19 MR. THOMAS: Sure. Certainly.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other  
 21 discussion? Okay.

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1 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe, did Ms. Haythe  
 2 want to introduce it?  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Haythe, did you want to  
 4 introduce this?  
 5 MS. HAYTHE: I thought Dave introduced it.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: He did.  
 7 MS. HAYTHE: Oh.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: And I did. And we couldn't  
 9 see your hand. Say that again.  
 10 MS. HAYTHE: Dave, you and Dave introduced  
 11 it, right?  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.  
 13 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. All right. I'm good.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That means yes I'm  
 15 assuming.  
 16 MS. MIELKE: Does that mean yes?  
 17 MR. STEPP: Is that a yes or a no, Keasha?  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Does that mean yes or no?  
 19 MS. HAYTHE: Oh. No, I'm not introducing  
 20 it.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: Yes, I'm good with the two of  
 2 you introducing it.  
 3 SECRETARY: Okay.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: All right. No problem.  
 5 SECRETARY: This will be known as  
 6 Resolution Number 350, and the public hearing  
 7 will be held on Tuesday, October 24th, at  
 8 6:30 p.m.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. That  
 10 sounds good. Thank you. Okay.  
 11 Now we're under the discussion regarding  
 12 public hearing on Resolution 338.  
 13 SECRETARY: Do you want me to read it?  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, if you would, please.  
 15 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 338, a  
 16 resolution to amend the Talbot County  
 17 comprehensive water and sewer plan for  
 18 consistency with discharge permit 19DP3460,  
 19 issued by the Maryland Department of the  
 20 Environment on October 27, 2022. And to  
 21 require that any future expansion of the new

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<p>1 Lakeside wastewater treatment plant shall</p> <p>2 require an amendment to the comprehensive water</p> <p>3 and sewer plan.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Do we want to read</p> <p>5 the next one?</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 347, a</p> <p>7 resolution to amend the Talbot County</p> <p>8 comprehensive water and sewer plan to provide</p> <p>9 the equivalent dwelling units for all phases of</p> <p>10 the Lakeside development.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. And the Resolution</p> <p>12 348.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 348, a</p> <p>14 resolution regarding the Talbot County</p> <p>15 comprehensive water and sewer plan to clarify</p> <p>16 and confirm the water and sewer classifications</p> <p>17 of certain parcels incorrectly shown in</p> <p>18 Exhibits A and B to Resolution Number 281, as</p> <p>19 amended.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. I</p> <p>21 appreciate that. Good job.</p>	<p>1 Commission recommendations to speak on that</p> <p>2 resolution.</p> <p>3 And also having, because all three relate</p> <p>4 to Trappe and Lakeside, to having all three</p> <p>5 heard at the same time, which would require</p> <p>6 the -- because we can't meet the public hearing</p> <p>7 notice for the 10th on 338, we'd need to move</p> <p>8 all three. We need to schedule a second</p> <p>9 hearing on 338. We need to move the public</p> <p>10 hearings for 347 and 348 back to October 24th</p> <p>11 so that they can all three be heard and acted</p> <p>12 on at that date.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you. Okay. Any</p> <p>14 other --</p> <p>15 MS. MIELKE: Yeah. The reason I suggested</p> <p>16 that is we have three pending motions.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: Or resolutions regarding</p> <p>19 Lakeside. And they ought to all be heard and</p> <p>20 considered together, both in public comment and</p> <p>21 voting.</p>
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<p>1 Mr. Thomas, you want to go ahead and go</p> <p>2 over, run through this for us.</p> <p>3 MR. THOMAS: Sure.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: So that everyone</p> <p>5 understands what we're doing here.</p> <p>6 MR. THOMAS: Yes. So the Council</p> <p>7 introduced Resolutions 347 and 348 at its last</p> <p>8 meeting and those are scheduled for public</p> <p>9 hearings on October the 10th.</p> <p>10 As you recall, Council Member Mielke also</p> <p>11 introduced Resolution 338 in the spring. That</p> <p>12 had to go on before the Public Works Advisory</p> <p>13 Board for review and recommendation. However,</p> <p>14 it did not go to the Planning Commission. It</p> <p>15 is going to the Planning Commission next week.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great.</p> <p>17 MR. THOMAS: So Council Member Mielke, and</p> <p>18 she can address some of this as well, expressed</p> <p>19 interest in having another public hearing after</p> <p>20 the public has had the benefit of having both</p> <p>21 the Public Works Advisory Board and Planning</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>2 MS. MIELKE: I also wanted to mention that</p> <p>3 I had discussed with Patrick doing an amendment</p> <p>4 to 347.</p> <p>5 MR. THOMAS: 347, yes.</p> <p>6 MS. MIELKE: 347. And that is going to be</p> <p>7 forwarded to Brennan and Ray, Planning</p> <p>8 Commission and Public Works.</p> <p>9 Basically it was just taking out a</p> <p>10 sentence or actually a clause. And I don't</p> <p>11 have that right here.</p> <p>12 Do you have it handy, Patrick?</p> <p>13 MR. THOMAS: I do have it. Bear with me</p> <p>14 one second. I'll pull it up.</p> <p>15 MS. MIELKE: Yeah. It was a phrase in</p> <p>16 both, in the Exhibit A, both under the water</p> <p>17 system and the sewer system that says -- it</p> <p>18 addresses the phases of the project.</p> <p>19 And what I'm proposing is to delete the</p> <p>20 segment that says the phases represent defined</p> <p>21 land uses only and do not represent the timing</p>

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1 or sequence of development provided. Provided,  
 2 however, that all.  
 3 And to take that provision out and just  
 4 have it all phases of the Lakeside development,  
 5 or portions thereof, classified as W-2 or W-3  
 6 or S-2 or S-3 shall be reclassified as W-1 or  
 7 S-1 through an amendment to the plan before  
 8 receiving either the water or sewer service  
 9 from the Town of Trappe.  
 10 So it's just a little teeny amendment.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Little teeny.  
 12 MS. MIELKE: Little teeny.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Good. All right. Any  
 14 other discussion?  
 15 MR. LESHER: Just my support and agreement  
 16 that these are clearly related pieces of  
 17 legislation. And I think it makes sense to  
 18 pull the public hearings on all three together  
 19 on one date. If that pushes this back to the  
 20 24th, I don't think that does any harm to our  
 21 forward progress or response to the Maryland

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1 Department of the Environment in moving these  
 2 forward.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Keasha, do you want  
 4 to comment? You okay?  
 5 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. I'm good. I mean I  
 6 agree with what Pete said. I mean put them  
 7 all -- I mean can you just put them all  
 8 together so that the public hearing and the  
 9 public can, you know, have their comments at  
 10 the same time on all of these matters?  
 11 I think it's better for, you know, the  
 12 public and the constituents as well.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good. All  
 14 right. So I'm assuming, Madam Secretary, you  
 15 don't need anything, we can move on, correct?  
 16 SECRETARY: I've got it.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good. Okay. Next  
 18 would be Council discussion on proposed  
 19 amendment for the Education Article for 2024  
 20 legislative session. Yup.  
 21 So I was just waiting for you.

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1 MR. THOMAS: Yeah. Sorry. I was just  
 2 making a note here.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.  
 4 MR. THOMAS: So this arises out of the  
 5 recent vacancy on the County Board of Education  
 6 and some of the concerns that arose with that  
 7 because under State law as it currently stands  
 8 when there's a vacancy on, in Talbot County,  
 9 when there's a vacancy on the Board of  
 10 Education, it's filled by the governor.  
 11 So Council Member Stepp expressed interest  
 12 in putting forth a request for our local  
 13 delegation to put forth and pre-file a bill to  
 14 change that so that the vacancy would be filled  
 15 by the County Council.  
 16 So that would require, you know, a  
 17 consensus of the Council and to send a letter  
 18 requesting that, along with a draft bill to the  
 19 local delegation to pre-file for the 2024  
 20 legislative session.  
 21 And I believe Council Member Mielke also

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1 has some thoughts on that as well that she may  
 2 want to address.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 4 MS. MIELKE: My thought is not that I'm  
 5 necessarily opposed to what Councilman Stepp  
 6 has suggested. That is, I think it should be  
 7 taken from the hands of the governor. It  
 8 should be a local decision.  
 9 I just think it would be better if it were  
 10 subject to a special election for the  
 11 replacement person from that ward because I  
 12 think that it's very important that the  
 13 citizens of the district where that person is  
 14 from should have the input and the control, and  
 15 they would best know the person who would serve  
 16 in that position.  
 17 So I wanted to do a resolution that, or  
 18 not a resolution, but I guess a resolution.  
 19 MR. LESHER: Letter of support.  
 20 MS. MIELKE: Letter of support to our  
 21 delegates that we would hold a special

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1 election.

2 And I think it's analogous. I think

3 there's at least one county that has something

4 similar to that. But I just think it's more

5 transparent and it's more satisfying to the

6 district that is affected by the vacancy to

7 have control of it.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Good point. Any others?

9 MR. LESHER: Well, it's hard to argue

10 against the enfranchisement of voters and

11 putting that choice in the hands of the voters.

12 I think that that sounds like a terrific idea.

13 And I want to thank Senator Mautz for his

14 interest in supporting this kind of local

15 decision-making in filling these vacancies.

16 They don't happen very often, but we have

17 one right now. And while that vacancy is going

18 to get filled under the current mechanism,

19 there will inevitably be one again sometime in

20 the future. And it's good that he's willing to

21 pre-file a bill to address this and put local

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1 control over these decisions.

2 MR. STEPP: As it is right now, so not

3 only do we have Senator Mautz's support, but we

4 also have Delegate Adams as well as Delegate

5 Hutchinson's support. We have their agreement

6 to not only pre-file such legislation but also

7 cross file for the 2024 legislative session.

8 So this language is basically almost

9 verbatim of what our neighboring counties,

10 other neighboring counties have, i.e.,

11 Dorchester, I think this is the language they

12 used.

13 What this does, just so everyone knows,

14 this basically gives us the availability to put

15 this on the ballot. Or I'm sorry. Put this on

16 the State legislature for 2024 if approved,

17 what that does. Then that gives us as the

18 County Council the authority to come up with a

19 process. Right. This doesn't define the

20 process at this point. This just allows the

21 process to happen under State election law.

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1 So we would have the opportunity, as I

2 mentioned in our opening session with the Board

3 of Education last Tuesday. We would, of

4 course, want to work closely with them. It is

5 their board seat. So that way we can nominate

6 someone who would be appropriate that we know.

7 I just don't think it's appropriate for

8 any governor, whether it's Republican or

9 Democrat, Independent. They don't know our

10 local folks like we know our local folks. And

11 we want to make sure we're keeping those

12 decisions as local as possible.

