



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

February 27, 2024

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

- I. Agenda – The Agenda of Tuesday, February 27, 2024, was brought forward for approval. Mr. Stepp made a motion to remove *Item VI. Council Recognition of Cadet Philip Horner, Easton Composite Squadron, MD-079, Civil Air Patrol – Maryland Wing* and to reschedule at a future date; the motion was seconded by Ms. Mielke. The Council approved the Agenda of Tuesday, February 27, 2024, as amended, by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- II. Disbursements – Mr. Leshner requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, February 20, 2024, and Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

- III. Proclamation: Endometriosis Awareness Month – March 2024 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the prevalence of endometriosis which affects 1 in 10 women of childbearing age, management of symptoms of the disease, available treatments and the long-term physical and psychological effects to those individuals who have the disease. Shannon Hannawald, Founder, Endo Warriors of the Eastern Shore, shared her personal story of struggle with the disease for over two decades and encouraged those who have the disease to advocate for themselves. Council members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Hannawald for sharing her story and for offering hope to others. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Ms. Haythe presented the proclamation to Ms. Hannawald who accepted on behalf of Endo Warriors of the Eastern Shore.

- IV. Introduction of Mike Detmer, Community Liaison, Office of Rep. Andy Harris, M.D. – Mr. Detmer introduced himself as the new Community Liaison for Rep. Andy Harris, M.D. He stated that he looked forward to working with the Council and County staff on any federal issues of concern and that the Congressman's office is also available to municipalities and individuals regarding any matters at the federal level for which the Congressman could be of assistance. Mr. Detmer stated that as a Marine combat veteran himself, he personally assists with VA (Veterans Administration) issues forwarded to Representative Harris' office. Council members welcomed Mr. Detmer to his new role.

- V. Update to Board of Health – Maria Maguire, M.D., Talbot County Health Officer – Dr. Maguire introduced Brennan Greene, Licensed Environmental Health Specialist, as the new Director of Environmental Health for Talbot County. She stated that Mr. Greene comes to Talbot County

from the Maryland Department of the Environment where he served as the Regional Consultant for the On-Site Systems Division. Mr. Greene succeeds Anne Morse, who retired in December 2023 after 43 years of service. The Council welcomed Mr. Greene to Talbot County. Dr. Maguire then utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide information on the following: (1) 2023 Environmental Health Accomplishments including, routine inspection and licensing of 300 food service facilities; review and approval of 158 well construction permits and 103 septic system permits; 138 soil and site evaluations; and 615 building permit applications; (2) stated that March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and provided statistical information on the rates of colon cancer in Talbot County compared to rates throughout Maryland. She stated that it is now recommended that colon cancer screening begin at age 45 and provided statistical information on the rates of other types of cancer in Talbot County, including Prostate, Melanoma, and Breast, and compared the Talbot County rates to rates throughout Maryland; (3) Health Department Programs – Dr. Maguire briefed the Council on several on-going programs managed by the Health Department, including the Mobile Integrated Health program which, in partnership with the Talbot County Department of Emergency Services and University of Maryland Medical Systems Shore Regional Health was restarted in January 2024; the goal of the program is to prevent non-emergency 9-1-1 calls and Emergency Room visits by coordinating healthcare for those individuals who frequently utilize 9-1-1 and the Emergency Room for non-emergencies by having the Health Department conduct visits to the individuals' homes; and the reinstatement of the Children & Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Program in November 2023 which provides services to children from birth to age 21 who have disabilities or chronic illnesses. Dr. Maguire outlined some of the services provided, including providing in-person and in-home consultations and assessments, and stated that the program links parents/guardians to resources for medical, social, financial, educational, and other needs for their child; (4) Clinical Services Expansion – Dr. Maguire stated that in Spring 2024, the Health Department will be launching several new clinical services, including a family planning clinic (comprehensive contraceptive services and pregnancy testing); comprehensive testing and treatment for sexually-transmitted infections; and providing general health screenings and then linking individuals to primary care services; (5) Dr. Maguire briefed the Council on HB214, passed by the 2023 Maryland General Assembly which established the Commission on Public Health for the purpose of making recommendations to improve the delivery of public health services in the state. She outlined the various stakeholders comprising the Commission, and the numerous workgroups which will be analyzing the components of the public health system in Maryland; recommendations of the Commission will be provided to the State Legislature by June 2025; (6) Community Partnerships – Dr. Maguire stated that the Health Department's Immunization Program partners with Choptank Community Health's School-Based Health Center program to assist with establishing medical homes for new students to the Talbot County Public School System to ensure that all children in need of vaccinations prior to enrolling in school have a path to care; the Health Department's Diabetes and Tobacco Disparities project partners with BAAM (Building African American Minds), Delmarva Pride Center, the Watermen's Association and For All Seasons to provide education to the community on disease prevention; and (7) Community Support and Outreach Events – Dr. Maguire outlined the various community organizations and events in which representatives of the Health Department participate, including, among others, the "Be a Santa to a Senior" program with Home Instead; providing CPR and AED Training at the Health Department; participating in the Suicide Prevention Walk, the Waterfowl Festival and the Watermen's Health Fair. Council discussion ensued with Dr. Maguire as the various topics were brought forward. Dr. Maguire will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.

