



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

October 14, 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 – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, October 14, 2025.
- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, September 9, 2025, and Tuesday, September 23, 2025.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, September 30, 2025, Tuesday, October 7, 2025, and Tuesday, October 14, 2025.
- IV. Proclamation: Mobile Integrated Health Week – October 5 – 11, 2025 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the efforts by Talbot County's Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Team to offer various services free of charge to members of the community, including assistance to prevent the overutilization of emergency room visits and emergency medical services for non-emergency situations, unnecessary hospital readmissions, which improves the quality of life of patients and reduces inequities in healthcare. The Team, comprised of paramedics, EMTs and registered nurses through various partnerships in the emergency medical services community and other healthcare providers, provides home visits, home safety and health needs assessments, fall prevention assistance, medication review and connections to local resources for healthcare. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, 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

Rachel Cox, Special Programs Paramedic and MIH Coordinator for Talbot County Department of Emergency Services, briefed the Council on the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program and provided additional details on the services it provides, stating that the program is open to individuals 18 years of age and older. Ms. Cox stated that in 2024, the MIH program reduced 911 calls by 42%. She stated that the MIH program works with several entities in the county, including Habitat for Humanity, the University of Maryland Medical System, the Talbot County Health Department and the food pantries, among others, in identifying possible clients. Other individuals in attendance to accept the proclamation included Carrie Ottey, RN, Director of Senior Services; Talbot County Health Department; Dr. Fahmi Fahmi, Talbot County Health Officer, Brian LeCates, Director, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services; Tina Kintop, Division Chief, EMS, Department of Emergency Services; Melanie Chapple, Pharmacist, UMMS Shore Regional Health; and Kim Mitchell, RN, Talbot County Health Department. Council discussion ensued with the various representatives in attendance. Council members expressed their appreciation to all those involved in helping to provide the MIH program to the citizens of Talbot County.

Mr. Stepp presented the Proclamation to Ms. Cox, Ms. Ottey, Mr. LeCates Ms. Kintop, and Dr. Fahmi who accepted on behalf of their respective organizations.

- V. Proclamation: Colonel Tench Tilghman Week – October 19 – 24, 2025 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the role of Talbot County native son, Tench Tilghman, as Aide-De-Camp and personal secretary to General George Washington during the American Revolution, including his selection by General Washington to carry news of Lord Cornwallis' surrender in Yorktown, VA on October 19, 1781 to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, PA, where he arrived on October 24, 1781. The proclamation spoke of Col. Tilghman's devotion to the American cause for freedom from 1776 to 1783, sacrificing his time, energy, fortune and family in support of the cause of American independence and freedom, and serving without compensation during that timeframe. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Mielke, 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

Prior to presentation of the proclamation, Wes Hagood, President, Colonel Tench Tilghman Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), provided a brief history of Col. Tilghman's life, education and work history before he became the Aide-de-Camp for General George Washington in 1776. Mr. Hagood also noted upcoming events scheduled for Colonel Tench Tilghman Week, October 19-24, 2025, including the presentation, *Divided Loyalties: The Tilghman Family and the American Revolution*, by Dr. Richard Bell, professor of history, University of Maryland, at the Talbot County Free Library, Easton Branch, on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Leshner presented the Proclamation to Mr. Hagood, Dr. Warren Tewes, Chapter Historian, Colonel Tench Tilghman Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Shawn O'Donnell, Descendant of Colonel Tench Tighman, and Dana Newman, Director, Talbot County Free Library.

- VI. Proclamation: Economic Development Week – October 20 – 24, 2025 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the importance of economic stability and growth to the prosperity and quality of life of the citizens of Talbot County. The proclamation also spoke of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism's partnerships with employers, institutions of higher education and State agencies to attract and retain high quality talent which lays the groundwork for attracting and retaining the workforce of tomorrow, while also facilitating growth, enhancing wealth, and providing a stable tax base. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, 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

Prior to presentation of the proclamation, Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, stated that "economic development" in Talbot County is accomplished

through a strategic process to make sure that the county can preserve what it loves while securing what it needs so that there is a broader tax base to support schools, public safety and infrastructure, our shops, restaurants, and farms have the support they need to thrive, and there are more good jobs so our children and grandchildren can build their futures in Talbot County. Ms. Vanhooser stated that economic development is the engine behind community prosperity and one of the most important anchors for prosperity is healthcare as outlined in the recent Health Care Impact Study. She stated that the new Regional Medical Center is more than a hospital, it is a cornerstone of the Talbot County economy, benefiting contractors and their workers during construction, and providing stable high-paying jobs upon completion. Ms. Vanhooser stated that when businesses decide to locate or relocate to an area, healthcare is a deciding factor; having a modern facility offers a tremendous advantage to those businesses considering locating to Talbot County as well as to the families having advanced care close to home – healthier residents mean a healthier, more productive workforce. Ms. Vanhooser stated that Talbot County's development priorities are clear: diverse industries like healthcare, aviation, financial services, construction, aquaculture and tourism; skilled people with training aligned to local jobs, ready infrastructure, strong small businesses, our villages, waterfront and heritage which attract visitors, talent, and investment – all of which make Talbot County, in her opinion, competitive and resilient. Council members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Vanhooser and the members of the Economic Development Commission for the work they do.