13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

14 MR. LESHER: So can we work on drafting

15 language to substitute the special election in

16 lieu of the Council appointment?

17 MR. THOMAS: If that's the will of the

18 majority of the Council, absolutely.

19 MS. MIELKE: Yes.

20 MR. LESHER: I certainly support that

21 modification.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, all we're doing right

2 now is getting it ready to go to Annapolis,

3 correct? That's all we're doing right now.

4 MR. LESHER: But what language are we

5 asking of our Annapolis delegation?

6 MR. CALLAHAN: It's a process; isn't it?

7 MR. STEPP: Well, whatever we send to them

8 is what the process will be. That's what's

9 going to go on State legislature.

10 So as it reads right now, the changes that

11 we've requested to be made. In the event of a

12 vacancy on the county board, the County Council

13 shall appoint a new member from the district in

14 which the vacancy exists to fill the vacancy.

15 And then also, again, it just points to

16 the County Council is the one who would be

17 making that decision.

18 So I mean if we have a special election, I

19 mean we're not sure what that would cost us and

20 how long that process would take to do, as

21 opposed to an appointment process, which should

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1 be able to move a lot smoother.  
 2 And again, it's not like we're saying we  
 3 just want to be the ones who are making that  
 4 choice. We just want to involve the Board of  
 5 Education. We want to have educated dialogue  
 6 about who we should select and put in place.  
 7 MR. LESHER: Well, could we research  
 8 alternate language that perhaps would require a  
 9 60-day special election following a vacancy or  
 10 something to that effect?  
 11 MR. THOMAS: Yes. My thought was with  
 12 Council Member Mielke's proposed change, that I  
 13 could draft another version. And therefore, at  
 14 your next meeting, you would have both versions  
 15 in front of you and you can decide which  
 16 direction you want to take.  
 17 One thing to consider with a special  
 18 election is coordinating with our County Board  
 19 of Elections to make sure that whatever we come  
 20 up with and if it ultimately gets passed, is  
 21 something they can accommodate.

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1 MR. LESHER: Absolutely.  
 2 MR. THOMAS: So we'd want to do that as  
 3 well and make sure that what we bring back is  
 4 workable from their perspective.  
 5 MR. LESHER: Sure.  
 6 MR. THOMAS: So I can work with Council  
 7 Member Mielke on that and with the board and  
 8 have another proposal for you to consider,  
 9 along with Council Member Stepp's at your next  
 10 meeting.  
 11 MR. LESHER: Thank you.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Keasha, you want to comment  
 13 on this?  
 14 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. I'm just going to say  
 15 that I totally, you know, I agree with Dave and  
 16 his comment in stating that, you know, the  
 17 governor doesn't know this community. We want  
 18 to definitely take it out of the governor's  
 19 hand, any governor. We don't want it to be  
 20 political in any way. So I agree with that.  
 21 And in the same manner, I also agree that

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1 anytime we have the ability to give the people  
 2 an option to vote to choose who they want in  
 3 their district or their community, you know,  
 4 I'll always go back to the people. The people  
 5 need to decide who they put in as elected  
 6 officials.  
 7 And you know, the governor doesn't  
 8 necessarily have to have or make that decision  
 9 for the people because we've seen many times  
 10 where it's something, you know, where an  
 11 appointment is done and the people are not  
 12 happy with whoever the government body was that  
 13 puts the person in place.  
 14 So you know, if we could get that  
 15 information in regards to how it would proceed  
 16 either way, the way Dave is proposing and also  
 17 what's been brought up by Councilwoman Mielke,  
 18 that would be great so that we can look at both  
 19 options.  
 20 But again, giving it to the people and  
 21 letting them decide, you know, I'm always all

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1 for that, them exercising their constitutional  
 2 rights.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
 4 MR. LESHER: Just there might be more than  
 5 one way to skin this cat, you know.  
 6 I prefer the special election route. But  
 7 if it need be an appointment and if it need  
 8 be -- and if it's better made locally than by  
 9 the governor, which I agree with, should, for  
 10 example, the school board make that selection  
 11 rather than, which is a non-partisan board,  
 12 rather than this County Council.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. I would agree. I  
 14 think we're close to agreement, all of us. So  
 15 let's spend the next couple of weeks putting  
 16 something together for all of us and see if we  
 17 can get there.  
 18 MR. THOMAS: Yes. We'll have something  
 19 ready for the 10th.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That would be great.  
 21 Okay.

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1 Next would be the update status of the  
 2 American Rescue Plan Act. Where is Mary Kay?  
 3 Is she out there?  
 4 MR. STAMP: Yeah. And Cassandra. They're  
 5 out there talking.  
 6 Welcome, ladies.  
 7 MS. VANHOOSER: Well, hello.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: How are you?  
 9 MS. VANHOOSER: Good to see you twice  
 10 today.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Good seeing you.  
 12 MS. VERDERY: Just scoot up one more chair  
 13 so we can have...  
 14 MS. VANHOOSER: We've got a whole crowd  
 15 here today.  
 16 MS. VERDERY: To the party --  
 17 MS. VANHOOSER: Here we go.  
 18 MS. VERDERY: You're in the hot seat,  
 19 Brian.  
 20 MS. VANHOOSER: All right.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

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1 MS. VANHOOSER: Are we ready?  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Ten minutes now.  
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: Beg your pardon?  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Ten minutes.  
 5 MS. VANHOOSER: I have 410 slides. It's  
 6 all good. We're --  
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: You talk fast.  
 8 MS. VANHOOSER: I do, I do. But we are  
 9 prepared. We're ready to go fast.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go.  
 11 MS. VANHOOSER: So we've been asked to  
 12 give an update on the American Rescue Plan Act  
 13 funding that we received from the federal  
 14 government and how we've allocated that.  
 15 So I'm going to back up just a little bit  
 16 for the benefit for those who were not here  
 17 when the previous Council made the approved  
 18 allocations that we've done so far so everyone  
 19 will know how we got here.  
 20 So the American Rescue Plan Act was signed  
 21 into law on March 11, 2021. The coronavirus

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1 state and local fiscal recovery funds were made  
 2 possible by the ARPA Act, American Rescue Plan  
 3 Act. And every state, county, and municipality  
 4 in the United States of America received  
 5 funding. And Talbot County received just over  
 6 \$7.2 million.  
 7 So the first tranche we received in  
 8 May 2021. And tranche is one of those French  
 9 words that means payment. So we received that  
 10 May 1, 2022. And the second tranche came later  
 11 in that year. I believe it was in September.  
 12 So the thing that you need to know about  
 13 this money is that we have until the end of  
 14 2024 to entail this money and then until the  
 15 end of 2026 to spend this money.  
 16 So we, your ARPA committee, we've tried to  
 17 be really good stewards of this money. And  
 18 we've taken a very conservative approach.  
 19 So when the money became available and  
 20 lots of people came asking for it, we decided  
 21 to ask the people of Talbot County how we

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1 should spend this money. And we did a survey  
 2 in December of 2021. And we hired Beacon at  
 3 Salisbury University to do the survey.  
 4 And we had 634 people take the survey.  
 5 They were from all over Talbot County. So we  
 6 feel like we got really great results.  
 7 And there were six ways that we could  
 8 spend this money, according the federal rule.  
 9 And we all took all kinds of training so we  
 10 would know how to spend our money. And there  
 11 were six categories. There was infrastructure,  
 12 public health, assistance to households and  
 13 small businesses, tourism, and economic  
 14 recovery. And our people listed  
 15 infrastructure, public health, and assistance  
 16 to households as the highest ranked.  
 17 So we took this information, and we  
 18 allocated these funds to a number of projects  
 19 to be consistent with that. And we came before  
 20 the Council in March of 2022 and made those  
 21 recommendations. And we agreed to spend 4.7

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1 and change million dollars of what we had of  
 2 that 7.2.  
 3 Now, we want to update you on where we are  
 4 on those projects that we funded. So they are  
 5 a work in progress. So we have a lot of  
 6 ongoing projects, and we're going to update you  
 7 on those things.  
 8 So the first thing, number one, with our  
 9 people was investments in infrastructure. And  
 10 so broadband, 45 percent of the people that  
 11 took the survey said that broadband was the  
 12 thing that we should do. They called it  
 13 transformational for the people. So we -- and  
 14 that was the highest ranked of all the things  
 15 that were on our survey. So we allocated  
 16 \$1.75 million to continuing broadband expansion  
 17 to the unserved and underserved in Talbot  
 18 County.  
 19 That's the Connect Talbot program. Easton  
 20 Utilities is our partner. You probably know  
 21 these numbers. But for the benefit of the

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1 public, I'll say them again. We have completed  
 2 more than 225 miles of construction. That's  
 3 1,750 locations have broadband access who did  
 4 not have it before. And 920 customers were  
 5 connected.  
 6 When complete, a total of 4,400 Talbot  
 7 County locations will have access to broadband.  
 8 Now, this money just augmented the USDA  
 9 grant that we received, the \$13.1 million.  
 10 And this project is so impressive that the  
 11 United States Department of Agriculture Rural  
 12 Utility Service brought their  
 13 telecommunications unit to Talbot County last  
 14 week to see the project underway, to watch the  
 15 trenching going on, to see the line laid, all  
 16 those things. Councilman Leshner was there.  
 17 Councilwoman Haythe was there.  
 18 And you know, I talked to some of these  
 19 people and they were just so impressed with the  
 20 project and felt like the people of Talbot  
 21 County were really benefiting. And they

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1 benefited because they're the people who sit  
 2 behind the computer and approve these loans and  
 3 grants. And they had never seen the projects  
 4 underway. They came to us to see that. We  
 5 have what is one of the best projects in the  
 6 United States.  
 7 And then we also approved \$105,000 to make  
 8 improvements to the failing septic system at  
 9 Chesapeake Center. We completed that project  
 10 in August of '22. Ray Clarke was in charge of  
 11 that, and he gave me that information. And the  
 12 total cost was \$100,961. And so we were a  
 13 little under budget on that, but that project  
 14 is complete.  
 15 MR. LESHNER: So those funds can be  
 16 reallocated?  
 17 MS. VANHOOSER: Yes, those funds can be  
 18 reallocated.  
 19 Now, I'm going to ask Mary Kay, Mary Kay  
 20 Verdery, who is also on our committee, to talk  
 21 about investments in public health.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: I don't want to stop  
 2 anything.  
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: You can.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: But just remind me for the  
 5 Chesapeake Center on that renovation, is there  
 6 a reason they're not hooked up to the town?  
 7 MS. VANHOOSER: So this is their facility  
 8 that's out in the county. It's on  
 9 St. Michael's Road.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you. Okay. Not in  
 11 town?  
 12 MR. LESHNER: Correct.  
 13 MS. VANHOOSER: No, not in town.  
 14 MR. LESHNER: This is the one down near  
 15 Kirkham Station.  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you. Okay.  
 17 MS. VANHOOSER: Right. And there were no  
 18 other funds to make this happen.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: That's fine. I just  
 20 (inaudible). That's all.  
 21 MS. VERDERY: Thank you very much for

