



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

March 11, 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 – The Agenda of Tuesday, March 11, 2025, was brought forward for approval. Mr. Stepp made a motion to amend the Agenda to move the Public Comments forward so that individuals who were in attendance and wished to speak 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* could do so prior to the scheduled vote on the administrative resolution; the motion was seconded by Mr. Callahan. The Council did not approve the motion by voting 2 – 3 as follows:

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

- II. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, March 4, 2025, and Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

- III. Presentation of Proclamation – Endometriosis Awareness Month – 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 Mr. Leshner, the Council approved and second, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

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

- IV. Presentation by Kenley Timms – Mr. Timms, Commander, VFW Post 5118, Easton, and Wayne Hall, President, Vietnam Veterans Chapter 648 in Easton, briefed the Council on the upcoming “Welcome Home” parade and commemorative program hosted by Easton VFW Post 5118 scheduled for Sunday, March 30, 2025, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Timms stated that there will be a short ceremony at the Vietnam memorial located on the Courthouse grounds given by Mr. Hall, and a wreath placed at the monument to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, and to

welcome home all those veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, regardless of their duty station; the ceremony will also recognize the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Mr. Timms stated that the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 designated March 29th as National Vietnam Veterans Day. He stated that following the ceremony, a parade will travel up Dover Street to Washington Street to VFW Post 5118 on Glebe Road where POW and MIA soldiers will be honored. Mr. Timms stated that all veterans, particularly Vietnam veterans, and militarily related units are invited to participate in the parade.

- V. Presentation of Delmarva Community Transit’s FY2026 Annual Transportation Plan – Andrea Waters, Transportation Grants Specialist, Delmarva Community Services, Inc. – Ms. Waters briefed the Council on Delmarva Community Transit’s annual transportation grant application to Maryland Department of Transportation for FY2026 funding under the Federal Transit Act; the Transportation Plan covers transportation for Talbot, Kent, and Caroline counties. Ms. Waters stated that the grant application for FY26 includes operating and capital funding requests as well as the sources of all funding received through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). Council discussion ensued with Ms. Waters. Delmarva Community Transit also provides mobility on demand services in Talbot County, as well as transportation services for senior citizens on behalf of Upper Shore Aging, Inc. Council members expressed their appreciation to Delmarva Community Transit for the services they provide. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved Delmarva Community Transit’s FY2026 Annual Transportation Plan as presented by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- VI. Motion to Take from the Table:

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 in its entirety by the Clerk and brought forward for taking from the table. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshar, the Council approved taking the administrative resolution from the table by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Council discussion ensued and Mr. Stepp read a statement into the record as follows:

“So, I’d like to begin by thanking everyone for coming out for this topic, both today and two weeks ago. Again, this is the First Amendment at work. My remarks today will be rooted in clarity and fact, as it is clear to me that from public comments last week, there are many out there that do not understand what this resolution is and what that it is not. First, this is not a matter that

extends beyond Talbot County employment. Many have tried to make this about themselves. Other topics, such as race, gender identity, accessibility, and have even gone as far as tried to distort God, distort religion, distort our Constitution, and even distort basic math. Since our last meeting, I've heard from even more Talbot County employees and zero employees have expressed the desire in keeping these resolutions. Instead, they have advised they are all in favor of repealing these resolutions. [Ms. Mielke objected] Another fact - the U.S. Constitution, specifically in the 14th Amendment, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Maryland Constitution, and the Talbot County Charter, as they stand, apply to protect everyone in Talbot County. If this Council would like to reaffirm their support of the current laws that I just mentioned, that as a county we will protect all individual civil rights, then let's do that. If this vote today does not gain from the Council or community, then any vote to keep these two administrative resolutions in place proves four things. One, this is a political stunt. Two, that you're not interested in your citizens' true civil rights and protections. Three, it proves that you place more value in the two resolutions than existing civil rights and protections. And four, that you simply choose to go against the oath of office you took when you took this office. Fact - the ramifications of having a DEI statement in place have already started to affect Talbot County. Everyone on this Council has received an email from our Sheriff stating that the \$40,000 grant currently underway for policing in the Town of Trappe was not contained in the list of grants unaffected by President Trump's Executive Order. This guidance was received directly from the State of Maryland. In that same email, the Sheriff speaks to the violent crimes that have happened in Trappe over the last few years, including homicide, abduction, car thefts, and car burglaries. Any vote to keep these two administrative resolutions in place simply proves that playing politics is more important than the safety of our citizens in Trappe. Fact - the two administrative resolutions specifically called for a diversity statement. How equity and inclusion were added to the end product, I don't know. But it proves that these resolutions were brought in under political pretenses, without regard for true and real unity. Wording in the ultimate DEI employee statement actually includes this language: Equitable treatment does not necessarily mean treating everyone the same. They should be thrown out on their own merit. One final thought. I mentioned two weeks ago that this is fiscal responsibility and fighting for you. That still remains unchanged today. A vote to keep these two administrative resolutions only takes the federal tax dollars that Talbot County citizens have already paid into and will continue to pay into and assures they're used in other counties across the country where DEI policies are not in place. A yes vote to repeal these two resolutions guarantees that Talbot County citizens' federal tax dollars stay in Talbot County and benefit all, and I repeat, all of our citizens. Council, the choice is yours. Thank you all for your time."