Ms. Haythe presented the Proclamation to Ms. Vanhooser, who accepted on behalf of the Talbot County Economic Development Commission.

- VII. Update on Talbot CARES (Cardiac Arrest Rescue-Emergency Station) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program – Brian LeCates, Director, Department of Emergency Services; Rachel Cox, Special Programs Paramedic; Department of Emergency Services; Wayne Dyott, President, Talbot Paramedic Foundation – Ms. Cox utilized a PowerPoint presentation to update the Council on the current locations of Talbot CARES (Cardiac Arrest Rescue Emergency Station) “towers”, the outdoor AED Program. Each weather resistant tower is equipped with emergency life-saving equipment: an AED machine, a Stop the Bleed kit, and Narcan to reverse overdoses, at locations throughout the county. Recently added locations include the YMCA pickleball courts; Hog Neck Golf Course, the Parks and Recreation pickleball courts, Moton Park, Easton High School Sports Complex, and the Home Run Baker ballfield, with an additional tower added to Moton Park. Ms. Cox stated that future projects include the installation of seven towers at the St. Michaels School Complex, Rails-to-Trails, and public boat ramps; currently there are a total of 30 Talbot CARES towers throughout the county. She also briefed the Council on the Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Program which provides AEDs to local businesses and organizations; recently added locations include the Building African American Minds (BAAM) facility, Legal Assets (restaurant), Bayleigh Chase (retirement community) and Easton Utilities. She stated that there are now 294 AEDs installed in the county at 160 locations; 1,000 CPR cards have been issued, and 10 additional CPR instructors have been added. Mr. Dyott stated that the Paramedic Foundation, in partnership with Team Trace, started the Talbot CARES program approximately three years ago in an effort to combine resources and add AEDs in all public sports centers and public parks at a cost of \$6,000 - \$7,000 each; to date \$250,000 has been allocated to the project. He stated that the PAD program originated over 20 years ago and noted that the towers are maintained by the Talbot Paramedic Foundation in partnership with Team Trace. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Cox, Mr. Dyott, and Mr. LeCates with Council thanking the team for their public safety efforts.

VIII. Public Hearings:

Resolution No. 383, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 8356 LENNEP LANE, ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 32, GRID 1 AS PARCEL 186, LOT 2, FROM “S-3” TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY MICHELLE LOUIS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the Public Works Advisory Board, at its meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025, reviewed Resolution No. 383 and recommended by a vote of 4 – 0 that the Council approve the resolution. Bryce Yelton, Assistant Planning Officer, stated that the Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, reviewed the resolution and by a vote of 4 – 0 found the resolution consistent with the 2016 County Comprehensive Plan. Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved Resolution No. 383 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Resolution No 383 is effective immediately.

Resolution No. 384, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 24823 RAYS POINT ROAD, ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 32, GRID 15 AS PARCEL 27, FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY ROBERT H. McWILLIAMS, JR., was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the Public Works Advisory Board, at its meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025, reviewed Resolution No. 384 and recommended by a vote of 4 – 0 that the Council approve the resolution. He stated that the Board noted that they would like to see the County work with the property owner to secure a 20-foot right-of-way for possible future extensions of sewer service farther down Rays Point Road and to request the establishment of 20-foot rights-of-way on other roads with future Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan amendment resolutions. Bryce Yelson, Assistant Planning Officer, stated that the Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, reviewed Resolution No. 384 and by a vote of 4 – 0 found the resolution consistent with the 2016 County Comprehensive Plan. He stated that the property referenced in Resolution No. 384 has four remaining development rights, including the one under consideration; further development of the site would require another amendment to the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan. Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved Resolution No. 384 by voting 5 - 0 as follows:

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

Resolution No. 385, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 27050 ST. MICHAELS ROAD, EASTON, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 33, GRID 15 AS PARCEL 49, FROM “S-1” (MEBA) TO “S-1” (REGION II WWTP) IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY LEE BROWN ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES OF MEBA TRAINING PLAN, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, provided a brief history of the reason for the request to amend the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan. He stated that the Public Works Advisory Board, at its meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025, reviewed Resolution No. 385 and voted 4 – 0 to recommend that the Council approve the resolution. Bryce Yelton, Assistant Planning Officer, stated that the Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, reviewed the resolution and found it consistent with the 2016 Comprehensive Plan by a vote of 4 – 0. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke and members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. The Council approved Resolution No. 385 by voting 4 – 1 as follows:

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

Resolution No. 385 is effective immediately.

Resolution No. 386, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 26401 ROYAL OAK ROAD, EASTON, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 41, GRID 2 AS PARCEL 57, FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY ALEXANDRA OLSON, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the Public Works Advisory Board, at its meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025, reviewed Resolution No. 386 and recommended that the Council approve the resolution by a vote of 4 – 0. Bryce Yelton, Assistant Planning Officer, stated that the Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, reviewed Resolution No. 386 and found it consistent with the 2016 County Comprehensive Plan by a vote of 4 – 0. Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. The Council approved Resolution 386 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Resolution No. 386 is effective immediately.