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1 having us this evening.  
 2 The first thing I want to talk about this  
 3 evening is for the fire company grants. All  
 4 seven of our Talbot County fire companies  
 5 received funding through this program. The  
 6 Council allocated \$500,000, and the first thing  
 7 that was taken off the top of that is the  
 8 Council approved spending \$655,000 plus for --  
 9 MR. LeCATES: 65,000.  
 10 MS. VERDERY: Sorry. 65,000 for phone  
 11 disposal and resupply throughout the county  
 12 fire departments.  
 13 So after taking that out, the balance was  
 14 distributed equally to our six fire companies.  
 15 And one-third of what each of those companies  
 16 received went to Queen Anne Hillsboro as they  
 17 are eligible for funds from other  
 18 jurisdictions. So they only received one-third  
 19 of the funding.  
 20 The fire companies were given general  
 21 parameters for spending through the

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1 sub-recipient agreements. We were looking for  
 2 non-expendable equipment. That's things that  
 3 were not really disposable items, something  
 4 that they could use for several years, not a  
 5 single use item and not for salaries, as most  
 6 of our fire companies are volunteers.  
 7 So we had several things that were  
 8 permitted, such as turn-out gear, tools,  
 9 vehicles, support equipment, and things that  
 10 were prohibited, personnel costs, training and  
 11 travel and those items.  
 12 The approved expenditures so far, Easton  
 13 has spent their full amount associated with  
 14 purchasing an engine tanker. St. Michael's has  
 15 purchased a pumper, and Queen Anne Hillsboro  
 16 has purchased some items for turn-out gear and  
 17 other supplies that they needed. Tilghman  
 18 Island has purchased a UTV and a trailer. They  
 19 still have a remaining balance left over. The  
 20 full amounts for Easton, St. Michael's, and  
 21 Queen Anne have been spent toward the purchase

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1 of those other items.  
 2 And again, even though they were not fully  
 3 supported with some of the things that they  
 4 were trying to purchase, they were all very  
 5 appreciative of the funds that they did receive  
 6 through this program.  
 7 I'm going to next turn it over to Brian to  
 8 speak about some of the emergency management  
 9 things.  
 10 MR. LeCATES: Good evening. So the next  
 11 item would be \$300,000 that was allocated to a  
 12 new ambulance. So that is expected delivery in  
 13 spring of '24. Right now ambulances are about  
 14 700-day build time. So as soon as we receive  
 15 that, we'll invoice that out and we'll know the  
 16 exact cost on that.  
 17 The other item was \$1 million was  
 18 allocated as partial funding for the north  
 19 station for EMS that will be an area of Chapel  
 20 District Elementary School on Route 309. So  
 21 that project is well underway and will be

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1 coming to Council probably in the near future  
 2 with a recommendation to procure property.  
 3 MS. VERDERY: So the next item was for  
 4 investments for the public good. So I'm going  
 5 to ask Nancy Andrew, executive director of  
 6 Talbot Family Network, to come up and speak on  
 7 some of our food banks and other items.  
 8 MS. ANDREW: Good evening, everyone. So  
 9 150,000 was invested in our existing food banks  
 10 and meal distributors in Talbot County during  
 11 FY23. Just about 50 percent of those funds  
 12 were spent by the seven standing Maryland Food  
 13 Bank partners here in Talbot County, each  
 14 receiving about \$10,700. And we expect to  
 15 expend the balance of that during FY24.  
 16 Thank you.  
 17 These are the pantries that funds were  
 18 awarded to, from Care Packs to St. Vincent de  
 19 Paul.  
 20 And next slide.  
 21 So we offer the food bank the

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1 opportunities to use the funds for several  
 2 expenditures, with food being at the top of the  
 3 list, but also recognizing that they have other  
 4 costs to bear in their operation and  
 5 infrastructure costs.  
 6 I will say of the monies expended so far,  
 7 the bulk have gone to food costs, in part  
 8 because pantries are seeing the same increase  
 9 in food costs that we're seeing as individual  
 10 consumers.  
 11 Next slide.  
 12 Let me just say I did want to add one  
 13 other thing. I reached out to the food  
 14 pantries just to get a little update from where  
 15 they are. And they really asked me to pass  
 16 along their appreciation to help you understand  
 17 the impact that this is making in our  
 18 community. Most of our pantries rely largely  
 19 on volunteer help to make their operations  
 20 possible.  
 21 St. Vincent de Paul shared that from

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1 January to May of 2023, from that time period  
 2 in the year prior, they've seen a 43 percent  
 3 increase in households coming to their  
 4 pantries.  
 5 They now have to buy milk. Previously  
 6 grocery stores were providing that to them on a  
 7 donated basis during COVID. They're now  
 8 paying -- well, they were paying \$1,700 a month  
 9 to purchase milk. They're now paying \$2,200 a  
 10 month just to purchase milk.  
 11 Harvest of Hope at the Easton Church of  
 12 God says they've seen triple the number of  
 13 people coming to be served each week. They're  
 14 purchasing groceries from our local grocery  
 15 store and really trying to build some creative  
 16 relationships there to augment what they're  
 17 able to purchase from Maryland Food Bank  
 18 because the selection is down with Maryland  
 19 Food Bank.  
 20 The pantry at Brookletts Place run by  
 21 St. Marks United Methodist Church, they're

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1 spending about \$4,000 a month with the Maryland  
 2 Food Bank and they expect those costs to go up  
 3 to 6,000 to \$7,000 a month by the end of the  
 4 year based on increased need and rising cost.  
 5 And then I just want to point out to you  
 6 on the list. Royal Oak United Methodist  
 7 Church, they are our only 24/7 food pantry in  
 8 the county. They have a self-help pantry in  
 9 the vestibule of the church. And what JR  
 10 Burkhart, who is a guidance counselor at Talbot  
 11 County Public Schools and really is the lead  
 12 person with many volunteers at that  
 13 congregation, says they really see the greatest  
 14 use of that pantry at night. When it's dark,  
 15 community members who haven't had to ask for  
 16 help before, have the opportunity to go in  
 17 there.  
 18 JR particularly shared with me that he's  
 19 seen students from school that he wasn't aware  
 20 maybe were experiencing food insecurity at home  
 21 coming across with a backpack saying Mom, Dad,

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1 and Grandmom sent me over to get dinner for the  
 2 evening. So thank you for your investment in  
 3 our food pantries.  
 4 MS. VERDERY: The next item is for our  
 5 nonprofits. \$250,000 was allocated for our  
 6 nonprofits. Selection criteria focused on  
 7 economic recovery, health services and housing,  
 8 and projects to assist the underserved.  
 9 We had nearly 60 applications requesting  
 10 \$1.2 million, which is a very challenging  
 11 process to narrow that down to \$250,000 cap we  
 12 had.  
 13 And we ended up selecting 16 recipients.  
 14 And even with based on what they had requested,  
 15 it was well over the \$250,000 cap. So we  
 16 funded each one of those 16 at 75 percent of  
 17 their request so that we were able to help as  
 18 many people as we could, as many nonprofits as  
 19 we could, instead of just fully funding a  
 20 lesser number. So we've funded 16 recipients  
 21 at 75 percent.

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1 And again, although they did not receive  
 2 the fund request that they had asked for, they  
 3 were all very, very appreciative of the funding  
 4 that they did receive.  
 5 We do have now eight nonprofits that have  
 6 fully spent their money. One of them was paid  
 7 today. And we have three that are pending on  
 8 my desk to receive money. So of the 16, we're  
 9 trying to get each of those served.  
 10 Some of the projects that were funded were  
 11 shoreline installations at a low income housing  
 12 project, purchase of a cargo van for food  
 13 distribution, staffing, and training expenses.  
 14 And that's including teachers, nurses,  
 15 therapists, and other specialty salaries and  
 16 community arts project.  
 17 And I'll switch it back to Cassandra.  
 18 MS. VANHOOSER: All right. And I'll bring  
 19 it home.  
 20 So one of other projects that we funded  
 21 was the Talbot County Free Library new sound

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1 system. As you know, we all use that room over  
 2 there. And so they've added equipment that  
 3 really brings it up to 2023 standards.  
 4 The installation is nearing completion. I  
 5 spoke to Dana this week. They have not spent  
 6 any of this money yet. However, we expect  
 7 their invoice within the next couple of weeks  
 8 on this project.  
 9 And then we'll switch to Talbot County  
 10 government projects. We advised and were  
 11 approved for \$160,000 for Talbot County's IT  
 12 cyber security project. I spoke to Tommy today  
 13 just before our previous meeting, and he tells  
 14 me that he is well underway with this and  
 15 expects to spend at least that much and more on  
 16 securing our systems here in Talbot County. He  
 17 has spent \$65,718 to date.  
 18 We also allocated \$10,000 for the  
 19 Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center call  
 20 center. That's something that we supported  
 21 during COVID and agreed to support again. That

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1 project is complete. It was -- it came in at  
 2 12,323. It's a little bit over. But as you  
 3 saw, we have a little bit extra in some of our  
 4 line items.  
 5 And then we also allocated \$235,000 for  
 6 administrative costs. We've spent 39,301.  
 7 That includes our survey and our previous  
 8 grants manager. We expect that we will spend  
 9 this before the end of 2026.  
 10 And this was not approved at the March  
 11 meeting but came in for the November '22  
 12 meeting for the replacement of 50 existing and  
 13 14 new affordable housing units at Dover Brook  
 14 Apartments. And this is something that the  
 15 town -- it's a much more expensive project than  
 16 that, as you know. But the Town of Easton has  
 17 matched us 250,000 for 250,000. We think  
 18 that's a great investment in housing here in  
 19 Easton.  
 20 So again, we approved \$4,758,740. And so  
 21 far we have spent 2,456,616.20. And our

