



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

February 25, 2025

Present – President Chuck Callahan, Vice President Pete Leshner, Keasha N. Haythe, Lynn L. Mielke, Dave Stepp, County Manager Clay Stamp, and County Attorney, Patrick Thomas.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda for Tuesday, February 25, 2025.
- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, January 14, 2025, and Tuesday, January 28, 2025.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, February 4, 2025, Tuesday, February 11, 2025, Tuesday, February 18, 2025, and Tuesday, February 25, 2025.
- IV. Council Discussion with Trappe Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan Regarding Allegations Involving Paris Foods’ Municipal Sewer Connection – Lyndsey Ryan, Attorney for the Town of Trappe, and Brian Schmidt, President, Trappe Town Council, briefed the Council on the process and timeframe by which Paris Foods, a long-standing business in the town of Trappe, came to be connected to the Town of Trappe wastewater treatment plant. Ms. Ryan stated that Paris Foods approached the Town of Trappe in January 2021 to discuss the possibility of connecting to the Town’s wastewater treatment plant as well as other options for providing sewer service to the property. She stated that at the time of the request, Paris Foods had a discharge permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for their own septic system which was due to be renewed in 2022. She stated that following the Town Engineer’s review of data relating to the discharge from Paris Foods, it was determined that the discharge was of a level and magnitude capable of being treated by the Town’s wastewater treatment plant. She stated that the MDE permit for the force main showing the connection of Paris Foods to the Town of Trappe wastewater treatment plant was made in accordance with the maps outlined in Resolution No. 281, as amended and approved by the Council in August 2020, which, in the Town’s opinion, showed the Paris Foods property as “S-1”. She stated that in August 2021, the Town entered into an agreement to provide 16 equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) to Paris Foods for connection to the Town’s wastewater treatment plant. Ms. Ryan stated that it has been brought to the Town’s attention that following corrective measures to Resolution No. 281, the Paris Foods property is shown as “unprogrammed”. As such, the Town has submitted an application to amend the County’s Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan to reclassify the subject property to “S-1”. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Ryan and Mr. Schmidt regarding various facets related to the connection of Paris Foods to the Town’s wastewater treatment plant, including the timeframe between learning of the connection of the “unprogrammed” property and notification to the County, any MDE permit violations since connection of Paris Foods to the wastewater treatment plant and the process moving forward in order to avoid connection inconsistencies from happening in the future.
- V. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Jeremy Hillyard, Talbot County Public Schools Teacher of the Year for 2024 – 2025 – The Clerk read a certificate of recognition into the record

which spoke of the energy, passion and commitment Jeremy Hillyard devotes to the students at Easton High School, both in the classroom and in the community to help ensure their success in the classroom and in life, and his having been named as Talbot County Public Schools Teacher of the Year for 2024-2025. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the certificate of recognition by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Mr. Hillyard stated that he has taught at Easton High School for 15 years where he teaches Spanish and Math. Council members congratulated Mr. Hillyard on having been named Teacher of the Year and for his devotion to the students at Easton High School. Ms. Haythe presented the Certificate of Recognition to Mr. Hillyard.

- VI. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Rosario Steele, Talbot County Public Schools Support Staff of the Year for 2024-2025 – The Clerk read a certificate of recognition into the record which spoke of the welcoming manner, patience and understanding Rosario Steele provides for the needs of students at Easton High School, particularly ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) as they navigate a new country. Ms. Steele serves as translator and tutor for ESOL students in their English and Math classes to help ensure the students are on par with other students in their classrooms, often using her own time to learn material in science and language arts classes in order to be able to provide assistance to students in those classes. Ms. Steele, who has been an ESOL assistant at Easton High School for seven years, was named Talbot County Public Schools Support Staff of the Year for 2024-2025. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the certificate of recognition by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Council members congratulated Ms. Steele on having been named Support Staff of the Year for her devotion to the students at Easton High School. Mr. Leshner presented the Certificate of Recognition to Ms. Steele.