Bill No. 1620, A BILL TO ENACT A NEW CHAPTER 35 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE, ENTITLED “COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND REPAIR SPECIAL REVENUE FUND,” FOR THE PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND REPAIR FUND TO RECEIVE MONIES RECEIVED FROM THE STATE CANNABIS COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND REPAIR FUND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO § 1-3A-03 OF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CANNABIS ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF

MARYLAND AND ESTABLISHING A TALBOT COUNTY REINVESTMENT AND REPAIR COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER THE SAME, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Patrick Thomas, County Attorney, gave a brief overview of the purpose of the legislation, required under State law, prior to distribution of the portion of revenue received from the sale and use tax on cannabis, conversion fees from medical cannabis licenses, etc. He stated that a portion of the revenue is distributed to each county to be used for various community-based initiatives in low-income communities or disproportionately affected areas; examples of use of the funding include after-school programs, education, behavioral health, homeless prevention initiatives, etc. He stated that the members of Talbot Family Network Board of Directors will be charged with administering grants and distribution of the funding. Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council moved Bill No. 1620 to third reader by voting 4 – 0 – 1 as follows:

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

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, Council approved Bill No. 1620 by voting 4 – 0 – 1 as follows:

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

Bill No. 1620 will become effective as outlined in the legislation.

IX. County Manager's Report:

- A. Local Emergency Planning Committee – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Sgt. Eric Kellner of the Easton Police Department and Don Richardson, Town Manager, Town of St. Michaels to three-year terms on the Local Emergency Planning Committee as representatives of law enforcement and the Town of St. Michaels, respectively; said terms will expire on August 1, 2028. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the appointments by voting 4 – 0 – 1 as follows:

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

- B. Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Legislative Committee – Requested Council approval for the nomination of Keasha Haythe as the County's primary member and Lynn Mielke as the County's alternate member to the MACo Legislative Committee representing Talbot County. The Legislative Committee is comprised of elected officials from throughout the state. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by

Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the nominations as presented by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- C. Senior Citizens Task Force – Requested Council approval for the appointment of the following individuals to three-year terms on the Senior Citizens Task Force: Jennifer Marchi, Talbot County Commission on the Aging; Michelle Nichols, Delmarva Community Services; Julie Lowe, Talbot Interfaith Shelter; Andy Hollis, Neighborhood Service Center; Shannon Joyce, Mid-Shore Behavioral Health; Carrie Ottey, Talbot County Health Department; Rachel Cox, Mobile Integrated Health; Robert Rankin, Easton Town Council; Lynn Mielke, Talbot County Council; Robert “Bob” Willey, citizen representative; and William “Bill” Wieland, citizen representative; said terms will expire on October 14, 2028. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, 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

- D. Request from Department of Parks and Recreation – Requested Council approval of the recommendation by the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to amend the County’s contract with ARK Systems to provide additional video surveillance at the Talbot County Community Center at a cost of \$87,337. Mr. Stamp stated that there are sufficient funds in the budget and amending the contract with ARK Systems will provide for interoperability with other County facilities. Council discussion ensued with LaDarian Blake, Assistant Director, Department of Parks and Recreation. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the request 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 renew the existing contract with Coastline Pool Services for operation and maintenance of the Bay Hundred Community Pool in St. Michaels and the George Murphy Pool in Easton for the 2026 season in the sum of approximately \$310,745; funding is available in the FY26 Budget. Council discussion ensued with LaDarian Blake, Assistant Director, Department of Parks and Recreation. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the contract renewal 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 Parks and Recreation – Requested Council approval of the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into a contract with Audio-Video Group, LLC for the installation of a whole building public address (PA) system at the Talbot County Community Center at a cost of \$120,725.51; purchase and installation of the PA system will be made by piggybacking on the Maryland Education Enterprise Consortium (MEEC) Audio-visual Master Contract and is 90% reimbursable through Program Open Space (POS). Mr. Stamp stated that there are sufficient funds in the FY26 Budget to cover the cost. Council discussion ensued with LaDarian Blake, Assistant Director, Department of Parks and Recreation. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the request 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 Public Works – Requested Council approval of the County Engineer's request to submit an application for grant and loan funding from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) State Revolving Loan Fund and USDA Rural Development for the following projects: the Preserve at Wye Mills Wastewater Treatment Plant in a sum of up to \$750,000 in loan funding; the Calhoon MEBA Engineering School sewer extension project in a sum of up to \$1.5 million in loan and grant funding; and a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the Martingham community in a sum of up to \$40,000 in grant and loan funding in order to complete a Feasibility Study on the sewer collection system serving the Martingham community. Ray Clarke, County Engineer, briefed the Council on each of the projects to be included in the grant and loan application which is due in late January 2026. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke as each project was brought forward. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved submittal of the grant and loan applications by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- H. Request from Department of Public Works – Requested Council approval to have the County enter into a Deed of Right-of-Way and Easement By and Between Talbot County and the Town of Easton for installation of utilities on Bonfield Road, adjacent to the County owned Oxford Conservation Park, as part of the Town's ongoing fiberoptic installation project. Council discussion ensued with Josh Elliott, Assistant County Engineer, who stated that Easton Utilities currently has an easement which crosses the County owned Oxford Conservation Park; the current request is for an additional easement. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved entering into the Deed of Right-of-Way and Easement by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- I. Bid No. 25-16, REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – RESODDING OF FRONT 9 CHAMPIONSHIP GREENS – HOG NECK GOLF COURSE, 10029 OCEAN GATEWAY, EASTON, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND – Requested Council approval to award Bid No. 25-16 to the sole bidder, Growing Solutions, LLC in the sum of \$307,001.88; funding for the project is available in the FY26 Budget. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, 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