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1 balance that remains is \$2,463,533.04. So that  
 2 is where we are.  
 3 I want to give a shout out to the working  
 4 group who has worked on this for a couple of  
 5 years now. And that includes Councilman Pete  
 6 Leshner. So thank you for your leadership on  
 7 this. Clay Stamp and Jessica Morris from the  
 8 County Manager's Office. Martha Sparks and  
 9 Kaitlin Foster Clark from the Finance Office.  
 10 Mary Kay, of course. Nancy Andrew on the  
 11 public assistance side. Ray Clarke for  
 12 infrastructure. And Cassandra Vanhooser for  
 13 small business and tourism. So we are your  
 14 working committee.  
 15 If you have any questions, many of us are  
 16 here and we're happy to answer your questions.  
 17 And that was over ten minutes just about.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Twelve minutes. It was  
 19 great.  
 20 Okay. Council, discussion?  
 21 MR. STEPP: Thank you.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Mr. Leshar, this is  
 2 the spotlight on you.  
 3 MR. LESHER: Well.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.  
 5 MR. LESHER: I will echo the thanks that  
 6 Cassandra expressed to the committee for  
 7 guiding this project through.  
 8 I know that the committee is compiling  
 9 further requests and weighing those against the  
 10 priorities that were set in the public survey  
 11 process. And those will, of course, be  
 12 forthcoming in a timely manner.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Good. And good job.  
 14 MR. LESHER: Thank you.  
 15 MS. MIELKE: What an undertaking.  
 16 MS. VANHOOSER: It has been.  
 17 MS. MIELKE: You're all sort of like  
 18 ducks. You don't see underneath the water, but  
 19 you're just cruising along getting this done.  
 20 Fabulous.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

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1 MS. VANHOOSER: So it's a blessing to have  
 2 extra resources, but it is a burden to try and,  
 3 and a challenge and an opportunity to try and  
 4 allocate them appropriately. So we're your  
 5 team doing our best to make that happen.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.  
 7 Keasha, you want to comment?  
 8 MS. HAYTHE: No. Just that they did a  
 9 great job. So thank you, guys.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. We really  
 11 appreciate it.  
 12 MR. LESHER: Just one further thought.  
 13 This, of course, is a one-time,  
 14 non-renewable source of funds. And while I  
 15 think the reaction in some other jurisdictions  
 16 was to, the expression has been used, to shovel  
 17 money out the helicopter. We have been trying  
 18 to be very prudent about this to adhere to the  
 19 publicly-identified priorities and to be  
 20 prudent about funding items that will make a  
 21 long-term difference in this community that are

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1 investments in this place and its people.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 3 MS. VANHOOSER: Thank you. And I'm going  
 4 to yield the floor to Ms. Verdery.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 6 MS. VANHOOSER: Because I believe she's  
 7 next.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. She is next. Okay.  
 9 MR. STAMP: Good job, Cassandra.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Now we're, 5:30  
 11 here, we'll start the public hearing.  
 12 MS. VERDERY: Right on time.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Exactly. You want to give  
 14 us an update?  
 15 MS. VERDERY: I sure am. So this is an  
 16 update on the Early Head Start project, which  
 17 was a project that received Community  
 18 Development Block Grant funding.  
 19 I'm not sure if Maria Maguire and Jamila  
 20 are here. So if they want to -- I'll let them  
 21 sit up here. And Jamila Whitt are here. They

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1 are the director of the program and, of course,  
 2 the health officer that's in charge of the  
 3 program.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Welcome.  
 5 DR. MAGUIRE: Thank you. I just wanted to  
 6 introduce Jamila Whitt. So she's our new  
 7 director of family programs at the Health  
 8 Department as of May 2023.  
 9 MS. WHITT: Yes.  
 10 MS. VERDERY: Wendy Deal was the one that  
 11 we had been working with throughout this  
 12 program, and she has retired. So it's a  
 13 pleasure to be working with Jamila. She's been  
 14 very helpful to us.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Great, great.  
 16 MS. VERDERY: So the Early Head Start  
 17 program offers comprehensive early care,  
 18 education, and family support services to  
 19 children and their families as they progress  
 20 from the Early Head Start to the Easton  
 21 Elementary School all on one campus.

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1 This creates a shared, centrally-located  
 2 resource and continuous care for our Talbot  
 3 toddlers.  
 4 As you can see, this is the project when  
 5 it was under construction, and now a picture of  
 6 the completed newly-renovated building.  
 7 The renovation project received \$800,000  
 8 in CDBG funding, with the County supplementing  
 9 the additional cost for over \$1.2 million for  
 10 the project.  
 11 And the facility is funded to serve up to  
 12 65 Talbot County infants and toddlers from  
 13 birth or approximately six weeks to three years  
 14 of age. And they're currently serving 36  
 15 children daily. They retained four classrooms  
 16 from the 1958 Dobson building, which had been  
 17 slated for demolition. And three of these  
 18 classrooms are divided into two learning spaces  
 19 each.  
 20 And as you can see, they are set up based  
 21 on the age of the children. They have cribs

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1 and different activities for kids based on  
 2 their age, age appropriate.  
 3 So the toddler spaces have age appropriate  
 4 toys and age appropriate learning materials.  
 5 This is just an example of how the spaces are  
 6 divided and able to provide twice the amount of  
 7 classroom space by dividing those.  
 8 The fourth classroom space was converted  
 9 into a kitchen area. They received new kitchen  
 10 appliances and are able to provide meals to the  
 11 children.  
 12 They also have a new laundry area and a  
 13 bathroom with the facilities that are sized for  
 14 toddlers that are learning potty training. So  
 15 that potty is 11 inches off the ground. So  
 16 they are always keeping the children in mind as  
 17 they were constructing this new facility.  
 18 After the interior project was complete,  
 19 Early Head Start Family Support Center  
 20 installed a playground equipment for children  
 21 from crawlers to the preschooler age.

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1 A few facts about the Early Head Start is  
 2 they have 107 enrolled children, are up to date  
 3 on immunization and health care. The care and  
 4 education services also provide children with  
 5 development delays and disabilities. All  
 6 children receive free meal services to include  
 7 baby formula and baby food as well as lunch and  
 8 snacks for the older toddlers.  
 9 One more thing before I get to the thank  
 10 you here. The Council of State Community  
 11 Development Agencies met in Baltimore,  
 12 Maryland, this year. And they meet in a  
 13 different state every year. So they had  
 14 representatives from over 40 states come to  
 15 Maryland.  
 16 The Maryland CDBG Program Department of  
 17 Housing Community Development chose to come  
 18 over here to Talbot County, the Town of Easton,  
 19 to have all of those State representatives view  
 20 our projects.  
 21 So I think it was a great honor for them

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1 to come over. And Early Head Start was one of  
 2 the projects that they were able to visit.  
 3 They were very impressed with the project, and  
 4 the employees were very helpful in answering  
 5 the questions and helping them through the  
 6 description of how they used the funds and how  
 7 successful the CDBG program was for their  
 8 project.  
 9 So I appreciate Early Head Start helping  
 10 us have busloads of people come in while they  
 11 had students there that were taking naps and  
 12 doing different things. And they were very  
 13 receptive of us coming in and learning about  
 14 their facility.  
 15 So thank you to Early Head Start Family  
 16 Support Center staff. Thank you to the  
 17 Maryland Department of Housing Community  
 18 Development. And also, thank you to the County  
 19 Council for supporting the funding for this  
 20 project.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.

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1 Any other? Okay.

2 MS. VERDERY: You have anything else you

3 want to add?

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Anything else you want to

5 add?

6 DR. MAGUIRE: We're just grateful for the

7 continued support of the county in these

8 facilities. And it really helps the county so

9 much to provide the space. And again, that

10 shared birth through, what, fifth grade all on

11 one campus makes such a difference.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That will be great.

13 Okay. Thank you.

14 So it's public hearing. So I'll open it

15 up to the floor. If anybody wants to come on

16 up and talk about the project, I'll give you

17 three minutes. If you're representing

18 somebody, you can stay up here for five

19 minutes.

20 So is there anybody here on my left side

21 like to come up and talk about it?

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1 How about here on the right side? Okay.

2 I think you guys have done a good job. So

3 at this time, I'll go ahead and open it to the

4 floor for discussion.

5 MR. LESHER: Just congratulations to your

6 guidance in your new role here for this

7 project, and thank you for moving this along

8 and making sure that these costs get covered

9 for what is clearly a crucial facility for the

10 community.

11 MS. WHITT: Thank you.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.

13 MS. MIELKE: What Pete said.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Keasha, you want to

15 say anything or are you good?

16 MS. HAYTHE: I'm good. Thank you, Chuck.

17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. No problem. All

18 right.

19 Anybody else? All right. I'm sorry?

20 MS. MIELKE: Did you ask Dave?

21 MR. CALLAHAN: I looked at him.

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1 MS. MIELKE: Oh, okay.

2 MR. CALLAHAN: So okay.

3 MS. VERDERY: It's getting late.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Okay. At this time,

5 I'll go ahead and close the public hearing. So

6 that's all we have to do.

7 MS. VERDERY: Yes. Thank you very much,

8 again, for your support.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.

10 Appreciate it. Okay.

11 Next on the agenda, we've got our finance

12 director, Ms. Sparks, to come on up here. This

13 update and everything. She's been waiting

14 patiently for two and a half hours, you know.

15 Bring us up to speed on everything on FY23

16 on the real estate.

17 MS. SPARKS: Sure will. My name is Martha

18 Sparks. I'm the finance director in Talbot

19 County.

20 What you have here before you, Council,

21 are real property tax abatement requests. In

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1 accordance with Maryland Code, Talbot County

2 abates the real property taxes related to

3 various not-for-profit organizations that own

4 property in the county.

5 The list that you've been provided totals

6 tax abatements of \$101,128.04. And I'm asking

7 Council to approve the request for the real

8 property tax abatements.

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

10 MR. LESHER: If an organization has

11 something that's in current use, it

12 automatically gets that.

13 These are generally parcels that are owned

14 by a nonprofit, designated for future use and,

15 therefore, don't have the automatic exemption

16 and, therefore, require our action for

17 abatement?

18 MS. SPARKS: Well, actually, there's two

19 things.