- VII. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Water’s Edge Museum of Oxford – The Clerk read a certificate of recognition into the record which spoke of the founding of the Water’s Edge Museum in Oxford in 2021 which uses art as a means to showcase the rich cultural history of the Black Americans of the Eastern Shore, considered by some to be the Founding Black Families of America who lived, worked the water, tilled the soil, served their country, worshipped and established communities which continue to thrive into the present. The Museum’s display of artifacts and its pictorial history serve as an example for young people to connect with their heritage by depicting a people who, throughout the centuries, have survived, despite the obstacles and hardships they faced, and whose stories are often untold or undervalued. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the certificate of recognition by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Kay Brown, Assistant Director, Water’s Edge Museum, briefed the Council on a current project of the Museum to bring the Middle Passageway signage to Oxford for placement in its correct setting, from the water’s edge to the docking area. Council commended Ms. Brown and the Museum for highlighting the historic diversity of Talbot County.

Ms. Mielke presented the Certificate of Recognition to Ms. Brown who accepted on behalf of Water’s Edge Museum.

- VIII. Request from Chesapeake College for Use of Fund Balance for Award of Contract to Consultant for 10-Year Facilities Master Plan - Clifford P. Coppersmith, Ph. D., President, Chesapeake College; Karen Smith, Vice President for Administrative Services, Chesapeake College – Dr. Coppersmith briefed the Council on the request by Chesapeake College to utilize its Fund Balance in a sum not to exceed \$167,500 to hire the consultant firm, Design Collective, to complete the facilities master planning process for Chesapeake College. He stated that, if approved, the funding will be combined with \$75,000 of funding previously allocated for an athletic complex planning study in the M&R Athletics Master Planning Budget; total cost for the consultant is \$242,500; use of Fund Balance requires approval of a majority of the participating counties. Council discussion ensued with Dr. Coppersmith and Ms. Smith. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved use of Fund Balance as outlined by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- IX. Introduction of Administrative Resolutions:

An ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING A GENERAL FUND RESERVE POLICY FOR TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Martha Sparks, Finance Director, stated that the purpose of a Fund Balance is to provide financial resilience to mitigate the impacts of unanticipated revenue shortfalls and/or unexpected expenditures. She stated that historically, Talbot County has budgeted very conservatively by underestimating revenues and overestimating expenditures and thus has been able to maintain a Fund Balance although the County does not currently have a formal reserve policy. She stated that maintaining and adhering to a reserve policy is a best practice recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and is also a factor by which rating agencies determine an entity’s creditworthiness. She stated that having a formal reserve policy also enables the County to obtain lower interest rates on borrowed funds. Ms. Sparks outlined the process by which the proposed policy was developed in conjunction with the County’s financial advisor, Davenport & Company, and reviewed by the County’s bond counsel. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Sparks. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the administrative resolution by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

An ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Patrick Thomas, County Attorney, stated that that the administrative resolution had been drafted at the request of Mr. Leshner in order to provide the Council with more flexibility in appointing individuals to the Committee and to make sure that all areas of the county are represented. Mr. Leshner stated that the administrative resolution increases the number of citizen representatives from seven (7) up to eleven (11). Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the administrative resolution by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

An ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION REPEALING ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTIONS OF JUNE 23, 2020, AND JULY 14, 2020, REGARDING DIVERSITY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF A TALBOT COUNTY DIVERSITY STATEMENT, RESPECTIVELY was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Mr. Stepp stated that he is proposing the administrative resolution. He then read the following statement into the record:

*To begin with, I'd like to thank everyone for being here tonight, as well as for sharing your thoughts and opinions on this matter over the course of the last few weeks. Filling the room is the Constitution at work. Exercising your God-given right to freedom of speech and right to petition your government for a redress of your grievances, both of which are upheld in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and which all five of us up here are sworn to uphold on your behalf. Over the last few years, I've heard from many of you; in person, over the phone, and through letters and emails, many in favor of this repeal and many against. I will say I've learned a lot on this one, but what I've learned was not what I expected at all. Being and reminding everyone here that this is a matter only affecting Talbot County employees, I expected to hear from many employees, and I did. All of our County employees that I spoke with were kind. They're hard working and fully supportive of repealing these policies. I heard from a grand total of zero County employees that requested to keep these DEI policies in place. I've unfortunately learned that many in favor of retaining these DEI-based policies, employee policies, those claiming to be tolerant and diverse and equitable and inclusive, like to spew hateful language when your obligations and ideas do not align with their political ideology. To the contrary, those in favor of repealing these policies could not have been more polite and respectful. Folks, this is simple. Disagreement does not have to equal disrespect. I've learned that mathematical results speak louder than words when it comes to the effectiveness of having these two administrative resolutions in place over of the last five years. Let's quickly look at one example. Our African American community, which census data shows Talbot County at 12.9 percent of our total population. In 2020, Talbot County's workforce was 17.5 percent*

*African American. Five years after implementing these policies, it is down to 15.8 percent. Mathematically, having these resolutions in place have been a failure in terms of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Talbot County has always been a great employer, and it will continue to be a great employer, with some of the hardest working individuals you've ever met working to serve you 24/7/365. The Talbot County employee handbook on page 21 memorializes Talbot County as an equal opportunity employer, both in principle and in fact. Our ADA, anti-discrimination, and anti-harassment practices are all covered, and all decisions are based on individual qualifications without regard to race, creed, sex, or national origin. The same format is already afforded every citizen in Talbot County found in Section 102 of the Talbot County Charter. Folks, the Constitution and its amendments are not political tools. It is not there just for some Americans and not others. It is not there to be a weaponized tool. It is a living, breathing document, enshrining the rights and freedoms to all Americans by our creator, Almighty God himself. I personally ran a campaign for this role based upon what I call the five Fs; faith, family, freedom, fiscal responsibility, and fighting for you. This is fiscal responsibility and fighting for you at its core, protecting the millions of dollars both in operational and capital form that Talbot County receives from the federal government every year. Politically motivated DEI statements, such as the two currently affecting our workforce, are crumbling all over. In the federal government, with President Trump's Executive Order on January 20th, in schools and universities, looking at the 2023 Supreme Court ruling in Students for Fair Admissions versus Harvard. And, just at the end of last week, the American Bar Association's section of legal education and admissions suspending their DEI requirement. And I quote, "over fears of litigation risk and potential violations of the law". I'm guessing that the lawyers who grant the privilege for new lawyers to practice law understand a thing or two about the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Just a hunch. It's time we, as Talbot County, the employer, stop letting a politicized DEI product get in the way of true and real unity that is displayed daily in all of Talbot County. The type of unity we all see in Talbot Day, a day that all five Council members of this Council adopted, which glorifies God and celebrates, and I repeat all, Talbot County citizens. It's the type of unity that we see in our churches, our schools, our workplaces, and our volunteer organizations. The type of unity that even those with differing opinions should treat others with. And most importantly, the type of unity that Jesus commanded in Matthew 22 verse 39 – love your neighbor as yourself. I'll end with a closing paragraph from my open letter on February 11th. Talbot County is a great county. It is known for history, culture, and natural beauty, just to name a few of its attributes. We are also known for our low taxes and deservedly recognized for our financial stewardship. With the economic and inflationary pressures Talbot County citizens have had to endure in recent years, I want to do my part and ensure Talbot County residents know that their tax dollars are well represented locally and fiercely fought for nationally. Thank you again for everyone being here. And I respectfully ask for a "yes" vote from my fellow Council members on this administrative resolution today.*

Council discussion ensued. Ms. Haythe asked for Mr. Stepp's consideration to table the administrative resolution until the legal process has played out with regard to President Trump's Executive Order and so the Council can obtain information as to how the County may be required to move forward as it relates to federal funding. Mr. Stepp made a motion to table the administrative resolution, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Haythe. The Council tabled the administrative resolution by voting 3 – 2 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Nay  
Ms. Mielke – Nay  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