Council discussion ensued. The Council did not approve the administrative resolution to rescind the **ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTIONS OF JUNE 23, 2020, AND JULY 14, 2020, REGARDING DIVERSITY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF A TALBOT COUNTY DIVERSITY STATEMENT** by voting 2 – 3 as follows:

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

Ms. Haythe - Nay

VII. Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TALBOT COUNTY TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A SECTION 5303, 5304, 5307, 5309, 5310, AND 5311 GRANT UNDER THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ACT was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The administrative resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke, and Mr. Stepp. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, 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

VIII. A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EXECUTION OF A LEASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AT THE EASTON AIRPORT CONSISTING OF 9,424 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO TRI GAS & OIL CO., INC., FOR A TERM OF TEN YEARS WITH THE RIGHT TO RENEW FOR UP TO TWO ADDITIONAL FIVE YEAR TERMS, WITH RENT OF ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETEEN DOLLARS AND FORTY-NINE CENTS (\$1,119.49) PER YEAR SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL ESCALATION OF TWO PERCENT (2%) PER YEAR OVER THE RENT FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR* was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Micah Risher, Manager, Easton Airport, stated that the subject lease is a continuation of a current land lease with long-term tenant, Tri Gas & Oil, who wishes to expand their area of operations at Easton Airport. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 370. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

**On March 31, 2025, it was discovered that Resolution No. 370 should have stated (\$1,119.49) PER MONTH, instead of PER YEAR. As such, Resolution No. 370 will be readvertised and the public hearing date was moved to Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.*

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN BY RECLASSIFYING AND REMAPPING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5536 PUBLIC LANDING ROAD, ROYAL OAK, MARYLAND, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 46, PARCEL 46, FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1,” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Haythe, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 371. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN BY RECLASSIFYING AND REMAPPING TWO PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 23452 PINE POINT ROAD, BOZMAN, MARYLAND AND PINE POINT ROAD, BOZMAN, MARYLAND, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 31, PARCEL 352, LOT 2, AND TAX MAP 31, PARCEL 351, LOT 3, RESPECTIVELY, FROM

“UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1,” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY CHRISTOPHER F. DANIELS AND DeVON WILLIAMS DANIELS, TRUSTEES UNDER THE C&D DANIELS TRUST DATED MAY 30, 2024 was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Mr. Leshner outlined what, in his opinion, had been a similar request in the past for an amendment to the County’s Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 372. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN BY RECLASSIFYING AND REMAPPING A PORTION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 24500 ROLLES RANGE ROAD, ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 23, PARCEL 41, FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1,” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY ROLLES RANGE PARTNERS, LLC was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, County Engineer, Ray Clarke, briefed the Council on the request for the amendment and Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 373. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN BY RECLASSIFYING AND REMAPPING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 8288 BOZMAN NEAVITT ROAD, ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 31, PARCEL 333, LOT 2, FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1,” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY THOMAS SULLIVAN was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 374. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN BY RECLASSIFYING AND REMAPPING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 26396 ST. MICHAELS ROAD, EASTON, MARYLAND, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 33, PARCEL 30, FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1,” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY 2500 SAINT MICHAELS HOLDINGS, LLC was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Council discussion ensued with County Engineer, Ray Clarke and Bryce Yelton, Assistant Planning Officer regarding the potential for additional development on the property. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 375. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN BY RECLASSIFYING AND REMAPPING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7952 CHURCH NECK ROAD, ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 32, PARCEL 154, FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1,” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY EDMUND FLEETWOOD DUNSTAN AND AUGUSTA HARRISON DUNSTAN was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The resolution was introduced by

Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 376. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN BY RECLASSIFYING AND REMAPPING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3965 OCEAN GATEWAY, TRAPPE, MARYLAND, AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 55, PARCEL 51, FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1,” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY THE TOWN OF TRAPPE was read into the record and brought forward for introduction. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 377. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

IX. Introduction of Legislation:

A BILL TO REPEAL OFFICIAL ZONING MAP 32 OF TALBOT COUNTY AND REENACT THE SAME WITH AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS OF TAX MAP 32, PARCEL 36, CONSISTING OF 3.737 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, FROM TOWN RESIDENTIAL (TR) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC) AND OF A PORTION OF TAX MAP 32, PARCEL 91, CONSISTING OF 4.6603 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, FROM TR TO GC was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1584. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

- X. Update on Airport Modernization Project – Micah Risher, Manager, Easton Airport – Mr. Risher utilized a PowerPoint presentation to update the Council on the Airport Modernization Project. He stated that Construction Package 1 for the project which was completed in 2024 involved the moving of over 471,000 cubic yards of earth in preparation for the 1,900 ft. shift of Runway 4 in 2026; installation of new drainage pipes; creation of new wetlands and the construction of vehicle service roads. He stated that Construction Package 2 in 2025 will comprise the demolition of the Talbot Business Center (the former Black & Decker building) by contractor Reynolds Excavating, and that the demolition process began on March 5; the site is anticipated to be fully graded by Fall 2025; no operational impacts are anticipated to the airfield. Mr. Risher stated that all environmental testing and mitigation was completed prior to the demolition and provided assurance that there are no toxic or hazardous substances remaining in the building. He stated that with the exception of the insulation and the vinyl roof, all materials from the building will be recycled. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Risher regarding measures taken to ensure that the public remains safe. Mr. Risher also briefed the Council on costs related to the funding of Construction Package 2, stating that the total cost is \$5.6 million: \$5.1 million for construction costs; \$423,000 for project management services and approximately \$18,000 for administrative costs. He stated that Easton Airport’s share of the costs is \$303,000. He reminded everyone that funding for airport projects is received from the Aviation Trust Fund, which is revenue from users of the system (individuals who purchase airline tickets); the local share is paid for by the Airport which is a self-sustaining Enterprise Fund; it receives no funding from the Talbot County General Fund. Individuals interested in following the progress of the Easton Airport Modernization Project can do so online at eastonairport.com. Mr. Risher will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.

XI. Discussion of General Assembly Legislation:

- Budget Reconciliation and Finance Act (SB 321 / HB 352) was brought forward for discussion. County Manager, Clay Stamp, stated that the State Legislature is currently considering the legislation which, if enacted, would shift costs onto county government. He stated that, should Council wish to do so, a draft letter of opposition to the legislation had been provided. Mr. Leshner and Ms. Haythe briefed the Council on information which had been provided to the Council by the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) as to the anticipated fiscal impact to the various counties should the legislation be enacted. Council discussion ensued as to the timeframe for forwarding a letter to the State following information the County had received regarding potential cuts in funding to Program Open Space and Upper Shore Aging, Inc. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved forwarding a letter to the State in OPPOSITION to SB 321 / HB 352, as currently stated, by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