20 I should say the memo that I sent to you

21 had the incorrect code reference. There are

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1 some that are in the code that are -- Talbot  
 2 County shall provide the tax abatement, and  
 3 those are mandatory. And then there are others  
 4 that Talbot County may provide.  
 5 The shall or the mandatory tax abatements  
 6 are for Academy of the Arts, Bailey's Necks  
 7 Parks Association, Maryland Ornithological  
 8 Society, Incorporated, Tuckahoe Steam and Gas  
 9 Association.  
 10 The Council, at Council's will, where  
 11 Talbot County may grant are Chesapeake Audubon  
 12 Society, Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, any  
 13 commercial or industrial businesses that are  
 14 currently or will be doing business in Talbot  
 15 County. Habitat for Humanity of Talbot or  
 16 Dorchester Counties.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. So okay.  
 18 Is there a motion?  
 19 MR. LESHHER: I'll move for the tax  
 20 abatements.  
 21 MS. MIELKE: Second.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second  
 2 to go ahead and approve the outlined  
 3 abatements. Madam Secretary, could you call  
 4 the vote, please.  
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 8 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.  
 10 MR. LESHHER: Aye.  
 11 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 12 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 13 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 14 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job. Okay.  
 16 Next up. Brian, you want to come on up,  
 17 you and Geneva?  
 18 Presentation of Talbot County Emergency  
 19 Alert System.  
 20 MR. LeCATES: Yes. Good evening, Council.  
 21 Brian LeCates, director of Talbot County

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1 Emergency Services.  
 2 So I'm actually going to hand most of this  
 3 over to Geneva to talk about what is  
 4 affectionately known as our reverse 911. The  
 5 platform is actually called Ever Bridge. We  
 6 call it locally as Talbot Alert.  
 7 So known by many things. But at the core  
 8 of it is reverse 911. It gives us the  
 9 capability of reaching out to the community in  
 10 emergencies or impending emergencies and really  
 11 communicating with our citizens and getting a  
 12 message out to them rather quickly.  
 13 So I have Division Chief Geneva Schaffle  
 14 here with me. And I have another person in the  
 15 back, Dave Tyler. And he is with our technical  
 16 services division in case we have any really  
 17 hard technical questions. He knows that system  
 18 inside and out.  
 19 So I'll turn it over to Geneva for a quick  
 20 presentation.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: And I want to say I would

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1 like everybody to listen to this, okay, because  
 2 if there's anything that we needed, we needed  
 3 it last weekend. Okay. And you did a  
 4 phenomenal job last weekend.  
 5 So when we have these emergencies, we rely  
 6 on you, and you're an expert in this field. So  
 7 I appreciate it.  
 8 But I wanted to tell everybody to pay  
 9 close attention to what she's talking about.  
 10 MS. SCHAFFLE: Thank you very much. And  
 11 thank you for having us. I will keep this  
 12 brief because it's late, but I'm happy to  
 13 answer any questions.  
 14 So Brian really said a good bit of it. We  
 15 call it Talbot County Citizen Alert. The  
 16 software that we use is known as Ever Bridge.  
 17 It has two functions. Our primary  
 18 function being reverse 911. We're able to  
 19 reach the community in times of emergency. It  
 20 also has an internal function that we use, our  
 21 public safety agencies, for alerting each

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1 other, staffing, etc.

2 This system is housed in DES. It is a

3 voluntary sign up for citizens. At the end,

4 I'll give information on how to sign up. And

5 it's for visitors, business, etc. You can

6 customize the alerts that you receive. We'll

7 go over what types of alerts those are. And

8 you can customize the location. So it's all

9 location based.

10 As an agency, we're authorized to send

11 Ever Bridge messages as well as wireless

12 emergency alerts. So the WIA (phonetic)

13 messages that come to your cell phone as well

14 as emergency alert system messages, the ones

15 you see on your cable TV, radio, etc.

16 So why is it important? So it allows us

17 to alert you of threats in your area. It also

18 allows us to reach you with information before,

19 during, and after disasters.

20 We're very fortunate to partner with our

21 National Weather Service with this software.

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1 So if you sign up for our program, you're

2 automatically tapped into National Weather

3 Service weather alerts. They come

4 automatically. And it's for the area that you

5 submit. It's a huge function of theirs. We

6 use it, everything from watches, alerts,

7 advisories, etc.

8 So imminent threats in your area that we

9 can reach you for. Those would be law

10 enforcement notifications, emergency road

11 closures, missing persons, shelter-in-place

12 emergencies. We partner with our public safety

13 agencies. They can request to use the software

14 through us and help get the message out to the

15 citizens, wherever that might be.

16 Other reasons that we might use would be

17 for planned events that would have large

18 impacts to the area. So special events, like

19 our running festival, a major road closure for

20 a period of time, things of that nature that

21 are planned.

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1 And then finally for the impending

2 disaster information, usually in this realm we

3 think weather. So preparedness information,

4 impacts to expect, evacuation information, how

5 you can prepare. That's how our local

6 officials are able to reach out to the public,

7 as well as recovery information. So post

8 disaster safety information where you can get

9 disaster services, things of that nature.

10 So how folks can sign up. There's a

11 couple of ways. One, on our website. You can

12 visit <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/weawC4xJxViBNz5jIxZWkD?domain=talbotdes.org> or [talbotalerts.com](https://talbotalerts.com).

13 Both of those will take you to the landing page

14 where you can easily sign yourself up. You can

15 choose what type of emergency alerts you'd like

16 to receive for whatever that emergency. You

17 can also sign up for the hours you'd like to

18 receive them. Like if you'd not like to

19 receive them at night, just for work hours,

20 etc.

21 If you don't have access to online

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1 resources, you can also just call me. And you

2 can call our office. We can happily manually

3 set you up just the same. We do it all time.

4 And we can also help adjust your settings as

5 well.

6 MR. LESHHER: So Ms. Schaffle, an example,

7 somebody who might just do work hours might be

8 someone who lives in Anne Arundel County but

9 works in Talbot County and only needs those

10 alerts from Talbot County during those hours

11 that they're --

12 MS. SCHAFFLE: Correct. If they're

13 signing up for here, we would suggest in that

14 scenario they put their work address. So

15 they're only getting the alerts for their work

16 address during those hours.

17 But that really is it. That's kind of a

18 brief overview. I'm happy to answer any

19 questions that you might have.

20 MR. LESHHER: Do you have a sense of -- I

21 mean obviously at one point we relied on alerts

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1 on broadcast radio and television. But you  
 2 obviously, by using multiple means, including  
 3 text messages and such, you have the means of  
 4 reaching far more people.  
 5 Do you have a sense of what the  
 6 penetration is of what percentage of cell  
 7 phones or households you reach?  
 8 MS. SCHAFFLE: Sure. I can give a brief  
 9 overview. And then I'm going to tag Dave in if  
 10 I miss something.  
 11 So I can give you an overview of our users  
 12 and that kind of gives us an idea of how  
 13 they're receiving the message, etc.  
 14 Today, we have about 16,000 Verizon land  
 15 line numbers. That's not to say maybe a  
 16 business has a couple of numbers, etc. But  
 17 that's land lines.  
 18 We have over 4,000 people who  
 19 self-registered online.  
 20 We have another 16 or 1,600 people that  
 21 also use our web portal. Those are residents.

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1 And then we have about 75 businesses that  
 2 registered online.  
 3 And then a little under 20 that have  
 4 called us and we've manually registered. And  
 5 those numbers also fluctuate.  
 6 So it is a reach. It's kind of hard to  
 7 delineate between landline versus cell phone.  
 8 Dave, did I cover that okay?  
 9 MR. TYLER: Yes. Yes.  
 10 MR. LeCATES: So just a little history.  
 11 We used to receive, we still do receive  
 12 information from Verizon on every land line in  
 13 Talbot County. And we automatically have that  
 14 information that's uploaded to the system.  
 15 With the prevalence of cell phones, people  
 16 are getting rid of land lines. So that's  
 17 great, but it hurts in this case.  
 18 So that's why we really try to promote  
 19 people signing up on their own and registering  
 20 their cell phone numbers. So folks who always  
 21 had land lines that are getting rid of them,

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1 their only means of communication is now cell  
 2 phone. We do not have the same access to  
 3 wireless carriers to get that information. So  
 4 it's all dependent on the community signing up.  
 5 And if they don't sign up, we don't have that  
 6 means to communicate in an emergency.  
 7 So that's why it's really important and  
 8 that's why we're here this evening, is really  
 9 to spread that word and really stress the  
 10 importance for signing up for this.  
 11 We're wrapping up September, which  
 12 September is National Preparedness Month. So  
 13 it's perfect timing for us to be here talking  
 14 about this.  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Any other  
 16 discussion?  
 17 MR. LESHAR: Just thank you for doing  
 18 this. And I think that those, many of us I  
 19 think who are signed up for this have seen  
 20 ample evidence just in recent weeks of weather  
 21 alerts, of a shooter-at-large alert, of missing

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1 persons. I mean we've seen all these  
 2 categories of alerts come through recently.  
 3 We don't get bombarded. You clearly  
 4 reserve it for the real emergencies so that  
 5 when the message comes through, we do pay  
 6 attention. So thank you.  
 7 MR. LeCATES: Thank you. Appreciate those  
 8 comments.  
 9 MS. SCHAFFLE: Appreciate that.  
 10 MR. STEPP: I'll echo the same as far as  
 11 my thanks. I mean I know I've gotten three  
 12 alerts in the last two weeks, right. The  
 13 potential tornadoes alerts, road closure, and  
 14 then, of course, all the storms.  
 15 So I thank you guys for keeping us abreast  
 16 of everything throughout that time.  
 17 (Inaudible) I know you guys are hard at work.  
 18 So thank you.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Keasha? Keasha?  
 20 MS. HAYTHE: Yes, I'm here. I remember  
 21 Clay mentioning this to me, and I have not

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1 signed up yet. So I will make sure that I do  
 2 that and spread the word.  
 3 So thank you for presenting tonight.  
 4 MS. SCHAFFLE: Thank you.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, guys.  
 6 Appreciate it.  
 7 MR. LeCATES: Thank you all. Appreciate  
 8 it.  
 9 MS. SCHAFFLE: Thank you.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job.  
 11 MR. STAMP: Good evening, Council.  
 12 Under your county manager report this  
 13 evening, we have a couple of committee and  
 14 board appointments that I will be asking you  
 15 about, and then I have three items and then  
 16 announcements.  
 17 So the first one is regarding the Ethics  
 18 Commission. There's one vacancy. Asking  
 19 Council approval for Mr. Paul Davin to serve on  
 20 the Ethics Commission.  
 21 MR. LESHER: I'll move the appointment of

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1 Paul.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Is there a second?  
 3 MS. MIELKE: Second.  
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
 5 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the  
 6 vote.  
 7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 10 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 12 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 13 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 14 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 15 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 16 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 17 MR. STAMP: And the next involves the  
 18 Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board.  
 19 Requesting the appointment of Dr. James Bell  
 20 from the private sector of the reappointment of  
 21 Mary Ellen Carter, private sector, and Reverend

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1 Eric Daniels, private sector.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 3 MR. LESHER: I'll move the appointment as  
 4 articulated by staff.  
 5 MR. STEPP: Second.  
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got a motion and  
 7 second it. Madam Secretary, could you call the  
 8 vote, please.  
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 12 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 14 MR. LESHER: Aye.  
 15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 18 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.  
 19 Ms. Haythe.  
 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 21 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.

