



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

June 11, 2024

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

- I. Agenda – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, June 11, 2024.
- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, May 7, 2024.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, June 4, 2024, and Tuesday, June 11, 2024.
- IV. Introduction of Numbered Resolution:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN FOR THE PURPOSES OF APPROVING AN ALTERNATE LOCATION FOR THE PUMP STATION AND EXPANDING THE POTENTIAL ROUTE FOR THE FORCE MAIN TO PROVIDE SANITARY SEWER SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL CENTER SHORE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, TO BE LOCATED AT 10000 LONGWOODS ROAD, EASTON, MARYLAND, AND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 10028 OCEAN GATEWAY, EASTON, MARYLAND, AS INITIALLY SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION NO. 184, ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2011 was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that Resolution No. 184 outlined a specific sewer route for the force main to serve the Talbot County Community Center and the new hospital property. He stated that following discussions between the County, the Town, and Shore Health System regarding the DRRA (Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement), the Town of Easton is requesting an amendment to Resolution No. 184 to provide an alternative location for the pump station and to expand the potential route for the sewer force main to serve the properties. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 360. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

- V. Introduction of Legislation:

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1427 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RECYCLING STATIONS IN TALBOT COUNTY was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1554. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley

Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1532 AND 1516 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO AND EXPANSION OF THE ST. MICHAELS BRANCH OF THE TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1555. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1533 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TALBOT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1556. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1534, 1486 AND 1424 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION TO PURCHASE IMPROVED OR UNIMPROVED REAL PROPERTY FOR FUTURE COUNTY PURPOSES was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1557. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1391 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE COMPLEX HVAC SYSTEM was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1558. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1536 AND 1187 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR EXTENSION OF WATER AND SEWER LINES TO THE TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE PROPOSED UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SHORE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL SITE LOCATED BETWEEN LONGWOODS ROAD (MARYLAND RT. 662) AND U.S. ROUTE 50 IN EASTON, MARYLAND was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1559. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1537, 1509 AND 1484 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR A CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STATIONS was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms.

Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1560. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1511 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE ACQUISITION/CONSTRUCTION OF A TALBOT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FACILITY was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1561. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1504 AND 1478 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXPANSION OF BROADBAND TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED AREAS OF TALBOT COUNTY was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1562. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1542 AND 1505 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF 911 DIVISION TECHNOLOGIES AND THE 911 DIVISION COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD) SYSTEM was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1563. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1514, 1489 AND 1398 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TALBOT COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1564. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1503 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNTY BRIDGES was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1565. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1477, 1448 AND 1366 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BLACK DOG ALLEY was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1566. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1541 AND 1506 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNTY ROADS was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1567. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1510, 1501, 1474, 1457, 1422, 1335 AND 1317 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR GOLDSBOROUGH NECK ROAD AND AIRPORT ROAD was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1568. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONCESSION STAND AT THE TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLEX was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1569. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE STONE REVETMENT AND BULKHEAD AT SINCLAIR AVENUE WATERFRONT PARK IN TILGHMAN, MARYLAND was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1570. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE DEHUMIDIFIER AT THE TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1571. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE GENERATOR AT THE TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1572. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VACUUM COLLECTION SYSTEM SERVING THE REGION II MARTINGHAM SEWER SERVICE AREA was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1573. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1538 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO AND EXPANSION OF THE CHAPEL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1574. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

VI. County Manager's Report:

- A. Talbot County Airport Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Charles Daffin and John “Jack” Pettit to four-year terms on the Talbot County Airport Board; said terms will expire on June 1, 2028. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- B. Talbot County Ethics Commission – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Anthony Kern to a three-year term on the Talbot County Ethics Commission; said term will expire on July 1, 2027. Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- C. Talbot County Weed Control Committee – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Levin Schwaninger, Jr. and Donald “Don” Webster to three-year terms on the Talbot County Weed Control Committee; said terms will expire on July 1, 2027. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