- J. Request from Department of Corrections – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Corrections utilize a Sourcewell contract for the purchase and installation of a new chiller for the Department of Corrections facility in the sum of \$197,616.00; funding for the project is available in the FY26 Capital Budget. Council discussion ensued with Joe Hughes, Director, Department of Corrections. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the request by voting 5 - 0 as follows:

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

- K. Request from Department of Corrections – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Corrections utilize a Sourcewell contract for the purchase and installation of a partial replacement of the air handling controllers and the control panel at the Department of Corrections in the sum of \$354,276.40; funding for the project is available in the FY26 Capital Budget. Council discussion ensued with Joe Hughes, Director, Department of Corrections. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the request by voting 5- 0 as follows:

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

- L. Request for Letter of Support – Requested Council approval of a request from the Town of Easton, on behalf Vetagro (APEG International, Inc), an Italian company, for a letter in support for tariff exclusions on certain products they manufacture, and specific machinery and equipment to be used in their new Easton manufacturing facility which is not available in the United States. Mr. Leshner briefed the Council on his recent conversation with Easton Mayor

Megan Cook about the project which will have positive economic and employment impact for the town and the county. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Mielke, 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

- M. Request from County Manager - Requested Council's consideration to authorize a dedication of the North EMS Station facility to Ms. Sylvia Jarboe Gannon. Mr. Stamp stated that Ms. Gannon, a native of Talbot County, was the first female member of the County Council, a founding member of the Talbot Paramedic Foundation, and was instrumental in the creation of the County's Advance Life Support program during her lifetime of service to Talbot County. He stated that the location of the new EMS station in Cordova will assist Emergency Services personnel with achieving an 8-minute response time in the northern portion of the county. Wayne Dyott, President, Talbot Paramedic Foundation, and Brian LeCates, Director, Department of Emergency Services, spoke of their many years of association with Ms. Gannon and her tireless work for the citizens of Talbot County. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved dedicating the new facility to Ms. Gannon by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- X. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

- XI. Council Comments:

Mr. Stepp - No comments.

Mr. Leshner - Mr. Leshner stated that he and several other Council members and members of the Talbot County business and non-profit community attended the annual economic symposium hosted by the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce and co-sponsored in part by the Talbot County Economic Development. He stated that, in his opinion, the symposium provided valuable insight into economic conditions and trends for local government and business and nonprofit leaders. He stated that the message relayed at the symposium was that the national economic uncertainty is manifesting itself locally through inflation and a weakening labor market. He stated that major banks rate the risk of recession as elevated – possibly 30% to 45% nationally. He stated that symposium speaker, Anirban Basu, "wondered aloud" as to whether Maryland might already be in a recession; however, the determining data has not yet been released due to the federal government shutdown. Mr. Leshner stated that the regional job market is essentially flat, and unemployment, while still low, is moving upward from 3.4 percent a year ago to 4.0 percent now. He stated that the Council dealt

with one local impact of the economic uncertainty this evening by appealing for relief from tariffs for a local manufacturer that could bring local industry to Talbot County. He stated that, in his opinion, the continued chaos in Washington that created the current federal shutdown impacts Talbot County – we can only ask that our representatives get back to work and negotiate their differences to bring a prompt end to the shutdown before further damage is done to the lives of public servants and the broader economy.

Ms. Mielke - Ms. Mielke stated that there are several upcoming events in Talbot County including the Easton Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, October 16th at the Easton Fire Department; a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Talbot County Free Library later that day, and the celebration of Colonel Tench Tilghman Week on Saturday, October 25th at the Talbot County Free Library.

Ms. Haythe - Ms. Haythe stated that, as Mr. Leshar had mentioned, one takeaway from Anirban Basu at the economic symposium this morning is that while Talbot County is in a good place for economic development at the present time, we must be proactive and plan and prepare for jobs of the future. She stated that, in her opinion, the strategic plan of Cassandra Vanhooser, the Director of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, will do that, and while we are on the right path and our unemployment is low, we need to be prepared for future economic development, AI, and technology, because we do have a niche in Talbot County to create jobs for future generations. Ms. Haythe concluded her comments by reminding everyone that the Community Resource Expo event will take place on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at the Easton Elementary School.

Mr. Callahan – Mr. Callahan stated that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Foundation of Hope building on Washington Street will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. He encouraged everyone to attend the event to support Ms. Haythe, the President & CEO of Foundation of Hope, Inc., who, in his opinion, has done a great job growing the program. Mr. Callahan commended Ms. Vanhooser for her work on the Main Street Conference held in Easton last week.

Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council voted to reconvene on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room for a work session on the Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe project; and to convene at 3:30 p.m. in Open Session and immediately adjourn into Closed Session 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. Leshar – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

The meeting ended at 6:49 p.m.