X. Continuation of Public Hearings:

Resolution No. 366, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF U.S. ROUTE 50, SOUTH OF DUTCHMANS LANE, EASTON, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 34 AS PARCELS 128 AND 175 FROM “W-3/S-3” AND “UNPROGRAMMED,” RESPECTIVELY, TO “W-1/S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY CORRIGAN & TRIPPE VENTURES, LLC, was read into the record and brought forward for a continuation of the public hearing of Tuesday, January 14, 2025. Prior to the public hearing, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the Public Works Advisory Board, at its meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2024, voted 5 – 0 to recommend that the Council adopt the resolution. Bryce Yelton, Assistant Planning Officer, stated that the Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, found Resolution No. 366 to be consistent with the 2016 County Comprehensive Plan by a vote of 4 – 0. Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. The Council approved Resolution No. 366 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Resolution No. 366 is effective immediately.

Resolution No. 367, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7510 QUAKER NECK ROAD, BOZMAN, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 39 AS PARCEL 79 FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY KEVIN MILLS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for continuation of the public hearing of Tuesday, January 14, 2025. Prior to the public hearing, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the Public Works Advisory Board at its meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025, reviewed Resolution No. 367, as well as a map which identified similar parcels that would need to be reviewed prior to extension of sewer; the Board had requested the map at their December 19, 2024, meeting in order to address some of their concerns. Following discussion, the Public Works Advisory Board voted 4 – 0 – 1 to recommend that the Council adopt Resolution No. 367. Bryce Yelton, Assistant Planning Officer, stated that the Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, voted to table the resolution until after the additional information had been received and reviewed by the Public Works Advisory Board and the Board had made a recommendation to the Council. Mr. Yelton stated that the Planning Commission reviewed the information at its meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, and voted 4 - 0 that Resolution No. 367 was consistent with the 2016 County Comprehensive Plan. Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation and Council comment ensued. The Council approved Resolution No. 367 by voting 3 – 2 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Nay  
Ms. Mielke – Nay  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Resolution No. 367 is effective immediately.

Resolution No. 368, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4502 OLD TRAPPE ROAD, TRAPPE, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 54 AS PARCEL 302 FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “W-1/S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY BRIAN HAUSE, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for continuation of the public hearing of Tuesday, January 14, 2025. Prior to the public hearing, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the Public Works Advisory Board, at its meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025, reviewed Resolution No. 368 and requested additional information from the Town of Trappe regarding the number of equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) being requested for the subject parcel which is zoned light commercial; the Town of Trappe had advised that one (1) EDU is being requested at the present time. Mr. Clarke stated that the Public Works Advisory Board voted 4 – 0 – 1 to recommend that the Council approve the resolution. Bryce Yelton, Assistant Planning Officer, stated that the Planning Commission had initially reviewed the resolution at their Wednesday, January 8, 2025, meeting and voted to table the resolution until additional information had been received as requested by the Public Works Advisory Board. He stated that following review of the additional information at their Wednesday, February 5, 2025, meeting, the Commission had vote 4 – 0 that Resolution No. 368 was consistent with the 2016 County Comprehensive Plan. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke and Mr. Yelton as to how the County could ensure that it is notified, should the owner of the parcels, which are within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Trappe, wish to increase the number of EDUs on the property. Mr. Clarke suggested Council might want to consider an annual municipal review with the towns; Council discussion again ensued. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council voted to table Resolution No. 368 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

XI. Public Hearing:

Resolution No. 369, A RESOLUTION TO FORMALLY DECLINE TO ACCEPT THE OFFER OF DEDICATION FOR THE PAPER STREET PORTION OF RUDE AVENUE AS SHOWN ON A SUBDIVISION PLAT ENTITLED “MAP SHOWING ‘HARRISONIA’ PROPERTY OF S.T. AND GEORGE J. HARRISON, TILGHMAN ISLAND, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND” DATED NOVEMBER 1927 AND RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND AT LIBER C.B.L. 212, FOLIO 394, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A QUITCLAIM DEED TO CONVEY A 6,000 SQUARE FOOT PORTION OF SUCH PAPER STREET ADJACENT TO 5419 RUDE AVENUE, TILGHMAN, MARYLAND, BEING ALL THAT PORTION OF RUDE AVENUE BETWEEN PARCEL 1 AND PARCEL 9 OF TALBOT COUNTY TAX MAP 44, TO THE OWNERS OF SUCH PROPERTY, JORGE A.