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1 MR. STAMP: Okay. Thank you.  
 2 While Micah comes up, we have a request  
 3 from the Easton Airport for approval of design,  
 4 review, and reimbursable agreement for an  
 5 instrument landing system at Easton Airport.  
 6 So I'm going to just turn it over to Micah  
 7 and let him brief you. And I will pick up  
 8 anything that he might miss. Thank you, Micah.  
 9 MR. RISHER: Thanks, Clay.  
 10 Good evening, Council. Thank you for your  
 11 time.  
 12 This is part of our overall air field  
 13 modernization program. And we accounted for  
 14 these expenses in this year's budget.  
 15 Essentially what this is is the FAA is the  
 16 one who does the review. They own the ILS  
 17 system. So they need to review the plans that  
 18 we put together to make sure it meets all their  
 19 criteria for when we relocate the instrument  
 20 landing system to the new location.  
 21 So essentially what this is is us entering

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1 into a reimbursable agreement with the National  
 2 Air Space System Planning Group to come out and  
 3 review the plans, do a site survey, work  
 4 together to make sure the ILS is properly  
 5 planned for relocation.  
 6 And then once that work is done, this is  
 7 an AIP reimbursable expense. So we literally  
 8 will pay them the money. They'll bill to it.  
 9 Once the work is done, we will submit this  
 10 \$54,000 for reimbursement on a future grant.  
 11 So that's how that process works.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 13 MR. STAMP: So we're asking Council's  
 14 approval to move forward with that project.  
 15 MR. STEPP: So moved.  
 16 MR. LESHHER: Second.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So we got a motion  
 18 and second. Madam Secretary, could you call  
 19 the vote.  
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 2 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.  
 4 MR. LESHHER: Aye.  
 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 6 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 8 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 9 MR. STAMP: Great job.  
 10 MR. RISHER: Thank you.  
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: One thing.  
 12 MR. RISHER: Yes, sir.  
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: So we have Airport Day  
 14 coming up.  
 15 MR. RISHER: Airport Day is coming up  
 16 October the 14th. Just a little overview.  
 17 We've got over 50 planes flying, about 40  
 18 something more on the ramps. So there's about  
 19 100 aircraft in play.  
 20 It's going to be an exciting day out  
 21 there. Placid Lassie is coming back, which is

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1 a D Day veteran. So about 50 airplanes are  
 2 going to fly at the same time. Fantastic day.  
 3 And we have our groundbreaking ceremony on  
 4 the 13th, that Friday before, at ten o'clock.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. And we're talking  
 6 about groundbreaking. Are we talking about  
 7 fencing being put up this year?  
 8 MR. RISHER: Yes, sir. Absolutely.  
 9 Probably --  
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Make sure everybody knows.  
 11 MR. RISHER: Yeah. So as far as the  
 12 impacts to the Talbot County Business Center,  
 13 that parcel is what we're talking about.  
 14 When the project begins here in coming  
 15 weeks, some of the first things you'll see is a  
 16 ten-foot fence that's going to be erected along  
 17 the work boundaries of that parcel. So it will  
 18 basically encompass the Talbot County Business  
 19 Center.  
 20 That will be the first visible thing that  
 21 happens. And I expect that will happen by the

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1 month of November.  
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good. That  
 3 will save you a few phone calls.  
 4 MR. RISHER: And as far as that goes, too,  
 5 I always want to say our communication piece.  
 6 Eastonairport.com, right there on the home page  
 7 has all of our information.  
 8 The community can sign up for text alerts.  
 9 So if they want to know what's going on at the  
 10 airport, they can go there, they can log in,  
 11 and they can stay up to speed with our  
 12 newsletter and they'll get the information in  
 13 real time.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: I appreciate that update.  
 15 Thanks, Micah. Good job.  
 16 MR. RISHER: Thank you.  
 17 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Micah.  
 18 Next, I call forward Mr. Cliff  
 19 Copperville. He's the president of Chesapeake  
 20 College.  
 21 We have a request from Chesapeake College

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1 for a letter of intent to support a capital  
 2 building project for the Queen Anne's Technical  
 3 Center.  
 4 As you read in your agenda packet,  
 5 Chesapeake College is requesting Council  
 6 approval for a letter of intent from each of  
 7 the supporting counties, Caroline, Dorchester,  
 8 Kent, Queen Anne, and Talbot County, for the  
 9 Queen Anne's Technical Center project, which  
 10 would assure that the Maryland Higher Education  
 11 Commission that Talbot County intends to  
 12 provide its local share of funding.  
 13 Dr. Coppersmith and Ms. Smith are here to  
 14 answer any questions.  
 15 Design would begin in FY25, with  
 16 construction FY26. Total cost to Talbot County  
 17 would be \$4,310,501.52.  
 18 So the floor is yours, Dr. Coppersmith.  
 19 DR. COPPERSMITH: Thank you, Clay. You  
 20 did my job for me. Thank you very much.  
 21 MR. STAMP: I tried hard.

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1 DR. COPPERSMITH: Mr. President, glad to  
 2 be with you tonight. I started my morning at a  
 3 similar meet up in Kent. And I'm very happy to  
 4 report we had a unanimous vote of support for a  
 5 letter of intent from Kent this morning.  
 6 We also had a vote in the majority  
 7 approving for Caroline as well.  
 8 So this is our last hurrah in terms of  
 9 what I'm calling the Churchillian beginning of  
 10 the end or the ending of the beginning, in  
 11 which we accomplish this first part of this  
 12 very complicated process of getting a new  
 13 facility to replace the Queen Anne's Technical  
 14 Center, which I know some of you have been in  
 15 there.  
 16 So if you want to taste, smell, and see  
 17 1976, you can go back and actually experience  
 18 the whole thing in this facility, which has  
 19 done its fair share for our students over the  
 20 years but it's in dire need of replacement.  
 21 We also will be replacing the use of the

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1 manufacturing trade center, which is also where  
 2 we do our skills trade programs. So this  
 3 facility that we hope to construct will  
 4 actually replacement two buildings.  
 5 The Queen Anne's Tech Building, if we do  
 6 and are successful, will come down. And that's  
 7 basically turned over to green space and the  
 8 MTC would be converted to other uses.  
 9 So what I'm going to do is to provide some  
 10 brief overview of the project. And then Karen  
 11 Smith, our chief finance officer, will take us  
 12 through the funding pieces of this.  
 13 And I also want to acknowledge the  
 14 presence of our own Reza Jafari, chair of the  
 15 Board of Trustees, who is with us tonight in  
 16 that function, but also as a representative  
 17 trustee for the County of Talbot.  
 18 So the programs that will be housed in  
 19 this facility include electrical, welding,  
 20 advanced manufacturing, which is a new program  
 21 for us, heating, ventilation, and air

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1 condition, HVAC, agriculture, the construction  
 2 trades, marine trades, culinary, and skills  
 3 trades offices for administration and faculty  
 4 and support staff.  
 5 We also will be locating the Small  
 6 Business Development Center in this facility  
 7 and the Center for Innovation and  
 8 Entrepreneurship, which will be a program for  
 9 the college that links the skill trades and  
 10 other areas of the college that are appropriate  
 11 to new small business opportunities for  
 12 practitioners in these disciplines and these  
 13 technical areas.  
 14 We also hope to move the WIB into that  
 15 facility as well because much of the funding  
 16 for tuition and fees for many of these students  
 17 will come from the WIB, as they have in the  
 18 past.  
 19 So the program statement that you have  
 20 with you or in your packet does include  
 21 basically the overall square footage for the

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1 facility, which is over 90,000, of which 52,000  
 2 square feet is useable space for classrooms and  
 3 labs and offices and so forth, at a projected  
 4 total cost of just over \$79 million.  
 5 You also have a project priority list that  
 6 was assigned to us by MPEC through our peers  
 7 and the other presidents in the Maryland  
 8 community college system, in which we were  
 9 awarded fairly high priority placement of  
 10 number six, with the first four projects  
 11 already in either design or construction. So  
 12 literally what this means is we're the second  
 13 priority project for the next phase, which  
 14 would be actually funding and, of course, the  
 15 design piece.  
 16 You have a statement there, which I'm  
 17 going to have Karen take us through, which we  
 18 have the percentages for each of the counties.  
 19 And then she'll take us through the rest of the  
 20 packet which you have.  
 21 And of course, I do want to acknowledge

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1 that many of the Council members were present  
 2 at the all-county meeting we had just a week  
 3 ago in which all five counties discussed their  
 4 support for this project.  
 5 I will tell you that Dorchester at this  
 6 time, because of its own unique circumstances,  
 7 cannot provide a letter of intent, but it is  
 8 providing a letter of support, which has been  
 9 delivered to us.  
 10 So with that, I'll hand this over to Karen  
 11 for discussion of the actual funding pieces.  
 12 MS. SMITH: Good evening. The total  
 13 project, as Dr. Coppersmith mentioned, is  
 14 approximately \$79 million. There are three  
 15 stages to the project. One is design, one is  
 16 construction and contingency, and furniture and  
 17 equipment.  
 18 And we are lucky as a regional community  
 19 college, we get 75 percent funding from the  
 20 State for an approved project, where the local  
 21 support counties for the college or foundation

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1 funding would make up the 25 percent.  
 2 The share between the counties is based on  
 3 population in the counties. Talbot's share is  
 4 21.8 percent of the project.  
 5 A project of this size would, the  
 6 construction phase would probably go -- I have  
 7 it on the table for over three years, but the  
 8 construction phase could go anywhere from 18 to  
 9 22 months for a project of this size.  
 10 So Talbot's share at 21.8 percent of the  
 11 total project is a little over \$4 million.  
 12 The first phase is design, and that would  
 13 start, if approved and included in the  
 14 governor's budget, would start in July of '25,  
 15 which would be the next fiscal year.  
 16 I don't know what happened to the -- must  
 17 have skipped a step. Sorry.  
 18 This schedule, it shows the faculty  
 19 members that we have in place now to lead each  
 20 of these program areas. So we have our  
 21 foundation set in preparation of this new

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1 building and to build out these programs.  
 2 We have welding fabrication, construction  
 3 technology, marine trades, transportation and  
 4 logistics. Culinary is the one we still have  
 5 to fill. We fill that with adjunct professors  
 6 right now. And we have a new advanced  
 7 manufacturing league with Frank Williams.  
 8 So what we are asking for from the county  
 9 is actually a letter of support just showing  
 10 your intent to support the project. And the  
 11 regular process for actually approving the  
 12 funding of this project would go through the  
 13 regular budget cycle, which would be we would  
 14 come to the Council in the springtime.  
 15 MR. STAMP: Just a clarification. I  
 16 believe you meant that this is an FY25 item,  
 17 FY25 and 26. FY25 will begin next July of '24.  
 18 MS. SMITH: Yes. I'm sorry. Yeah.  
 19 MR. STAMP: That's okay.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Discussion?  
 21 MR. STEPP: Just one question. You