The transcript of the Tuesday, October 14, 2025, County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

- XII. Meeting with Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) President, Board of Directors, Jack Wilson and MACo Executive Director, Michael Sanderson – Members of the Council met with MACo President, Board of Directors, Jack Wilson and MACo Executive Director, Michael Sanderson on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room; Vice President Pete Leshner joined the meeting by phone. Mr. Sanderson provided a brief overview of the 2025 Legislative Session, and the following matters were brought forward: (1) *Blueprint for Maryland's Future* (“the *Blueprint*”), a comprehensive educational reform initiative to transform Maryland’s public education system by addressing achievement gaps and ensuring equitable access to quality education for all students. Mr. Sanderson noted that the state is now four years into a 10-year rollout of the *Blueprint* and that the current fiscal issues of the State connect to the *Blueprint*. He stated that in effort to rectify the State’s approximately \$3 billion deficit in its \$26 billion budget to put itself in a good position for the next two years, the State has slowed down spending, is diving deeper into invoices from the counties for State services, changed tax rates and shifted a 50% responsibility for teachers’ pensions to the counties. He stated that, in his opinion, the 2026 Legislative Session (FY27) would not produce a budget crisis as the State has had the luxury of using monies from the Educational Trust Fund for the past four years to fund the budget; however, casino revenues cannot, by the Maryland Constitution, be used to fund the budget; however, by the 2027 Legislative Session (FY28), the State will again have a deficit of approximately \$2 – 3 billion. Mr. Sanderson stated that by the close of calendar year 2026, a detailed report of State spending is anticipated which will set up the timing for a debate about education and what we are getting for our money; every county will feel the pressure in a year or so as local school systems cannot afford the increases required under the *Blueprint*; (2) Affordable housing – Mr. Sanderson stated that the State estimates there is a shortage of 70,000 to 140,000 residential housing units but stated that legislation regarding changes to local approval for residential housing failed in the 2025 Legislative Session; it is anticipated that legislation will again be introduced and possibly approved in the 2026 Legislative Session since 2026 is an election year; MACo’s goal will be to make sure that the legislation is not overly burdensome to the counties and to keep zoning decisions local. He stated that the housing debate is being driven by the need to fund increased density in downtown areas; however, it is not a one-size-fits-all issue; (3) Energy – Mr. Sanderson stated that rates for energy continue to rise since the United States does not produce enough energy for demand and stated that land use pressures for the siting of solar facilities on the Eastern Shore will not disappear, due in part to the Maryland Clean Energy initiative; and (4) Highway User Revenues – Mr. Sanderson stated that in 2009, the Highway User Revenue Fund was decimated; since that time, the funding has been gradually restored; however, this year is the last year of a multi-year increase and without legislation to extend the restoration of funding, the counties will lose 20% to 30% of the current funding. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Sanderson as various facets of the presentation were brought forward. Mr. Callahan introduced Michael “Mike” Mason of Providence Strategies, recently hired as Talbot County’s government relations team to keep the Council apprised of news from Annapolis. More information can be found at: [Talbot County Council Meeting with Maryland Association of Counties \(MACo\) Representatives](#).
- XIII. Work Session on Feasibility Study for Talbot County Welcome Center – Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Department of Economic Development and Tourism; Representatives of the Franklin P. Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University; Representatives of Becker Morgan Group – The Council held a work session on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room with Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, John Hickman, Director, BEACON (Business Economic Outreach Network), Franklin P. Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University, Ron Morgan, President, and Craig Williams, Architect,

Becker Morgan Group, Salisbury, Maryland. Ms. Vanhooser provided a brief background on her department's request for a Feasibility Study, and the bid process, initiated in 2023 whereby Becker Morgan Group was awarded the project. Mr. Hickman utilized a PowerPoint to outline what information was obtained by BEACON and incorporated into the Feasibility Study, including current use trends of visitor/welcome centers, a study of other visitor/welcome centers in the region, an analysis of the Talbot County tourism economy, and recommendations for the location of a visitor/welcome center in Talbot County and what elements should be incorporated into the facility. He provided details on each and emphasized the importance of a convenient location so that visitors don't need to travel out of their way in an unfamiliar area to locate a visitor/welcome center. He stated that there are 44 visitor/welcome centers on the Delmarva Peninsula, with each county having at least one (1). He noted that the majority of the visitor/welcome centers include another occupant such as Tourism. Mr. Hickman stated that his office had reached out to other visitor/welcome centers in Maryland regarding various features they would like to have in their visitor/welcome centers, including more storage space, higher visibility, larger vending areas and rapid car chargers; he then outlined recommendations for features to incorporate into the design for a visitor/welcome center in Talbot County. He outlined recommendations for a Talbot County visitor/welcome center including, among others, having volunteers, a design which reflects the geographical area and is flexible to incorporate multiple uses in the building, and co-location with the Tourism Department in order to improve communication and to provide support. He stated that BEACON had contacted the incorporated municipalities in Talbot County and Tilghman Island who provided recommendations regarding features they would like to see incorporated into a visitor/welcome center, including having information about their jurisdictions on display in the visitor/welcome center. He provided statistics related to the positive economic impacts of tourism on the economy in the nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore, calculated by spending on lodging, restaurants, visits to museums, as well as supporting industries such as landscapers, individuals and contributions to the tax base of the jurisdictions. Mr. Hickman stated that the Feasibility Study reviewed three prospective locations for the visitor/welcome center based on the factors of proximity to a major highway, visibility for travelers, ease of access and parking, etc., ultimately recommending the Talbot County Community Center property as the location which best met the desired criteria. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Williams presented conceptual drawings of the facility, proposed to be approximately 25,000 sq. ft. surrounded by a large amount of green space and a walking path which could also be used by employees of and visitors to, the nearby Regional Medical Center currently under construction as well as the Talbot County Community Center. Features in the concept include a multi-purpose space for events, a museum and a large storage area. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Morgan, Mr. Williams and Ms. Vanhooser. Mr. Williams stated that the building was designed from the standpoint of possibilities both now and in future years. Council discussion again ensued. Council will continue to review the Feasibility Study. The work session concluded at 4:50 p.m.