RAMIREZ AND CHRISTINA E. RILKE, FOR NO MONETARY CONSIDERATION, was read into the record and brought forward for public hearing. Edward Scheirer, attorney for Mr. Ramirez and Ms. Rilke, briefed the Council on his clients' request. Patrick Thomas, County Attorney stated that the property which is the subject of the resolution is a paper street, and exists only on a plat and is not in the County road inventory. Mr. Thomas stated that the paper street prohibits the property owners from consolidating the two properties into one property in order to use it accordingly under the zoning code. Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. The Council approved Resolution No. 369 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Resolution No. 369 is effective immediately.

Bill No. 1580, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE IMPROVEMENT OF ATHLETIC FIELDS AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN TALBOT COUNTY, was read into the record by the Clerk, brought forward for public hearing, and members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Mielke, Bill No. 1580 was brought to third reader by a vote of 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

The Council approved Bill No. 1580 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. No. 1580 will become effective as provided for in the legislation.

Bill No. 1581, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE REPLACEMENT OF THE AUDITORIUM LIGHTING SYSTEM AT EASTON HIGH SCHOOL, was read into the record by the Clerk, brought forward for public hearing, and members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Stepp, Bill No. 1581 was brought to third reader by a vote of 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye



The Council approved Bill No. 1581 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1581 will become effective as provided for in the legislation.

Bill No. 1582, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF INTERIOR LIGHTS AT ST. MICHAELS HIGH SCHOOL, was read into the record by the Clerk, brought forward for public hearing, and members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Mielke, Bill No. 1582 was brought to third reader by a vote of 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

The Council approved Bill No. 1582 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1582 will become effective as provided for in the legislation.

Bill No. 1583, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND (THE “COUNTY”) TO BORROW NOT MORE THAN TWENTY-SIX MILLION NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$26,900,000) IN ORDER TO FINANCE AND REFINANCE THE ACQUISITION, RENOVATION AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS TO, AND EXPANSION OF, THE CHAPEL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND TO EFFECT SUCH BORROWING BY THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS PAYABLE FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO BE LEVIED BY THE COUNTY; EXEMPTING THE BONDS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 19-205 AND 19-206 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND; AUTHORIZING THE CONSOLIDATION OF SEPARATE SERIES OF BONDS INTO ONE OR MORE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDING OF SUCH BONDS AND RELATING GENERALLY TO THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SUCH BONDS FOR SUCH PURPOSES, was read into the record by the Clerk, brought forward for public hearing, and members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, Bill No. 1583 was brought to third reader by a vote of 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, and no objection by the Council, a full reading of the legislation was waived. The Council voted to approve Bill No. 1583 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1583 will become effective as outlined in the legislation.

XII. County Manager’s Report:

- A. Talbot County Agricultural Resolution Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Robert “Bob” Greenlee to a four-year term on the Agricultural Resolution Board as an at-large member; said term will expire on January 1, 2029. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

- B. Request for Letter of Support - Requested Council approval for a letter in support of an application by Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers for Legislative Bond Initiative Funding in the sum of \$225,000; no County funds are required. If approved, the funding will be utilized for the Critchlow Adkins Children’s Center expansion location on the Chapel District Elementary School campus. Cristy Morrell, Executive Director, Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers, briefed the Council on plans for the expansion location. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the letter of support by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp - Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- C. Request from Upper Shore Aging – Requested Council approval of Upper Shore Aging’s request for additional funding in the sum of \$60,000 to cover unanticipated costs for their congregate meal and Meals on Wheels programs in FY25. Herb Cain, Executive Director, Upper Shore Aging, Inc., and Corey Pack, Vice President, Upper Shore Aging, Inc. Board of Directors, briefed the Council on the request. Mr. Stamp