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1 mentioned Dorchester County and the letter of  
 2 support versus intent.  
 3 In looking at the spreadsheet for each  
 4 county's share, I'm assuming, number one,  
 5 that's by population. That's how that  
 6 percentage is figured out.  
 7 DR. COPPERSMITH: That is correct.  
 8 MR. STEPP: Okay. And then what happens  
 9 to the other counties if they are not going to  
 10 or do not intend to contribute for a letter of  
 11 support versus intent?  
 12 DR. COPPERSMITH: Well, a letter of intent  
 13 is not binding. It simply reflects the intent  
 14 of each county that submits one to proceed with  
 15 the budgetary and other elements of the actual  
 16 funding piece for each county.  
 17 In this case, by COMAR, the Maryland Code,  
 18 we have a budget when you have three of five  
 19 counties vote to support both our annual  
 20 budget, which happens every year, but also in  
 21 this case when you have a special appropriation

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1 to fund a project.  
 2 We certainly hope that Dorchester may  
 3 eventually come along to support the project.  
 4 But obviously in their particular case, they  
 5 simply cannot do it at this moment.  
 6 So we anticipate, we have our meeting with  
 7 the State on Thursday, and we do think that  
 8 we'll get what we need from the State in terms  
 9 of that process with four of our five counties  
 10 submitting letters of intent. And then if  
 11 needed, actually the college can cover the  
 12 difference, in effect, if we have to with the  
 13 State with our own letter of intent for the  
 14 college, in which we would basically indicate  
 15 that we could provide additional financial  
 16 support through capital campaign, existing  
 17 donor allocations, and fund balance of our own.  
 18 MR. STEPP: Okay. Thank you.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 20 MR. LESHER: Well, it's clear that we've  
 21 seen the national news. We've seen in State

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1 discussions of educational needs. We've seen  
 2 advocacy locally how important the technical  
 3 and trades education is, that the four-year  
 4 college degree is not the right solution for  
 5 everybody. And that we need to have this  
 6 option available.  
 7 And so what the college is doing to  
 8 bolster its already solid programs in this area  
 9 and contribute this sort of training, this is  
 10 absolutely invaluable. And it is something  
 11 that I believe that if we recognize those  
 12 needs, and I certainly do, I think this Council  
 13 does, we need to support. And so I fully  
 14 expect I will support this.  
 15 Are we ready for a motion?  
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Not yet.  
 17 MR. LESHER: Not yet.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: You have anything to say?  
 19 MS. MIELKE: No.  
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Keasha?  
 21 MS. HAYTHE: Yes. I'm here. I'll just

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1 echo what Pete said.  
 2 And being a little biased as an alum of  
 3 Chesapeake College, community college played a  
 4 critical role in our workforce development  
 5 across the nation. And so we know that they  
 6 have a broad mission to provide academic  
 7 programming and field training to prepare  
 8 students for jobs or to transfer to a four-year  
 9 college.  
 10 So I'm glad to see this project is, you  
 11 know, in the process of getting started. It's  
 12 years in the making. I can remember when I  
 13 started in economic development, we were  
 14 talking about this type of building. So kudos  
 15 to Chesapeake College.  
 16 And certainly, I will support a letter  
 17 today.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. I'm  
 19 going to back that up. I've been looking  
 20 forward to this for ten years. Okay. I'm  
 21 being serious. This is what I'm all about.

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<p>1 And I'm very excited. I'm glad to be a 2 part of it. And I think we've been needing 3 this for years. And the construction world is 4 finally on the map now. 5 DR. COPPERSMITH: It totally is on the map 6 now. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: It is. And I really 8 appreciate you heading that up. I'm happy to 9 be a part of it. That's for sure. 10 So being that's said, Madam Secretary, 11 first of all, is there a motion? 12 MR. LESHER: I'll move for the letter of 13 intent. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Is there a second? 15 MS. MIELKE: Second. 16 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, 18 there's motion and second for -- 19 MS. MIELKE: And third. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: And a third for the letter 21 of intent for Chesapeake College. Could you</p>	<p>1 MR. STAMP: Congratulations. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. 3 MR. STAMP: Okay. Council, next we have 4 I'll call Dr. De Shields forward. Pun intended. 5 A very patient Dr. De Shields. Been waiting all 6 evening. 7 He's here this evening to ask Council for 8 a letter of support for the museum project and 9 conveyance of preservation easement. 10 As you read in your agenda packet, the 11 Bellevue Passage Museum is requesting Council 12 approval for a letter of support to the 13 Maryland Historical Trust confirming that if an 14 African American Heritage Preservation Program 15 grand is awarded, the county, as the owner of 16 the property, will consent to a preservation 17 easement or easement modification on the 18 property to enter into a preservation 19 agreement. 20 The county has completed a title search to 21 confirm there are no less than fee simple</p>
<p>Page 187</p> <p>1 call the vote, please. 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 5 MR. STEPP: Aye. 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 7 MR. LESHER: Aye. 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 9 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 10 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 11 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 13 MR. STAMP: Great. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: You got it. 15 DR. COPPERSMITH: Mr. President, this is 16 our Super Tuesday. We're very appreciative of 17 your support. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go. 19 MS. SMITH: Thank you very much. Thank 20 you. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.</p>	<p>Page 189</p> <p>1 interests in the property. 2 And Dr. Dennis De Shields is here to answer 3 any further questions that you may have 4 regarding this matter. Thank you, sir. The 5 floor is yours. 6 DR. De SHIELDS: Thank you for allowing me 7 to come again to speak with you. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate you being here. 9 DR. De SHIELDS: I hope I'm not wearing my 10 welcome out. 11 First of all, I want to thank you for your 12 letter of support for our grant that we applied 13 for the Maryland Historic Trust. This was part 14 of the information that they were requesting, 15 additional information, since the museum is 16 going to be, the proposed museum, will be 17 placed in the Bellevue Park, we needed to get 18 your willingness to complete the letter of 19 consent. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great. 21 Any other discussion?</p>

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<p>1 MR. LESHHER: So just a question. I've 2 been through Maryland Historical Trust capital 3 grants. I know about these letters because of 4 the easements. If the trust gives funding for 5 the preservation of a property, they want to 6 ensure that it's not going to get changed or 7 demolished or something like that and that 8 their investment in this will remain.</p> <p>9 And I presume that the preservation 10 easement is for the historic structure that is 11 being placed on this property, but that, but 12 that you can't, you can't attach an easement 13 just to a building, you need to attach it to 14 the property that it sits on. And therefore, 15 you need the county, as the property owner, to 16 do this.</p> <p>17 Do I have that right?</p> <p>18 DR. De SHIELDS: From my understanding, 19 it's more of protection of if there's any 20 historic relevance of the property, not 21 necessarily for the building.</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 2 MR. STEPP: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher. 4 MR. LESHHER: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 6 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 8 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 10 DR. De SHIELDS: Thank you so much. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate you staying. 12 MR. STAMP: Congratulations, 13 Dr. De Shields. 14 DR. De SHIELDS: Thank you. 15 MR. STAMP: And finally, Council, I just 16 have an announcement to make. The citizen 17 scrap tire collection event that's hosted by 18 the Mid-Shore Transfer Station Talbot County 19 will be Saturday, this Saturday, September 30, 20 2023, from eight a.m. to two p.m. 21 And that is, again, the Mid-Shore Transfer</p>
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<p>1 MR. LESHHER: It's really about the 2 property. Any archeological resources that 3 might be under the sod or something like that?</p> <p>4 DR. De SHIELDS: Yes. 5 MR. LESHHER: Okay. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Keasha? 7 MS. HAYTHE: Sorry. I have no questions. 8 I mean I'm just glad to see that this is 9 moving forward. You know, maybe not at the 10 pace that we wanted it to.</p> <p>11 But certainly I'm in support of the letter 12 for the museum project.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good. 14 Anybody else? 15 MR. STEPP: Motion to approve. 16 MR. LESHHER: I'll second. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 18 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 19 vote. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p>	<p>1 Station located at 7341 Barkers Landing Road, 2 which is off Dover Neck Road in Easton. 3 And that completes your county manager 4 report for this evening. Thank you for your 5 support. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds great. Good 7 job. Okay. 8 Next on the agenda is public comment. 9 MR. LESHHER: And Mr. President, we have 10 one person who signed up in advance for public 11 comment. And that is Tina Grace Jones. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 13 MS. JONES: Good evening again. Please 14 excuse my voice. I had some throat surgery 15 done about two and a half weeks ago. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 17 MS. JONES: Good evening, President 18 Callahan, Members of the Council. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Could you push -- there you 20 go. 21 MR. STAMP: Bring it to you.</p>

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1 MS. JONES: Is that better?

2 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go.

3 MS. JONES: Okay. My name is Tina Grace

4 Jones. My pronouns are she and her, and I live

5 at 29424 White Tail Drive in Cordova, Maryland.

6 In addition to being a lifelong Talbot

7 County residence, I am also the cofounder and a

8 board member for the Delmarva Pride Center.

9 I come here tonight to request that the

10 Council amend the equal treatment resolution

11 that was presented just earlier this evening to

12 also include the terms sexual orientation,

13 gender identity, and gender expression.

14 Numerous studies have shown that LGBTQ

15 plus members of the community faced increased

16 discrimination, which all too often results in

17 trauma and increased rates of suicide amongst

18 this population.

19 In fact, a recent study reported that just

20 over 50 percent of LGBTQ plus youths seriously

21 considered suicide in the last 12 months.

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1 I have direct experience with this fact.

2 Not only am I a suicide survivor as an LGBTQ

3 person, I am also a foster parent who lost a

4 non-binary teenager to suicide just last May of

5 2022.

6 The good news is while I can't bring Aria

7 back, I can try to help others by asking that

8 this Council please include protections for

9 this important part of our population.

10 Science has shown that the number of

11 suicides can be reduced by creating a community

12 that is more accepting of people who are

13 different. One study recently documented that

14 rates of suicide dropped by 40 percent if just

15 one person reaches out to that LGBTQ teen.

16 It is very important in this world today

17 that we show as leaders in our community that

18 we are here to welcome everyone.

19 And for that reason, I implore that this

20 Council please expand the proposed equal

21 treatment resolution to include protection for

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1 all LGBTQ plus people by including the terms

2 sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender

3 expression. Thank you.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Okay.

5 Mr. Leshner, anybody else?

6 MR. LESHER: That's all that we have

7 signed up in advance.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Anybody here to my

9 right want to come on up? Yes, come on up.

10 You've been very patient in the back.

11 MS. GROSTON: Thank you.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

13 MS. DROSTIN: My name is Christina

14 Drostin, and I want to thank you all for the

15 work you do late into the night on a regular

16 basis because it's definitely a long evening.

17 So thank you for keeping our county running.

18 As a local physician, I want to say that I

19 strongly believe that vaccination and

20 infectious disease control decisions should

21 continue to be made by our well-trained public

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1 health officials. So I appreciate the vote on

2 that resolution earlier today.