XII. County Manager’s Report:

- A. Talbot County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Gary Gannon to the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board; said term will complete the unexpired term of Glen Gannon which will expire on March 13, 2027; requested the appointment of Keith Shortall to a five-year term on the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board; said term will expire on March 13, 2030. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the appointments by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- B. Talbot County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Requested the appointment of the following individuals to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee: Heather Grant (resident – Town of Easton); Robert “Bob” Burgner (resident – Town of Oxford); Philip “Phil” Starkey (resident – Town of Queen Anne); Ava Ellett (resident – Town of Trappe); Robert “Bob” DeGour (resident – Town of Easton); Jessica Lister (Cordova – unincorporated area of Chapel District); Frank Carollo (St. Michaels - unincorporated area of St. Michaels District); Howard Callahan, Sr. (Talbot County business owner); James Edward “Ed” Heikes, Sr. (Maryland Farm Bureau); Carl “Mike” Owens (Talbot County Public Schools); Lt. J.R. Dobson (Talbot County Sheriff’s Office); and Pete Leshner (Council liaison). Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the appointments by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- C. Talbot County Economic Development Commission – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Barbara Ranson to the Talbot County Economic Development Commission as the Town of Oxford’s representative; said term will expire on June 30, 2027. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the appointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- D. Request for Letter of Support – Requested Council approval of Waterfowl Festival, Inc’s request for a letter in support of their application to the Maryland Historical Trust for a Historic Preservation Capital Grant. If approved, the funding will be utilized to repair and replace the barrel roof on the historic Waterfowl Festival building; no County funds are required. Council discussion ensued with Sammie Mooney, Assistant Director, Waterfowl Festival, Inc. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Leshner, 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

- E. Request from Department of Parks and Recreation – Requested Council approval of the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to utilize Contingency Funds in the sum of \$58,250 for emergency repairs to the George Murphy and Bay Hundred Community Pools in Easton and St. Michaels, respectively. Martha Sparks, Finance Director, has certified that the Contingency Funds are available. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved use of Contingency Funds as outlined by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- F. Request from Department of Emergency Services and Department of Technical Services – Requested Council approval of the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Emergency Services and the Director of the Department of Technical

Services to purchase technology for the training room and conference rooms at the new Public Safety Complex on Marys Court in Easton in the sum of \$552,444.81 from ePlus Technology; \$105,697.84 of the cost will be covered by a State Homeland Security Grant; remaining costs for the purchase were budgeted and planned for in FY25 Capital Improvement Project funding which Mr. Stamp stated is available. Council discussion ensued with Brian LeCates and Tommy Haddaway, Directors of the Department of Emergency Services and the Department of Technical Services, respectively. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, 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

- G. Request from Department of Emergency Services – Requested Council approval to extend the Department of Emergency Services (DES) contract with current consultant, Mission Critical Partners, in the sum of \$134,680.00 to provide technical expertise for the replacement of the DES Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Brian LeCates stated that funding for the contract extension was budgeted in the CAD replacement project. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved extension of the contact as outlined by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- H. Bid No. 24-07, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD) REPLACEMENT - Requested Council approval to award Bid No. 24-07 to Tyler Technologies, Inc. in the sum of \$611,635.00. Mr. Stamp stated that following full-day evaluations of each of the vendors, it was determined that Tyler Technologies, Inc. best meets the needs of the County. He stated that the state-of-the-art system will integrate well with neighboring counties to enhance response. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, 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

- I. Request from Department of Emergency Services – Requested Council approval to utilize Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds in the sum of \$47,680 to contract with preparedness exercise provider, Ascentra, Inc. to conduct a large-full-scale, multi-agency mass casualty drill involving law enforcement, fire departments, EMS and other partners in the emergency field; three proposals were

received. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved utilizing the EMPG funds as outlined by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

J. Talbot County Health Officer – Mr. Stamp introduced Dr. Fahmi Fahmi as the new Health Officer for Talbot County. Dr. Fahmi was recently appointed by the Secretary, Maryland Department of Health and assumed his duties as Health Officer on March 5, 2025. Council congratulated Dr. Fahmi on his new position.

XIII. Public Comments: Members of the public were afforded the opportunity to comment on matters of interest to them.

XIV. Council Comments:

Mr. Leshner - Mr. Leshner expressed his appreciation to everyone on both sides of the question for attending the Council meeting this evening. He stated that, in his opinion, he doesn't think any minds will be changed, but he appreciates the public engagement, those who wrote in advance, and spoke to him in person.

Ms. Mielke – Ms. Mielke stated that, in her opinion, Mr. Leshner's statements summed it up brilliantly.