stated that if approved, the \$60,000 request would come from Contingency Funds, which he certified are available. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Cain and Mr. Pack. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the request as outlined by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp - Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- D. Bid No. 23-05, FURNISHING AND DELIVERY, WITH POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF CRS-2L EMULSIFIED ASPHALT WITH POLYMER – Requested Council approval of the Roads Superintendent’s recommendation to extend the contract for Bid No. 23-05 with Asphalt Emulsion Industries, LLC through June 30, 2026, at the price of \$2.63 per gallon delivered, or \$2.98 per gallon delivered and applied. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the request by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp - Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- E. Bid No. 22-08, ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR TALBOT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – Requested Council approval of the recommendation of County Engineer, Ray Clarke, and Planning Officer, Brennan Tarleton, to award construction management services for the Tilghman on Chesapeake Resilient Green Infrastructure Project to Lane Engineering under Bid No. 22-08 in the sum of \$100,500; no County funds are required. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke and Mr. Tarleton. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the award by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp - Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- XIII. Public Comments: Prior to public comments, a citizen requested clarification as to whether a member of Council could call for the vote on the ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION REPEALING ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTIONS OF JUNE 23, 2020, AND JULY 14, 2020, REGARDING DIVERSITY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF A TALBOT COUNTY DIVERSITY STATEMENT, RESPECTIVELY, as introduced by Mr. Stepp and tabled by vote of Council earlier in the meeting. Ms. Haythe requested that County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, provide his legal opinion as to whether the Council could vote on the administrative resolution following public comment. Mr. Thomas stated that the matter could not be brought forward for vote during the current meeting as it had been tabled.

Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on matters of interest to them.

Following public comments, Ms. Haythe made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Mielke, to suspend the Council's Rules of Procedure in order to vote on the tabled administrative resolution. County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that under the Council's Rules of Procedure, when a resolution has been laid on the table, it cannot be taken up again for consideration during the remainder of the meeting unless the Council suspends the Rules, in whole or in part, by a vote of four (4) members (a supermajority) of the Council. He stated that if Ms. Haythe's motion is seconded and the motion passes by at least four (4) votes, the matter can be taken from the table and proceed to be voted on during the meeting; otherwise it can't be acted on this evening. The Council did not approve suspending the Rules of Procedure by a vote of 3 - 2 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Nay  
Mr. Stepp – Nay  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

The administrative resolution will be scheduled for vote at the Council meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

XIV. Council Comments:

Ms. Haythe - Ms. Haythe thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Ms. Mielke – No comments.

Mr. Leshner - Mr. Leshner expressed his appreciation to the community for engaging with the Council this evening and for their heartfelt words and the meaning behind them. He stated that he truly appreciates the turnout at the meeting.

Mr. Stepp – Mr. Stepp thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for expressing their thoughts and that, in his opinion, this is how the process is designed to work.

Mr. Callahan - No comments.

Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room for a work session on the FY26 Budget; and to reconvene in Open Session on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. for a work session on the FY26 Budget and to adjourn into Closed Session at 4:00 p.m. as listed on the statement for closing that meeting, then for the regularly scheduled meeting at 5:00 p.m. by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

The transcript of the February 25, 2025, County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

**XV. Summary of Closed Session Held on February 25, 2025:**

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:

Time of closed session: 3:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.  
 Place of closed session: County Council Office  
 Purpose of the closed session: To consider various matters as set forth in the statement for closing the meeting


2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:

Names of members voting aye: Callahan, Haythe, Leshner, Mielke, Stepp  
 Members opposed: None  
 Abstaining: None  
 Absent: None

3. Statutory authority to close session and listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:

<b>Topic Description</b>	<b>Statutory Authority</b>	<b>Reason for Closed Session Discussion</b>	<b>Persons Present</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
To discuss personnel matter involving Health Officer	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
To discuss appointments to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Public discussion would discourage individuals from volunteering to serve	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
To discuss personnel matter involving County Manager’s Office	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action