3 I also want to comment on the same

4 resolution that Tina Jones just brought up.

5 And that is the proposal to amend section 102

6 of our County Charter to add the term genetic

7 information.

8 As a physician and a mom, I think that

9 adding this phrase right now is unnecessary at

10 this time and that it does not strengthen

11 protection to anyone's liberties.

12 On the contrary, based on what we have

13 seen in other parts of the country, I want to

14 voice my concern that this phrase can be used

15 to actually discriminate and take away

16 liberties from people here in Talbot County, in

17 particular our transgender and gender queer

18 communities.

19 These rights include important liberties

20 that are based on core human rights, not

21 politics.

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1 I also want to extend my thoughts that  
 2 whether we remove -- I do -- I would like to  
 3 see genetic information removed as a phrase.  
 4 And then I also support the recommendation to  
 5 add gender identity, gender expression, and  
 6 sexual orientation.  
 7 Thank you for your time and consideration.  
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Okay.  
 9 Anybody else like to come on up? Okay.  
 10 We're winding down here. So we're going  
 11 to start with Council comments. I'll start  
 12 with you, Keasha. How about that?  
 13 MS. HAYTHE: Did you say you're starting  
 14 with me?  
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.  
 16 MS. HAYTHE: Oh, okay. Caught me off  
 17 guard.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: That's all right.  
 19 MS. HAYTHE: I know you did that on  
 20 purpose.  
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: I did.

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1 MS. HAYTHE: You know, I just -- all the  
 2 presentations tonight, it's been a really long  
 3 meeting. I've been trying to stay alert  
 4 through the meeting, not feeling well.  
 5 But you know, I thank everybody who came  
 6 in tonight to present and voice their opinions.  
 7 As always, I respect all of my colleagues for  
 8 bringing things forth.  
 9 And I look forward to being back at our  
 10 next meeting. So I wish everyone a good week  
 11 and I hope to be back next meeting.  
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great.  
 13 MS. MIELKE: I'll pass.  
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: You'll pass. Okay.  
 15 Mr. Leshner.  
 16 MR. LESHNER: Nothing further for me.  
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.  
 18 MR. STEPP: Same. Short and sweet.  
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: I think I'm going to  
 20 piggyback on Keasha.  
 21 We had a long night. We had a lot of

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1 people here to voice their opinion. And that's  
 2 what these meetings are about. That's what  
 3 it's all about, to voice your opinion.  
 4 I thought we did a great job. We  
 5 listened. You know, you agree to disagree.  
 6 And this Council did a great job tonight, and  
 7 I'm proud of them.  
 8 Staff did a great job this week putting  
 9 everything together. The agenda was big  
 10 tonight. We knew it was going to be a little  
 11 bit of, you know, things going on. But that's  
 12 what it's all about. That's why this Council  
 13 is getting along and working with the public  
 14 and doing the best we can to make these big  
 15 decisions for Talbot County. And we want to  
 16 look out for all our constituents in the  
 17 county, and we want to do the best job for you.  
 18 So other than that, Mr. Leshner, you want  
 19 to bring us home.  
 20 MR. LESHNER: The County Council's next  
 21 meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10th,

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1 beginning at six o'clock p.m. The Council will  
 2 be convening in open session at 4:30 p.m. and  
 3 then adjourning into closed session to discuss  
 4 real estate, legal, and personnel matters, as  
 5 listed on the statement for closing that  
 6 meeting.  
 7 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn  
 8 this meeting and reconvene as noted?  
 9 And on Tuesday, October 3rd, the County  
 10 Council will be holding two meetings, both of  
 11 which will be held at the Talbot County Free  
 12 Library Easton Branch. At four o'clock p.m., a  
 13 joint work session with the Town of Easton  
 14 Housing Commission of Talbot and  
 15 representatives from Pen Rose to discuss the  
 16 Dover Brook redevelopment project.  
 17 And at five o'clock p.m., a meeting with  
 18 elected officials from the Towns of Easton,  
 19 Oxford, Queen Anne, St. Michaels, and  
 20 Trappe.  
 21 Both meetings are open to the public.

1 And now a motion to adjourn would be in  
 2 order.  
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a second?  
 4 MR. STEPP: Second.  
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and  
 6 second to adjourn the meeting. Madam  
 7 Secretary, could you call the vote.  
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.  
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.  
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.  
 11 MR. STEPP: Aye.  
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.  
 13 MR. LESHNER: Aye.  
 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.  
 15 MS. MIELKE: Aye.  
 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.  
 17 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.  
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
 19 (Meeting concluded at: 8:07 p.m.)  
 20  
 21

1 STATE OF MARYLAND  
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and  
 for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City,  
 3 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot  
 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me  
 4 at the time and place herein set according to law,  
 was interrogated by counsel.  
 5  
 I further certify that the examination was  
 6 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed  
 from my stenographic notes to the within printed  
 7 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription  
 in a true and accurate manner.  
 8  
 I further certify that the stipulations  
 9 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
 presence.  
 10  
 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
 11 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,  
 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
 12 interested in the outcome of this action.  
 13 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 2nd  
 day of October, 2023 at Foston, MD  
 14  
  
 15  
 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Diane Houlihan  
 Notary Public  
 17  
 18  
 19 My commission expires September 16, 2025  
 20  
 21

<b>1</b>	<b>105,000</b> 128:7	<b>19</b> 30:12,16	<b>2022</b> 5:11
<b>1</b> 110:6,7	<b>107</b> 148:2	31:2,8 32:16	16:11 34:10,13
124:10 132:17	<b>10th</b> 107:9	36:14	36:8 41:17
<b>1,000</b> 36:10	108:7 121:19	<b>190</b> 44:12	44:11 105:20
37:11 46:15	200:21	<b>1958</b> 146:16	124:10 125:20
<b>1,600</b> 162:20	<b>11</b> 4:2 37:1	<b>1976</b> 175:17	195:5
<b>1,700</b> 135:8	123:21 147:15	<b>19dp3460</b>	<b>2023</b> 1:7 7:4
<b>1,750</b> 127:3	<b>11.7</b> 71:18	105:18	12:12 13:19
<b>1.2</b> 137:10	<b>110</b> 40:2	<b>19th</b> 3:10	14:4 18:12
146:9	<b>115</b> 4:16	<b>2</b>	20:17 21:13
<b>1.7</b> 20:17	<b>11th</b> 32:18	<b>2</b> 110:5,6	34:11 36:6
<b>1.75</b> 126:16	38:13	<b>2,200</b> 135:9	37:1 85:1,6,11
<b>10,000</b> 139:18	<b>12</b> 5:7 20:9,13	<b>2,456,616.20.</b>	135:1 139:3
<b>10,700</b> 133:14	25:5 194:21	140:21	145:8 192:20
<b>10.06.04.05</b>	<b>12,323</b> 140:2	<b>2,463,533.04.</b>	203:13
87:21	<b>12.4</b> 74:9	141:1	<b>2024</b> 98:8
<b>10.06.0404</b>	<b>12th</b> 3:4 4:3	<b>20</b> 40:18 69:12	99:12 111:19
83:12	<b>13.1</b> 127:9	69:13,14 163:3	112:19 115:7
<b>10.060405.</b>	<b>13.25</b> 20:21	<b>200</b> 20:12	115:16 124:14
83:12	<b>1362</b> 203:15	24:10	<b>2025</b> 203:19
<b>10.7</b> 50:11	<b>13th</b> 172:4	<b>2008</b> 101:2	<b>2026</b> 124:15
<b>100</b> 36:12	<b>14</b> 5:5 103:14	<b>2010</b> 41:20	140:9
46:10 171:19	140:13	<b>2011</b> 41:16	<b>21.8</b> 180:4,10
<b>100,961</b> 128:12	<b>14th</b> 18:13 19:2	<b>2017</b> 50:11	<b>215</b> 16:19
<b>1006</b> 89:17	27:14 28:8	<b>2018</b> 19:5	<b>22</b> 128:10
<b>100604</b> 89:17	62:1,5 86:11	43:11 44:9	140:11 180:9
<b>10060404</b>	171:16	<b>2018/19</b> 42:2	<b>225</b> 127:2
89:18	<b>15</b> 21:3 103:14	<b>2019</b> 34:14	<b>235,000</b> 140:5
<b>10060405</b>	<b>150,000</b> 133:9	<b>2020</b> 16:6	<b>24</b> 132:13
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153:6	162:20 203:19	<b>2020/2021</b> 43:6	<b>24th</b> 105:7
<b>102</b> 98:9	<b>16,000</b> 162:14	<b>2021</b> 4:11,13	108:10 110:20
101:21 197:5	<b>160,000</b> 139:11	5:1 16:11	<b>25</b> 5:13 59:4
<b>102b</b> 71:11	<b>17.5.</b> 74:11	34:12,14 50:18	180:1,14
<b>10343206</b> 84:6	<b>18</b> 5:5,8 35:19	123:21 124:8	<b>250,000</b> 137:5
	180:8	125:2	137:11,15
			140:17,17

<b>25th</b> 86:1	<b>39,301</b> 140:6	<b>5:00</b> 1:7	<b>800,000</b> 146:7
<b>26</b> 1:7 85:1,6 181:17	<b>39,831</b> 21:6	<b>6</b>	<b>83,505</b> 21:9
<b>26th</b> 2:12 3:10 7:3 14:3 85:10	<b>392</b> 72:13 74:1	<b>6,000</b> 136:3	<b>8:07</b> 202:19
<b>27</b> 105:20	<b>3rd</b> 201:9	<b>6.1</b> 46:15	<b>9</b>
<b>27,560</b> 21:2	<b>4</b>	<b>6.2</b> 71:16 77:7	<b>90,000</b> 178:1
<b>276</b> 36:13	<b>4</b> 180:11	<b>60</b> 33:3 118:9 137:9	<b>911</b> 156:4,8 157:18
<b>281</b> 106:18	<b>4,000</b> 136:1 162:18	<b>61</b> 20:8	<b>920</b> 127:4
<b>29.9</b> 74:12	<b>4,310,501.52.</b>	<b>620</b> 4:12	<b>990</b> 16:6
<b>29424</b> 194:5	<b>4,400</b> 127:6	<b>634</b> 125:4	<b>a</b>
<b>2nd</b> 12:12 13:19 203:13	<b>4,604</b> 21:15	<b>65</b> 146:12	<b>a.m.</b> 19:3 192:20
<b>3</b>	<b>4,758,740</b>	<b>65,000</b> 130:9 130:10	<b>abatement</b> 152:21 153:17 154:2
<b>3</b> 110:5,6	<b>4,758,740</b> 140:20	<b>65,718</b> 139:17	<b>abatements</b> 153:6,8 154:5 154:20 155:3
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