- XIV. 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, September 30, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Talbot County Free Library, Easton Branch. The following individuals were in attendance: Megan Cook, Mayor, Town of Easton, Andy Kitzrow, Easton Town Manager, Don Abbatiello, President, Easton Town Council, Maureen Curry and David Montgomery, Members, Easton Town Council, Miguel Salinas, Planning Officer, Town of Easton; Holly Wahl, Town Manager, Town of Oxford, Ashley Samonisky, Clerk, Town of Oxford; Dawn Starkey, Town Clerk, Town of Queen Anne; Jay Hudson, President, Commissioners of St. Michaels, Katrina Whittington, Vice President, Commissioners of St. Michaels; Jeremy Newnam, President, Trappe Town Council; Chuck Callahan, President, Talbot County Council, Pete Leshner, Vice-President, Talbot County Council, Keasha Haythe and Lynn Mielke, Members, Talbot County Council; Clay Stamp, Talbot County

Manager, Martha Sparks, Talbot County Finance Director, Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Talbot County Department of Economic Development & Tourism, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, and Sarah Kilmon, Talbot County Communications Manager.

Mr. Stamp provided an update on the following County projects: Phase 3 of the Easton Airport Modernization Project – stated that the electrical work for the runway is ongoing; Goldsborough Neck culvert replacement project – stated that the project is ahead of schedule; the U.S. Rt.50 (main entrance) to the Talbot County Community Center will close beginning October 1st; signage will direct visitors to the entrance on Hiners Lane; the Easton Economic Development Corporation and the Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism have launched several joint projects; Oxford Conservation Park - the Friends of Oxford Conservation Park, Washington College, Center for Environment and Study, and Eastern Shore Land Conservancy will be holding a public discussion regarding a possible controlled burn of the back 30 acres of the Park in an effort to eradicate phragmites, an invasive species of grass which overtakes native species of plants and prevents their growing and thriving; Oxford Causeway – stated that the County will continue to appeal to the State for remediation of flooding issues on the Oxford Causeway; Perry Cabin Park Recycling location – stated that the site has closed due to placement of unapproved items at the site and the concerns expressed by users of the Perry Cabin ballfields relating to traffic utilizing the recycling site. Mr. Stamp stated that the County is reviewing the location behind the St. Michaels fire station as a possible area for recycling as well as a new entrance for the Region II Wastewater Treatment Plant; in the interim, the recycling bins located at St. Michaels Market will be repositioned; St. Michaels Rails-to-Trails – stated that the County will be holding discussions with the Town of St. Michaels regarding the extension of the Rails-to-Trails adjacent to the Perry Cabin ballfields; Talbot County Free Library – St. Michaels Branch – stated that the expansion and renovation to the Library is anticipated to be completed by February 2026; County Roads Department – stated that the County Roads Department has paved approximately 35 miles of the 370 miles of County roads in 2025 and has replaced 27 culverts, with a major culvert replacement required on Chapel Road; major roads paved include Dover Neck Road and Glebe Road – the Skipton Cordova Road is also planned to be paved in 2025, weather permitting; and North EMS Station – stated that work on the \$1.4 million North EMS Station continues and will house state-of-the-art medical equipment. Martha Sparks briefed the group on the tax differential which is meant to compensate for double taxation of municipal taxpayers on services which are paid by the municipality and the County property tax. She stated that the counties compensate municipal taxpayers with property tax cuts in one of two ways: a tax differential or a tax rebate – a tax differential is an adjustment to the tax rate and a tax rebate is when the county actually cuts a check to a particular municipality. She stated that the formula Talbot County uses for the tax differential began in the 1990s, was slightly modified in the 2000s to identify County expenditures for parallel services that the towns provide, including planning and zoning, permits and inspections, police and fire services, housing, tourism, etc., and outlined the calculation by which the differential is derived. Ms. Sparks stated that over the past five years, the calculation has been lower than the actual tax differential, thus benefiting the property owners in the towns.

Mayor Cook introduced Andy Kitzrow, the new Easton Town Manager. She stated that she had provided a handout of an up-to-date listing and map of development projects within the town of Easton and stated that the Town will have numerous studies and reports released this fall, including a draft report from the Affordable Housing Task Force which will be going back for final review by the Task Force and then brought before the Town Council for consideration; she stated that the East End Small Area Plan is also in its final draft; and the Easton Planning Commission has finished its review of the Easton Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Cook stated that the Easton Economic Development Corporation is now located in the newly renovated Visitor Center (11 S. Harrison St.) which has two ADA compliant restrooms; upgrades have also been made to the Public Works

facility; Easton will be hosting the Main Street Maryland Conference on October 7th and 8th and anticipates approximately 350 people in attendance; she stated that the Vetagro facility located in the Mistletoe Hall Industrial Park is anticipated to become operational in Summer 2026; the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new A. James Clark Emergency Services Training Campus will be held in October; and stated that Easton will be implementing “scan to pay tiered” parking lots throughout town – four lots will still have free parking.