Ms. Haythe – Ms. Haythe concurred with Mr. Leshner's comments, reiterating that she appreciates each individual who was in attendance because we did want to hear your comments through public comments, as we do every meeting. She stated that since being on the Council, she has learned from Mr. Callahan that once the Council takes a vote we move on; and, in her opinion, we still all continue to be friends and she appreciates each of her colleagues. Ms. Haythe concluded her comments by stating that now that the vote has been taken, we are going to move on and continue to operate as a Council of friends.

Mr. Stepp – Mr. Stepp concurred with the comments of his colleagues. He stated that, in his opinion, it has been wonderful to hear everyone's perspective although he still wishes that individuals in attendance could have had their say prior to a vote. He expressed his appreciation to those who stayed to make comments and to have them heard by the Council. He again expressed his appreciation to everyone for attending the Council meeting. He stated that he appreciated the earlier comments by speaker Phil Riggan who stated that, in his opinion, it's a shame that more people don't attend the Council meetings on a regular basis to see all the important things the Council does. Mr. Stepp stated that, in his opinion, the Council members collectively do a lot of great things for the community, and we want to see that continue and to continue to see Talbot County a great place to live.

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan concurred with the comments of all his colleagues. He expressed his appreciation to everyone for providing honest feedback, and that, in his opinion, that’s what public comment is all about. He expressed his appreciation to staff for their support. He concluded his comments by reiterating Ms. Haythe’s previous statement that the decision had been made, and we are all moving on.

Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, March 13, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room for a presentation by the Talbot County Board of Education on the FY26 Budget; and to reconvene in Open Session on Tuesday, March 25, 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 7:43 p.m.

The transcript of the March 11, 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 March 11, 2025:

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

Time of closed session: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 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, 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:

Topic Description	Statutory Authority	Reason for Closed Session Discussion	Persons Present	Action Taken
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,	No action

			Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Susan Moran, Patrick Thomas	
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, Susan Moran, Patrick Thomas	No action
To discuss personnel matter regarding compensation for County employees	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Susan Moran, Patrick Thomas, Donna Pardieu	Council concurred with recommendation
To discuss possible acquisition of property in Easton for a public purpose	GP § 3-305(b)(3)	To protect the County's bargaining position regarding the potential transfer of real property for a public purpose	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	Majority of Council concurred with recommendation



**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT
3/04/2025**

OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK			
OPERATING FUNDS AT	2/25/2025		\$ 10,248,702.73
Total ADP Payroll PPE 2/14/2025			(14,467.72)
Total ADP Monthly Payroll PPE 2/28/25			(19,876.04)
Total Shore United IntraFi Transfers (ICS) February 2025			10,059,098.77
Deposits			2,527,118.69
Checks			(79,427.84)
ACH Disbursements			(984,344.05)
EFT's			(650,370.20)
Wire Transfers			(176,897.36)
Voided Checks			14,597.00
OPERATING FUNDS AT	3/4/2025		\$ 20,924,133.98
PETTY CASH FUNDS			\$ 18,105.00
INVESTMENT FUNDS			
		<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)		4.38%	\$ 22,998,612.60
Bayvanguard Bank		4.15%	\$ 11,067,480.10
Shore United Money Market Account		4.33%	\$ 81,646,633.54
INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL			\$ 115,730,831.24
TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS			\$ 136,654,965.22



**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT
3/11/2025**

OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK

OPERATING FUNDS AT	3/4/2025	\$	20,924,133.98
Total ADP Payroll PPE 2/28/2025			(976,816.51)
Deposits			11,499,523.48
Checks			(203,549.94)
ACH Disbursements			(815,370.45)
EFT's			(113,444.49)
Wire Transfers			(5,228,715.20)

OPERATING FUNDS AT	3/11/2025	\$	25,085,760.87
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PETTY CASH FUNDS		\$	18,105.00
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INVESTMENT FUNDS

	<u>Yield</u>		
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	4.48%	\$	22,998,612.60
Bayvanguard Bank	4.15%	\$	11,067,480.10
Shore United Money Market Account	4.33%	\$	81,646,633.54

INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL		\$	115,730,831.24
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<u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u>		\$	140,816,592.11
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