- D. Request from Department of Public Works – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Public Works purchase ten (10) Orenco Prelos Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) Systems in the sum of \$69,400, delivered; said purchase will be made under *Bid No. 23-12, Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) System Equipment – Purchase Only*, approved by the Council on November 14, 2023. Mike Mertaugh, Assistant County Engineer, stated that the STEP systems are being utilized as part of the County's sewer extension project and were previously approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the purchase as outlined by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshler - Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye

- E. Request from County Manager – Requested Council approval to have the County enter into a lease with option to purchase with Meadow Farm Joint Venture, LLC for five acres of property located at 11340 Cordova Road, Cordova, across from Chapel District Elementary School, for a north EMS station. Brian LeCates, Director, Department of Emergency Services, stated that the site will be the location of the county’s sixth paramedic station and is strategically located so that calls can be answered within the national standard of eight (8) minutes, 90% of the time. Council discussion ensued with Mr. LeCates and Mr. Stamp. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the request by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshler - Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye

- VII. Presentation of FY24 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Easement Applications – Brennan Tarleton, Talbot County Planning Officer; Elisa Deflaux, Planner III, Talbot County Department of Planning & Zoning – Ms. Deflaux stated that in February 2024 the County received 38 applications, 35 of which were processed: the applications were ranked according to the quality of soils, proximity to other preserved tracts of land, stewardship practices and various other criteria specified by the MALPF program. She stated that the 16 highest ranked applications have been reviewed and approved by the Talbot County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board and the Planning Commission. Upon Council’s approval, the 16 applications will be submitted to the State for review and consideration for funding for FY25. Upon motion by Mr. Leshler, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved forwarding the 16 applications to the State for review and consideration by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshler – Aye  
Ms. Mielke - Aye

- VIII. Public Hearing:

Resolution No. 357, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND A DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AGREEMENT DATED OCTOBER 14, 2014, BY AND BETWEEN TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND, THE TOWN OF EASTON, AND SHORE HEALTH SYSTEM, INC. AND RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF TALBOT COUNTY IN LIBER MAS 2206, FOLIO 206, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that the resolution proposes to update the outdated provisions of the 2014 Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) and moves the public works related language into public works agreements, the details of which are being worked out between the parties (the Town of Easton, Shore Health System, Inc., and Talbot County). Brennan Tarleton, Planning Officer, stated

that the Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, reviewed Resolution No. 357 and found it consistent with the 2016 County Comprehensive Plan by a vote of 3 – 0; two members of the Planning Commission were absent. Members of the public were then afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Ryan Showalter, attorney for Shore Health System, Inc. outlined various facets of the regional medical center project, including the proposed temporary closure and relocation of a portion of Md. Rt. 662. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Showalter. The Council approved Resolution No. 357 by voting 3 – 0 – 1 as follows:

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

IX. Council Consideration of Letter to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in Response to May 24, 2024, Letter from Town of Trappe and Trappe East Holdings Business Trust – Prior to Council consideration, Mr. Leshner stated that he had requested that the item be included on the agenda, stating that the Council was copied on a letter from the Town of Trappe and Trappe East Business Holdings Trust to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) opposing the approval of Resolution No. 338 by MDE. County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that the letter requested that MDE disapprove Resolution No. 338, or, at a minimum, delete the 100,000 g/p/d capacity limit and the requirement for a comprehensive water and sewer plan for each expansion of the Lakeside wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Leshner requested that Council delay consideration to forward a letter to MDE in order to provide Council members with an opportunity to review the draft language and provide any input to Mr. Thomas, and so Ms. Haythe can weigh-in.

X. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

XI. Council Comments:

Mr. Stepp - Mr. Stepp stated that he would not be in attendance at the Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> Council meeting due to a prior obligation but would work with staff to leave absentee ballots for items scheduled for vote that day.

Mr. Leshner - Mr. Leshner stated that he had recently attended the ceremony hosted by Blue Point Hospitality honoring first responders. He commended everyone for, in his opinion, a well-done ceremony and expressed his appreciation to all those who serve as first responders.

Ms. Mielke - Ms. Mielke stated that she had recently attended the Future Farmers of America (FFA) banquet, and, in her opinion, it is gratifying to see the youth of today involved with agriculture and working to promote and maintain our community as agriculturally based and focused.