VI. Introduction of Numbered Resolution:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN (THE “CWSP”): 1) TO CLARIFY AND CONFIRM THE WATER AND SEWER CLASSIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN PARCELS INCORRECTLY SHOWN IN EXHIBITS A AND B TO RESOLUTION NO. 281, AS AMENDED; 2) TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP THE WATER AND SEWER CLASSIFICATIONS OF TAX MAP 55, PARCEL 83, LOT 1, TAX MAP 59, PARCEL 4, AND PORTIONS OF TAX MAP 55, PARCELS 17 AND 65 AS W-3/S-3; 3) TO PROVIDE THE EQUIVALENT DWELLING UNITS FOR ALL PHASES OF THE LAKESIDE DEVELOPMENT; 4) FOR CONSISTENCY WITH MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT DISCHARGE PERMIT NO. 19-DP-3460; AND 5) TO REQUIRE THAT ANY FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE LAKESIDE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SHALL REQUIRE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CWSP, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, County Attorney, Patrick Thomas stated that the resolution combines Resolution Nos. 338, 347 and 348 into a single resolution and adds language that the existing W2/S2 portions of the Lakeside development would be reclassified as W3/S3. Mr. Leshner stated that he had directed the Office of Law to draft the resolution following feedback from the Public Works Advisory Board and the joint work session between the Public Works Advisory Board and the Planning Commission. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Leshner and Ms. Mielke as Resolution No. 353. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

VII. County Manager’s Report:

- A. Talbot County Administrative Charging Committee – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Jennifer Williams to a two-year term on the Talbot County Administrative Charging Committee; said term will expire on August 1, 2025. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 4– 0 as follows:

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

- B. Talbot County Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Taneesha DeShields, Case Management Program Supervisor for Caroline and Talbot Counties, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, to the Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council; Ms. DeShields will replace Cory Fink. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4– 0 as follows:

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

- C. Request for Letter of Support – Requested Council approval of a request from Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers for a letter in support of their Legislative Bond Initiative in the sum of \$500,000 for the expansion of space at Chapel District

Elementary School; no County funding is required. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved a letter of support by voting 4– 0 as follows:

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

D. Talbot Day – Thursday, April 25, 2024 – Mr. Stepp stated that on April 25, 2023, the Council had issued a proclamation declaring April 25<sup>th</sup> as the official birthday of Talbot County. He stated that the purpose of the proclamation was to follow through on a proclamation from 1983 to celebrate all things Talbot. He stated that there are wonderful events planned for this year’s event, with hopes of growing the celebration in future years. Mr. Stepp expressed his appreciation to Sarah Kilmon, Talbot County Communications Manager, for her work on organizing the celebration. Ms. Kilmon then briefed the Council on the birthday celebration which will be held on the Courthouse lawn, weather permitting, in conjunction with the municipalities and the schools. She stated that there will be a Talbot County Poster Contest, whereby individuals can submit a poster depicting what Talbot County means to them, and that applications will be accepted for nominations for the Talbot Citizen and Service Award; the program was previously known as Maryland You Are Beautiful. More information on Talbot Day may be found at [talbotcountymd.gov/talbotday](http://talbotcountymd.gov/talbotday). Ms. Kilmon also outlined activities planned by the Talbot County Free Library and the Talbot Historical Society to celebrate Talbot Day. Mr. Stepp encouraged the Talbot County religious community, the arts community, the business community, and individuals to celebrate all things Talbot on Thursday, April 25, 2024.

