



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

**MINUTES**

Friday, June 21, 2024

Present – President Chuck Callahan, Lynn L. Mielke, Keasha N. Haythe (via conference call), County Manager Clay Stamp, and County Attorney Patrick Thomas. Council Members Pete Leshner and Dave Stepp were absent.

I. Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

AN ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AN EMERGENCY BURNING BAN THROUGHOUT TALBOT COUNTY DUE TO PROLONGED OR UNUSUAL CONDITIONS THAT ARE CONDUCIVE TO THE EASY START AND SPREAD OF FIRE was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction Brian LeCates, Director of Emergency Services and Sonny Jones, Fire Chief, Easton Volunteer Fire Department, provided an overview of the need for the burn ban noting that rainfall is down significantly with the National Climatic Data Center showing 85% of the State of Maryland experiencing abnormally dry conditions with the potential for flash drought conditions. With excessive heat and no significant precipitation in the near forecast, as well as contributing factors such as low moisture content in vegetation, there is the danger of field fires to spread quickly including one fire recently in the Wye Mills area that burned over 100 acres and took several hours to contain. Fire Chief Jones noted that both Somerset and Worcester counties recently adopted burn bans. As written, the Administrative Resolution prohibits all open-air burning meaning any material in the open or receptacle other than a furnace, incinerator, or other equipment connected to a stack or chimney, including use of fireworks, sparklers, or sparkling devices, excepting lawfully permitted municipal fireworks displays. The Burn Ban Committee comprised of the Director of Emergency Services, the Chair of the Fire Chiefs Committee, the President of the Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, the State Department of Natural Resources Forest Service and the Talbot County Health Officer (ex officio member) convened and voted in favor of requesting the County Council adopt a 30-day burn ban. The Administrative Resolution was adopted upon motion by Council member Mielke, seconded by Council member Haythe and a vote of 3-0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – aye

Ms. Mielke – aye

Ms. Haythe – aye

The meeting concluded at 1:12 p.m.