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan stated that, in his opinion, we are changing the way life is here when it comes to a new hospital and it requires some tough decisions by the Council, but we are going to make it happen. He stated that hopefully, by Friday, there will be great news that the hospital has been

approved by the State and the local and regional UMMS Boards and we can move forward.

Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in Open Session and immediately adjourn into Closed Session as listed on the statement for closing that meeting, and for the regularly scheduled meeting at 5:00 p.m. by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan - Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Mr. Leshner - Aye

Ms. Mielke – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

The transcript of the June 11, 2024, County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

- XII. Work Session – Discussion of Update of Comprehensive Plan, Report of the Review and the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan – The Council held a work session at 2:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room with Ray Clarke, County Engineer, and Brennan Tarleton, Planning Officer. Ms. Haythe was unable to be in attendance. The purpose of the work session was to brief Council on the process of developing the 2024 Report of the Review. Mr. Clarke stated that the Council recently approved Resolution Nos. 338, 347, and 348 and same have been forwarded to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for review and comment; MDE has the option to deny, make recommendations to modify, or approve the resolutions. Once a response has been received from MDE, all pertinent information will be incorporated into a Draft 2024 Report of the Review and copies provided to the Planning Commission, Public Works Advisory Board and the municipalities for their review and comment, and posted on the County’s website, for review and comment by the public. He stated that once finalized, the Draft 2024 Report of the Review will be submitted to the Council for consideration of approval through a numbered resolution. He stated that once the 2024 Report of the Review has been approved by the Council, the information will be incorporated into the update of the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan. Mr. Tarleton stated that at the same time that the Department of Public Works is finalizing the 2024 Report of the Review, the update to the County’s 2016 Comprehensive Plan will begin. He stated that the Request for Proposals will be advertised in the near future and he anticipates having a consultant on board for the project by late September or early October 2024. He stated that the schedule for completion of the update to the Comprehensive Plan includes a 6-month buffer to account for unforeseeable issues which may arise. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke and Mr. Tarleton regarding various factors which are needed to complete the Draft 2024 Report of the Review. Mr. Clarke stated that any resolutions not approved by MDE will not be included in the 2024 Report of the Review. He stated that it is the intent of the Department of Public Works update the Report of the Review every three (3) years and Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan every ten (10) years going forward. The work session concluded at 5:25 p.m.

- XIII. Meeting with Elected Officials from Easton, Oxford, Queen Anne, St. Michaels and Trappe – The Talbot County Council met with elected officials from the incorporated municipalities of Talbot County on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Wye Oak Room of the Talbot County Community Center located at 10028 Ocean Gateway in Easton. The following were in attendance: Megan Cook, Mayor, Town of Easton; Frank Gunsallus, President, Easton Town Council; Don