VIII. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

IX. Council Comments:

Ms. Haythe – No comments.

Ms. Mielke - No comments.

Mr. Stepp - No comments.

Mr. Leshner - Mr. Leshner stated that the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation is delayed in reassessing properties which has implications for the tax rates in Talbot County and the other counties in the state. He stated that each year, one-third of properties throughout the state are reassessed. He stated that the State Legislature is rapidly working to correct the issue and, in his opinion, the Council looks forward to them being able to do that.

Following Mr. Leshner’s comments, Mr. Stamp stated that tomorrow morning, Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. free CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) training will be held at the Talbot County Community Center; Talbot County Paramedics and EMTs will be conducting the training; more detailed information may be found on the Talbot County website at [www.talbotcountymd.gov](http://www.talbotcountymd.gov).

Mr. Leshner - - Mr. Leshner stated that lives have been saved in the community because so many individuals have been trained in CPR and, in his opinion, this is really important. He stated that he had had the occasion to be retrained in CPR in Spring 2023 by the County’s Emergency Services personnel.

The transcript of the February 27, 2024, County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room for FY25 Budget presentations by County departments and agencies; to reconvene on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room for FY25 Budget presentations by County departments and agencies; to convene in Open Session at 4:30 p.m. and adjourn into Closed Session as listed on the statement for closing that meeting, and for the regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. by voting 4 - 0 as follows:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

X. Summary of Closed Session Held on February 27, 2024:

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

Time of closed session: 5:00 p.m. to 5:15 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: Haythe, Leshner, Mielke, Stepp  
 Members opposed: None  
 Abstaining: None  
 Absent: Callahan

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

Topic Description	Statutory Authority	Reason for Closed Session Discussion	Persons Present	Action Taken
To discuss appointments to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Public discussion would discourage individuals from volunteering to serve	Keasha Haythe, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick	No action

			Thomas, Jessica Morris	
To discuss Housing Coordinator position	GP § 3- 305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves a specific individual	Keasha Haythe, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action
For legal advice regarding proposed large- scale solar array project proposed for Talbot County	GP § 3-305(b)(7)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal advice	Keasha Haythe, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action

**TALBOT COUNTY,  
MARYLAND  
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT  
February 20, 2024**



**OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK**

<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>2/13/2024</b>	<b>\$26,638,700.83</b>
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 2/2/2024		(841,030.10)
RETURNED PAYMENTUS PAYMENT		(188.11)
BANK CHARGES 1/2024		(2,617.09)
INTEREST ON ACCOUNTS 1/2024		171,063.48
Deposits		814,231.68
Checks		(556,820.84)
ACH Disbursements		(873,037.72)
Wire Transfers		(246,093.68)
EFT'S		(159,158.06)
Voided Check(s) # 370646, 370694 through 370702		317,870.44

<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>2/20/2024</b>	<b><u>\$25,262,920.83</u></b>
<b>PETTY CASH FUNDS</b>		\$18,105.00
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS</b>		
	<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	5.38%	\$21,750,403.81
Bayvanguard Bank	4.68%	\$10,588,161.24
Shore United Money Market Account	5.33%	\$76,620,133.16
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$108,958,698.21</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u></b>		<b><u><u>\$134,239,724.04</u></u></b>

**TALBOT COUNTY,  
MARYLAND  
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT  
February 27, 2024**



**OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK**

<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>2/20/2024</b>	<b>\$25,262,920.83</b>
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COMMUNITY CENTER SALES & USE DUE 2/20/2024	(517.17)
ROADS SALES & USE DUE 2/20/2024	(200.66)
GOLF COURSE SALES & USE DUE 2/20/2024	(81.14)
Deposits	915,961.08
Checks	(113,571.05)
ACH Disbursements	(489,452.76)
Wire Transfers	(6,023,810.83)
EFT'S	(214,334.37)
Voided Check(s) #369440, 370661, 370777	9,904.18

<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>2/27/2024</b>	<b><u>\$19,346,818.11</u></b>
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<b>PETTY CASH FUNDS</b>	<b>\$18,105.00</b>
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**INVESTMENT FUNDS**

	<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	5.38%	\$21,750,403.81
Bayvanguard Bank	4.68%	\$10,588,161.24
Shore United Money Market Account	5.33%	\$76,620,133.16
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$108,958,698.21</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u></b>		<b><u><u>\$128,323,621.32</u></u></b>