Ms. Wahl stated that Oxford continues to work on its comprehensive plan and is working with the funding provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to conduct studies comparing natural beach erosion and accretion with the Strand in Oxford; Oxford anticipates being able to hire a grant writer, community engagement specialist and a scientist over a period of three years. Ms. Wahl stated that the Town is implementing a new process to afford residents an opportunity for more engagement and to provide more transparency.

Ms. Starkey stated that the Town of Queen Anne has been meeting with several realtors regarding the purchase of a waterfront area to be used for kayaking, etc. She stated that the property was the former location of a garage which burned.

Ms. Whittington stated that a living shoreline project is ongoing at Back Creek Park and Phase 1 of the completion of the new Town office (the former Environmental Concern property) is nearing completion. She stated that the Town is also proposing an extension of the nature trail (Rails-to-Trails); and the St. Michaels Housing Authority is replacing the laundromats in their facility on the north side of St. Michaels. She expressed the Town’s appreciation to Mr. Stamp for providing information on the recycling center.

Mr. Newnam stated that 218 permits have now been issued for Lakeside Development; the same number as the number of houses which have been constructed. He stated that Lakeside is also in the preliminary process of obtaining permits and approval from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for a future water tower and additional wells for the Town of Trappe and is upgrading their infrastructure resulting from the increased population. He stated that MDE had provided initial feedback and after making the recommended changes, will be submitting the information to MDE for the next round. Mr. Newnam stated that the Town of Trappe is upgrading its wastewater treatment facility to an ENR (Enhance Nutrient Removal) plant and to date, has completed approximately 30% of the design phase; it is anticipated that bids will go out in early 2026. He stated that the Town currently has three pumping stations under construction so that within 2 – 3 years the Town will essentially have all new wastewater treatment infrastructure. He stated that the Town, in partnership with the County had received a grant from the Maryland Community Parks and Playgrounds Program for the construction of a softball field at Home Run Baker Park in Trappe; the draft agreements are being formulated and the site process is ongoing.

Mr. Callahan stated that the County continues to work on an update to the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Cook stated that the Town of Easton is beginning to look ahead to see what fire equipment will be needed by the Easton Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Abbatiello stated that, in his opinion, the Town of Easton and the Town of Oxford are getting to a point with its volunteer fire fighters that additional support will be needed.

The meeting ended at 6:00 p.m.

- XV. Meeting with Talbot County Board of Education and Talbot County Council – The Council held a joint meeting with the Talbot County Board of Education on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Chapel District Elementary School located at 11430 Cordova Road, Cordova, MD 21625. In attendance: Board of Education members: Emily Jackson, Amy Dodson, Dyshekia Strawberry, Ann O'Connor, Cynthia Jurrius, Esq., Deborah Bridges; Talbot County Public Schools (TCPS) staff: Dr. Sharon Pepukayi, Dr. Helga Einhorn, Kevin Shafer, Sarah Jones, Dr. Kari Clow; Talbot County Council members: Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp; Talbot County staff: Clay Stamp, Martha Sparks, Kaitlin Foster-Clark, and Jessica Morris

Tour of Chapel District Elementary School

Dr. Pepukayi and Kevin Shafer provided an update on the Chapel District Elementary School renovation and expansion project. The project is on schedule, on budget, approximately 75% complete and scheduled to be fully completed by September 2026. The project includes 48,089 s.f. of renovations and 16,617 s.f. of new construction. The additions include three new Critchlow Adkins Daycare Center classrooms, additional teaching spaces, newly constructed front office and library and multiple mechanical and electrical spaces. Dr. Pepukayi expressed kudos to TCPS staff, especially Kevin Shafer, the contractor, Whiting Turner, and Bill Stagg, the County's project manager. Lindsey Hill, Project Manager, Whiting Turner (contractor) provided a tour of the building.

Update on TCPS Strategic Planning Process

Dr. Pepukayi provided an update on the TCPS Strategic Planning process and distributed a handout on the Align by 2029 plan. Dr. Pepukayi noted that the five priorities identified include:

- Academic Achievement
- Highly Qualified Staff
- Student, Family, and Community Engagement
- Aligned Systems for Success
- Equitable and Efficient Use of Resources

Dr. Pepukayi noted that the Board will be meeting in November to look at all baseline data and review data points. Data will then be reviewed every quarter thereafter.

Discussion of TCPS Student Test Scores

Dr. Pepukayi noted that every TCPS school has a school improvement plan and that Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) are being rolled out to all TCPS staff. Discussion ensued about the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) testing system and results which can be misleading depending on if you look at results based on district vs. whole data. It was noted that the State of Maryland has put out an RFP to change the testing module. Dr. Pepukayi stated that TCPS has an internal data dashboard to help analyze test results and drill down on data. She is planning to hold community meetings in the Bay Hundred and Easton area in November.

In closing, Dr. Pepukayi stated she has scheduled monthly meetings with Chuck Callahan, President, Talbot County Council and Clay Stamp, County Manager.

