



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

January 16, 2024

## *SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE DAY*

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 – The Agenda of Thursday, January 16, 2024 was approved upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Mr. Leshner, with the Council voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- II. Disbursements – Disbursements of Tuesday, December 19, 2023, Tuesday, December 26, 2023, Tuesday, January 2, 2024, and Tuesday, January 9, 2024, were approved upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, with the Council voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- III. Introduction of Amendment to Resolution No. 348, A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN 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, was brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that the amendment had been drafted at the request of Mr. Leshner and that Resolution No. 348 had been drafted at the request of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to address certain parcels shown in the exhibit to Resolution No. 281, as amended. He stated that the proposed amendment, in part, clarifies and confirms the W-2/S-2 status of several parcels in the Lakeside Development. Mr. Leshner stated that the language in the proposed amendment is intended to address concerns expressed by members of the Public Works Advisory Board at its recent meeting and that the purpose of introduction today is to afford an opportunity for the Public Works Advisory Board to review the matter at its meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024, and by the Planning Commission at its meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Council discussion then ensued. The amendment, known as Amendment No. 1, was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke, and Mr. Stepp. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 N. Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

- IV. Eligible for Vote:

Bill No. 1550, A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 11 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES) REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF CLASS E BEER, WINE,

AND LIQUOR LICENSES FOR URBAN LOCATIONS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. Prior to the vote, Mr. Leshner stated that the request for the legislation came from an individual in the town of Trappe. He stated that since the liquor code is governed by the County, without legislation, the new business would not be possible. If approved, the legislation would create an exception to the market test for a single Class E Beer, Wine and Liquor License in any municipality in the county, thereby ensuring each municipality has at least one Class E License holder. He stated that it would then permit the Talbot County Board of Liquor License Commissioners to consider the type of license outlined in the legislation which the Town of Trappe presently does have. The Council approved Bill No. 1550 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1550 becomes effective as outlined in the legislation.

V. County Manager's Report:

- A. Request from County Manager – Requested Council approval to renew the current lease between Talbot County, Maryland and OBFY, Inc. (the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry). County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that Talbot County currently has a lease with OBFY, Inc. for the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry at property owned by the County; the lease is for a period of five (5) years, which will expire on July 1, 2024, with the option of five (5) one (1) year renewals. He stated that the owners of the Ferry, Capts. Tom and Judy Bixler, have requested an amendment to the lease for five (5) years, with an option for a five (5) year renewal. Council discussion ensued. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the Lease Amendment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- VI. Following the County Manager's Report, Mr. Leshner requested that the Office of Law draft an amendment to Resolution No. 347 for introduction at the Tuesday, January 23, 2024 Council meeting which incorporates the language of Resolution No. 338 and Amendment No. 1 to same. Mr. Leshner stated that he was requesting the amendment be drafted for the purpose of offering an option to the Planning Commission so that the Planning Commission could provide a finding of consistency for, in his opinion, this must-pass legislation. Council discussion ensued. With Mr. Leshner's permission, once he has approved the language for the amendment, the proposed amendment will be provided to the Public Works Advisory Board for their review and consideration at their regularly-scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024.

The transcript of the January 16, 2024 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council voted to adjourn and to meet with the Talbot County Board of Education at 5:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Office, 12 Magnolia Street in Easton; and to reconvene on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. for a work session on proposed revisions to the Talbot County Employee Handbook; to adjourn into Closed Session at 4:30 p.m. as listed on the statement for closing that meeting, and for the regularly-scheduled meeting at 6:00 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 4:22 p.m.

**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT  
January 16, 2024**



**OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK**

<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>1/9/2024</b>	<b>\$125,329,186.74</b>
PAYROLL ADJUSTMENT PPE 12/31/2023		209.69
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 1/5/2024		(829,177.28)
COUNTY OWNED PROPERTIES SANITARY CHARGES		(947.88)
RETURNED CHECK #108		(245.00)
RETURNED PAYMENTUS PAYMENTS		(1,904.61)
Deposits		1,465,497.42
Checks		(197,112.92)
ACH Disbursements		(989,224.16)

<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>1/16/2024</b>	<b><u>\$124,776,282.00</u></b>
<b>PETTY CASH FUNDS</b>		\$18,105.00
<b><u>INVESTMENT FUNDS</u></b>		
	<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	5.41%	\$21,553,751.18
Bayvanguard Bank	4.68%	\$10,506,291.40
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$32,060,042.58</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u></b>		<b><u><u>\$156,854,429.58</u></u></b>