Abbatiello and David Montgomery, Members, Easton Town Council; Don Richardson, Easton Town Manager; Tom Costigan, President, Commissioners, Town of Oxford; Susan Delean-Botkin, Commissioner, Town of Oxford; Phil Starkey, Mayor, Town of Queen Anne; Al Mercier, Commissioner, Town of St. Michaels; Brian Schmidt, President, Trappe Town Council; Chuck Callahan, President, Talbot County Council; Pete Leshner, Vice-President, Talbot County Council; Lynn Mielke and Dave Stepp, Members, Talbot County Council; Dr. Sharon Pepukayi, Superintendent, Talbot County Public Schools; Clay Stamp, County Manager; Jessica Morris, Assistant County Manager; Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism; Sarah Kilmon, Talbot County Communications Manager. Dr. Pepukayi briefed the group on the following: students' achievements with regard to math and reading, the latest metrics for which will become available in July after statistics are compiled for the 2023-2024 school year; challenges in recruiting and retaining teachers, and various facets of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, including the dual enrollment program for students at Chesapeake College which has an 82% success rate; and apprenticeship and partnership programs with various departments of Talbot County Government, including Emergency Medical Services. The Blueprint legislation was approved in 2021 by the Maryland General Assembly and is intended to transform Maryland's education system into one of the highest performing school systems in the world through increased State and local investment. Dr. Pepukayi stated that teachers who are, or become, National Board Certified or take on leadership roles receive an increase in pay. She stated that temporary classrooms will be placed at Chapel District Elementary School this fall as the renovation and expansion project of the facility begins; the school system continues to expand and strengthen its community partnerships and to hold joint meetings with the County Council throughout the year. Dr. Pepukayi concluded her update by stating that 278 students graduated from Easton High School in 2024; 63 graduated from St. Michaels Middle-High School; and 26 percent of students in Talbot County Public Schools are Hispanic. Mr. Leshner commented that there is a national planning effort underway regarding how the country will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding on July 4, 2026, and that Maryland has already established the MD 250 Commission. He stated that he will work with staff to coordinate a celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Talbot County in a meaningful way which, in his opinion, will be an enduring legacy; the theme of the MD 250 Commission is that there is an unfinished revolution as the ideals expounded in the founding documents have not yet been fulfilled and that there are ideas of independence that continue to unfold. Mr. Leshner stated that during the 2024 Memorial Day Weekend, a reenactment of the Talbot Resolves proclamation was made on the Talbot County Courthouse grounds; the original proclamation was made on May 24, 1774 on the Courthouse grounds by several citizens expressing their solidarity as "friends to liberty, and to the general interests of mankind" with their fellow citizens in Boston, Massachusetts after the closing of the Port of Boston following the Boston Tea Party in late 1773. Ms. Vanhooser suggested that as with the Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe, various entities have an opportunity to coalesce ideas. Mr. Leshner stated that the State will be receiving \$750,000 in funding to be used for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and there may be an opportunity for Ms. Vanhooser to seek Maryland Heritage Areas (MHAA) Funding. Ms. Vanhooser then briefed the group on Chesapeake Bay Passenger Ferry Feasibility Study, the purpose of which is to evaluate the economic viability of a potential new passenger ferry service in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay: the investment needed, ridership forecasts, vessel options and recommended options should the project move forward. She stated that in August 2023, consultants for the feasibility study visited Talbot County; the final study, along with a recommendation for routes, is due to be completed in August 2024 in conjunction with the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo). Ms. Vanhooser stated that, in her opinion, the idea has merit and the consortium counties including Anne Arundel, Calvert, Queen Anne's, Somerset and St. Mary's see it as an economic development boon to their jurisdictions; proposed stops in Talbot County would include Easton, St. Michaels, and Oxford. Mayor Cook

stated that the Town Council approved the Town’s FY25 budget by a vote of 5 – 0; she then briefed the group on the following projects in the town of Easton: she stated that the Town is utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for stream restoration; the Town, County, and Shore Health System, Inc. are working through changes needed to the 2014 Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement between the parties with regard to the Regional Medical Center project; the 925 Port Street project is moving forward; the Town will be requesting a zoning waiver from the County for 17 acres of property on the east side of Ocean Gateway which was recently annexed into the Town; Town Manager, Don Richardson stated that the Town will hold its first Strategic Planning Session on June 6, 2024. Mayor Cook stated that Ken Kozel, President & CEO of UMMS Shore Regional Health has meetings with the UMMS Board of Directors and the Health Service Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) in the next several days – Shore Regional Health must receive approval from both boards before the Regional Medical Center project can move forward. Frank Gunsallus concluded the update from the Town of Easton by expressing his appreciation to Town Manager, Don Richardson and Mayor Cook for their hard work on the budget. Mr. Costigan stated that the Town of Oxford had recently promoted Chris Phillips, a police officer in Oxford for the past five years, to Chief of Police; Vickie Sharp has been hired as the new Town Clerk/Treasurer; Marilyn Williams has been hired as the new Administrative Assistant for the Town and Cheryl Lewis is retiring as Town Manager. Mr. Costigan stated that the Oxford Community Center will host Part 3, the last meeting of the Sea Level Rising series of meetings, to review and discuss the impacts of sea level rise on Oxford and ways in which it might be mitigated. Mr. Costigan concluded his comments by stating that 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks will take place in St. Michaels on Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, in Easton on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> and in Oxford on Friday, July 5, 2024. Mr. Mercier updated the group on the following: offices for the Town of St. Michaels will soon be moving to their new location at the former Environmental Concern property on San Domingo Creek which the Town recently purchased; the Town also has three new Commissioners: Jay Hudson, Alexis Roiter and David Wojciechowski; the sidewalk project is anticipated to be completed by mid-to-late July; and the Town will be reviewing the Accommodation Tax for a possible adjustment. Mr. Starkey stated that the Town of Queen Anne approved its FY25 budget on June 3, 2024; he had met with Ms. Vanhooser and Heather Grant, Executive Director, Talbot Thrive regarding the proposed trails project within the town. Mr. Schmidt stated that Dollar General had broken ground on its new facility in Trappe and will offer some fresh food items; and the Town has negotiated with the developers of Lakeside regarding taking over responsibility for the development’s wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Stamp stated that the new Health Department facility on Cadmus Lane will be holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony and Open House in the near future – the Council will be addressing plans for the 100 S. Hanson Street property once the Health Department has vacated the site; the Sheriff’s Office is anticipated to move to the new Public Safety Complex on Marys Court in October 2024; demolition on the Talbot County Business Center (the former Black & Decker building) will begin soon thereafter; and the County plans to construct an EMS station on property across from Chapel District Elementary School.