She noted that on October 23, 2025, TCPS will be appearing before the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) review committee to discuss how TCPS

is implementing the Blueprint.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

XVI. Annual Meeting with Local Delegation – Senator John Mautz, Delegate Christopher Adams, and Delegate Tom Hutchinson - The Council met with Senator John Mautz, Delegate Christopher Adams, and Delegate Tom Hutchinson on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room to discuss the upcoming State General Assembly session. All Council members were in attendance as were Mike Mason, Providence Strategies, Martha Sparks, Finance Director, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, and Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Department of Economic Development and Tourism. (1) Mr. Hutchinson updated the Council on their request for introduction of legislation in the 2025 Legislative Session in support of a change to §20-426 of the Maryland Local Government Code and Council's support of a change to §172-8 of the Talbot County Public Accommodations Tax Code regarding the timeframe for payment of penalties for unpaid accommodations taxes from 120 days to 30 days; only Talbot County and Wicomico counties have an extended grace period of 120 days for payment of unpaid accommodations taxes; all other counties have a 1-month grace period. Mr. Hutchinson stated that the legislation passed in the Senate (SB979); however, the Comptroller expressed concern about the process of implementation and postponed implementation for two (2) years, until July 1, 2027; (2) Core Funding for Health Departments – Ms. Sparks stated that for the past two years Talbot County has received notice from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, after the County had approved its budget, that more core funding was required from the County for the Talbot County Department. She stated that other State agencies were also late in providing information to the County after the County budget had been approved. (3) Unfunded Mandates and State Budget – Mr. Leshner stated that, in his opinion, if the State is forwarding unfunded mandates to the counties, the counties should have the decision-making authority for same; for example, with teachers' pensions. Discussion ensued with Council and County staff regarding unfunded mandates and matters related to same. The meeting concluded at 4:00 p.m.

XVII. Summary of Closed Session Held on October 14, 2025:

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

Time of closed session:	4:05 p.m. End 4:30 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, Haythe, 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 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, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action
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 possible acquisition of real property for a public purpose	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	Council will not pursue acquisition of property
For legal briefing on John Doe v Board of Education, Talbot County Health Department, Talbot County Council, Maryland Department of Health and State of Maryland	GP § 3-305(b)(7)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal advice	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	No action

		TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT 9/30/2025	
OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK			
OPERATING FUNDS AT		9/23/2025	\$ 61,487,942.52
Toal ADP Monthly Payroll PPE 9/30/2025			(18,288.14)
Returned Paymentus Payments			(398.11)
Returned Checks #137, #995405			(5,266.27)
Airport Merchant Portal Hosting 9/2025			(11.00)
Repurposing Merchant Portal Hosting 9/2025			(15.00)
Roads Merchant Portal Hosting 9/2025			(15.00)
Bank Charges 8/2025			(824.76)
Deposits			3,045,008.14
Checks			(113,342.81)
ACH Disbursements			(1,019,982.50)
EFT's			(414,309.12)
Wire Transfers			(1,322,377.41)
Voided Checks #373250, #376302, #374575, #376506, #377588			8,362.34
OPERATING FUNDS AT		9/30/2025	\$ 61,646,482.88
PETTY CASH FUNDS			\$ 18,105.00
INVESTMENT FUNDS			
		<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)		4.18%	\$ 23,584,704.33
Bayvanguard Bank		4.15%	\$ 11,329,684.41
Shore United Money Market Account		4.33%	\$ 63,458,423.85
INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL			\$ 98,390,917.59
<u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u>			<u>\$ 160,037,400.47</u>

		TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT 10/7/2025	
OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK			
OPERATING FUNDS AT	9/30/2025		\$ 61,646,482.88
Toal ADP Payroll PPE 9/26/2025			(1,050,855.44)
106 S. Freemont St./County Owned Property Sewer Charge			(231.25)
7419 Back St./County Owned Property Sewer Charge			(326.63)
911 Talbot St./County Owned Property Sewer Charge			(390.00)
Returned Check #2082			(6,271.89)
Returned Paymentus Payment			(450.00)
Deposits			3,750,896.36
Checks			(147,165.64)
ACH Disbursements			(2,150,764.57)
EFT's			(128,178.97)
Wire Transfers			(688,872.50)
OPERATING FUNDS AT	10/07/2025		\$ 61,223,872.35
PETTY CASH FUNDS			\$ 18,105.00
INVESTMENT FUNDS			
		<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	4.16%	\$	23,584,704.33
Bayvanguard Bank	4.15%	\$	11,329,684.41
Shore United Money Market Account	4.33%	\$	63,458,423.85
INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL		\$	98,390,917.59
<u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u>		\$	159,614,789.94

		TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT 10/14/2025	
OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK			
OPERATING FUNDS AT	10/7/2025	\$	61,223,872.35
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 9/26/2025			(1,432.89)
INTEREST ON ACCOUNTS 9/2025			276,046.70
BANK CHARGES 9/2025			(8,642.36)
RETURNED PAYMENTUS PAYMENTS			(15,971.96)
Deposits			1,433,971.62
Checks			(113,166.20)
ACH Disbursements			(1,365,304.97)
EFT's			(6,337,612.94)
OPERATING FUNDS AT	10/14/2025	\$	55,091,759.35
PETTY CASH FUNDS		\$	18,105.00
INVESTMENT FUNDS			
		<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	4.16%	\$	23,584,704.33
Bayvanguard Bank	4.15%	\$	11,370,181.16
Shore United Money Market Account	4.33%	\$	63,680,849.86
INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL		\$	98,653,840.35
<u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u>		\$	<u>153,745,599.70</u>