To discuss legal matter regarding lease at Easton Airport	GP § 3-305(b)(7)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal advice	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
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		<b>TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND</b> <b>WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT</b> 2/04/2025	
<b>OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK</b>			
<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>1/28/2025</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,168,700.41</b>
RETURNED CHECK #1147			(56.57)
Deposits			2,419,429.09
Checks			(176,325.03)
ACH Disbursements			(466,908.04)
EFT's			(465,012.23)
Wire Transfers			(3,788,418.67)
Voided Checks			930.00
<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>2/4/2025</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,692,338.96</b>
<b>PETTY CASH FUNDS</b>		<b>\$</b>	18,105.00
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS</b>			
		<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)		4.46%	\$ 22,542,441.42
Bayvanguard Bank		4.68%	\$ 10,872,953.91
Shore United Money Market Account		5.33%	\$ 79,040,571.99
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 112,474,072.32</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</b>			<b>\$ 117,166,411.28</b>



**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT  
2/11/2025**

**OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK**

**OPERATING FUNDS AT** **2/4/2025** **\$ 4,692,338.96**

Total ADP Payroll PPE 1/31/2025	(929,089.70)
Airport Merchant Portal Hosting 1/2025	(11.00)
Repurposing Merchant Portal Hosting 1/2025	(15.00)
Roads Merchant Portal Hosting 1/2025	(15.00)
Returned Checks #513, #5540	(2,106.59)
Stale Dated Checks	21,956.04
Total January 2025 Shore United IntraFi (ICS) Transfers	14,322,222.45

Deposits	1,789,240.29
Checks	(93,127.49)
ACH Disbursements	(2,091,533.54)
EFT's	(758,264.36)

**OPERATING FUNDS AT** **2/11/2025** **\$ 16,951,595.06**

**PETTY CASH FUNDS** **\$ 18,105.00**

**INVESTMENT FUNDS**

	<u>Yield</u>		
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	4.38%	\$	22,911,850.49
Bayvanguard Bank	4.15%	\$	11,029,291.18
Shore United Money Market Account	4.33%	\$	81,346,945.26

**INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL** **\$ 115,306,191.93**

**TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS** **\$ 132,257,786.99**



**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT  
2/18/2025**

**OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK**

**OPERATING FUNDS AT** **2/11/2025** **\$ 16,951,595.06**

Community Center Sales & Use Tax Due 2/20/2025	(747.67)
Golf Course Sales & Use Tax Due 2/20/2025	(139.72)
Roads Sales & Use Tax Due 2/20/2025	(48.06)
Returned Paymentus PMT/TS LLC	(52.50)

Deposits	714,434.85
Checks	(133,676.53)
ACH Disbursements	(682,956.89)
EFT's	(181,425.70)
Wire Transfers	(5,243,909.91)

**OPERATING FUNDS AT** **2/18/2025** **\$ 11,423,072.93**

**PETTY CASH FUNDS** **\$ 18,105.00**

**INVESTMENT FUNDS**

	<u>Yield</u>		
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	4.33%	\$	22,911,850.49
Bayvanguard Bank	4.15%	\$	11,067,480.10
Shore United Money Market Account	4.33%	\$	81,346,945.26

**INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL** **\$ 115,344,380.85**

**TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS** **\$ 126,767,453.78**





**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT  
2/25/2025**

<b>OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK</b>			
<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>2/18/2025</b>		<b>\$ 11,423,072.93</b>
Total ADP Payroll PPE 2/14/2025			(951,896.04)
Bank Charges 12/2024			(4,189.21)
Bank Charges 1/2025			(2,580.12)
Interest on Accounts 1/2025			112,384.29
Deposits			661,873.00
Checks			(113,126.54)
ACH Disbursements			(876,835.58)
<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>2/25/2025</b>		<b>\$ 10,248,702.73</b>
<b>PETTY CASH FUNDS</b>			<b>\$ 18,105.00</b>
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS</b>			
		<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	4.44%		\$ 22,998,612.60
Bayvanguard Bank	4.15%		\$ 11,067,480.10
Shore United Money Market Account	4.33%		\$ 81,646,633.54
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 115,730,831.24</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</b>			<b>\$ 125,979,533.97</b>