XX. Summary of Closed Session Held on June 11, 2024:

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

Time of closed session: 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 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, Leshner, Mielke, Stepp  
 Members opposed: None  
 Abstaining: None  
 Absent: Haythe

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 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, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action
For update on legal matter involving Public Service Commission Case No. 9723	GP § 3-305(b)(7)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal advice	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action
To discuss proposal for possible acquisition of property for a public purpose in Cordova	GP § 3-305(b)(3)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal advice	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action
To discuss proposal for possible acquisition of property for a public purpose in Bozman	GP § 3-305(b)(3)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal advice	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action



**TALBOT COUNTY,  
 MARYLAND  
 WEEKLY CASH  
 STATEMENT  
 06/04/2024**

<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>5/28/2024</b>	<b>\$8,508,472.04</b>
Returned Checks #12832, 1399		(796.15)
Deposits		1,497,395.02
Checks		(81,294.75)
ACH Disbursements		(747,117.39)
Wire Transfers		(1,895,146.22)
EFT's		(396,025.30)
<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>6/4/2024</b>	<b><u>\$6,885,487.25</u></b>
<b>PETTY CASH FUNDS</b>		\$18,105.00
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS</b>		
	<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	5.37%	\$22,043,744.75
Bayvanguard Bank	4.68%	\$10,708,141.08
Shore United Money Market Account	5.33%	\$77,633,676.59
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$110,403,667.42</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u></b>		<b><u><u>\$117,289,154.67</u></u></b>



**TALBOT COUNTY,  
MARYLAND  
WEEKLY CASH  
STATEMENT  
06/11/2024**

**OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK**

<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>6/4/2024</b>	<b>\$6,885,487.25</b>
Total ADP Payroll PPE 5/24/2024		(870,135.14)

Total ADP Monthly Payroll PPE 5/31/2024		(18,377.46)
Community Center Sales & Use Due 5/20/2024		(120.79)
Roads Sales & Use Due 5/20/2024		(2,940.55)
Golf Course Sales & Use Due 5/20/2024		(1,919.26)
Airport Merchant Portal Hosting 5/2024		(11.00)
Repurposing Merchant Portal Hosting 5/2024		(15.00)
Roads Merchant Portal Hosting 5/2024		(15.00)
Enterprise Lease Payment 5/2024		(32,332.67)
Deposits		9,319,608.07
Checks		(190,561.22)
ACH Disbursements		(604,864.37)
Wire Transfers		(79,449.33)
EFT's		
<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>6/11/2024</b>	<b><u>\$14,404,353.53</u></b>
<b>PETTY CASH FUNDS</b>		<b>\$18,105.00</b>
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS</b>		
	<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	5.34%	\$22,043,744.75
Bayvanguard Bank	4.68%	\$10,708,141.08
Shore United Money Market Account	5.33%	\$77,633,676.59
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$110,403,667.42</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u></b>		<b><u><u>\$124,808,020.95</u></u></b>