



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

September 9, 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, September 9, 2025.
- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, August 26, 2025.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, September 2, 2025, and Tuesday, September 9, 2025.
- IV. Presentation of U.S. flag by Congressman Andy Harris' Office – Mike Detmer, Community Liaison to Congressman Andy Harris, presented the Council with a U.S. Flag which had flown over the United States Capitol. Mr. Detmer stated that the flag was being presented on this, the 24th anniversary of the horrific events of September 11, 2001 in honor and remembrance of the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect innocent lives on that date.
- V. Proclamation: Constitution and Citizenship Week – September 17 – 23, 2025 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record in commemoration of Constitution and Citizenship Week, celebrated September 17 – 23 each year to recognize and outline the vital importance of the U.S. Constitution to our individual freedoms and democracy which, although tested many times, has endured for 238 years since the document was signed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 17, 1787. Constitution and Citizenship Week encourages citizens to recognize the rights and responsibilities which come with citizenship and to reaffirm the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. The proclamation also spoke of the role of the Mid-Shore Constitution Alliance and its partners in promoting Constitution Week in Talbot County through various events. 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

Richard Holman and Michelle Ewing of Mid-Shore Constitution Alliance, and organizers of Constitution and Citizenship Week in Talbot County Constitution Alliance, briefed the Council on the formation of the Alliance and upcoming events for this year's Constitution and Citizenship Week, including an event at the Academy Art Museum at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17th featuring actors portraying Frederick Douglass, Thomas Jefferson and Talbot Countian, Tench Tilghman. Mr. Holman stated that content, including some of the "hidden history" of Talbot County will also be included in this year's event. He stated that the event will serve as a preamble to the Talbot250 events scheduled for next year. Ms. Ewing stated that the 1st Annual Constitution Bowl will be held at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton on Saturday, September 20, 2025; students from Easton, St. Michaels, North Caroline, Cambridge – South Dorchester, Sts. Peter and Paul and Gunston High Schools will participate in the academic competition. Council members expressed

their appreciation to Mr. Holman and Ms. Ewing for bringing the Constitution and the rights and privileges associated with it to the attention of the Talbot County community, particularly the youth. The partners of the Mid-Shore Constitution Alliance include the Institute for Religion, Politics and Culture at Washington College, Frederick Douglass on the Hill Family Foundation, the Talbot County Educational Foundation, Talbot Historical Society, Sons of the American Revolution and Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism,

Mr. Stepp presented the Proclamation to Mr. Holman and Ms. Ewing who accepted on behalf of the Mid-Shore Constitution Alliance and its partners.

- VI. Proclamation: National Preparedness Month – September 2025 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the importance of individuals and businesses preparing for emergencies in their homes, schools, and businesses. The theme of this year's proclamation, *Preparedness Starts at Home*, emphasizes that the key to stronger, more resilient communities is to encourage citizens to create an emergency plan for their family, keep an up-to-date emergency supply kit readily available, sign up for emergency alert notifications, and learn skills by which they can protect themselves, their family and their neighbors. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, 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

Brian LeCates, Director, Department of Emergency Services, and Madison Loker, Emergency Management Coordinator, Department of Emergency Services, spoke of the importance for members of the community preparing for various emergencies including fires, floods, hurricanes, and power outages. Ms. Loker briefed the Council on community outreach efforts by the Department of Emergency Services to encourage citizens to stay informed of community alerts. Mr. Stamp stated that citizens can receive emergency information on www.talbotdes.org or www.ready.gov, a national website for emergency preparedness information; various training sessions are also offered by the Department of Emergency Services including CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training, and Reverse 911 emergency alerts, both of which are free. Council commended Mr. LeCates, Ms. Loker and the Department of Emergency Service for all they do to help assist members of the community prepare for, and stay safe during, emergencies.

Mr. Leshner presented the Proclamation to Mr. LeCates, Ms. Loker and Talbot County Health Officer, Dr. Fahmi Fahmi, who accepted on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services and the Talbot County Health Department, respectively.

- VII. Update to Board of Health – Dr. Fahmi Fahmi, Talbot County Health Officer – Dr. Fahmi utilized a PowerPoint presentation to update the Council on various matters related to services provided by the Talbot County Health Department and health-related topics. He provided statistical information on rabies clinics conducted by the Office of Environmental Health which showed an increase of 278% in vaccinations from 2023 to 2025; vaccination data for August 2024 through June 2025 showing a total of 875 immunizations were administered; and stated that the Health Department held 28 outreach events for CPR, AED and NARCAN training. He briefed the Council on the first Global Vision Clinic for Talbot County, during which 29 Talbot County Public School students received comprehensive eye exams by optometrists and an ophthalmologist and necessary prescriptions were filled free of charge to the students. Dr. Fahmi stated that the ability of students

to see well not only impacts their academic performance in a positive way but has a positive effect on their social well-being as well. He stated that it is his hope that the clinic will serve as a model for future clinics. He provided an overview of the Mobile Integrated Health Unit (MIH) program whereby personnel from the Health Department and Department of Emergency Services, including paramedics, nurses, and community health professionals, provide in-home healthcare services to senior citizens and those with complex medical conditions. He stated that MIH focuses on preventative care and management of chronic diseases with the goal of reducing unnecessary Emergency Room visits and/or hospital readmissions; services by the MIH team also assists those with limited mobility, lack of transportation and lack of medical care, helping to keep individuals in their homes, thereby reducing the strain on emergency services. Dr. Fahmi then outlined national, regional and state trends for RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) and Influenza (Flu) over the past three (3) years, and stated that, in his professional opinion, cases of RSV and the Flu could increase this year. He also updated the Council on the desired percentage of individuals who need to be vaccinated in order to provide “herd immunity” and how the declining rates of immunizations for childhood diseases, previously considered eradicated in the United States, could negatively affect herd immunity and thereby trigger the return of some diseases; he cited the most recent outbreak of measles throughout the country as an example of reduced herd immunity due to reduced vaccination rates. Dr. Fahmi provided statistical information on the incidence of e-cigarette use by high school and middle school students in Talbot County and noted that the rate is considerably higher than other jurisdictions throughout Maryland and the nation. He concluded his presentation by outlining the various ways in which the Health Department communicates with Talbot County citizens, collaborates with the County Council on health initiatives and engages with various stakeholders in the community. Council members expressed their appreciation to Dr. Fahmi for keeping the Council and the citizens informed. Dr. Fahmi will continue to update the Council in their capacity as the Board of Health on a regular or as-needed basis.

VIII. Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS TASK FORCE TO INCLUDE TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Patrick Thomas, County Attorney, stated that the Council established the Senior Citizens Task Force on August 12, 2025; however, the approved administrative resolution did not provide for citizen representatives. He stated that the amendment was requested by Ms. Haythe and proposes adding two (2) members to the Task Force who are residents of the county and who are at least 65 years old; if approved, the membership of the Task Force would increase from 9 to 11 members. The administrative resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke, and Mr. Stepp. 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

Individuals interested in being considered for appointment to the Senior Citizen Task Force as citizens representatives should complete the *Request for Appointment* form on the County website: www.talbotcountymd.gov. Anyone who has questions should call the County Manager’s Office at 410-770-8010.

The Administrative Resolution is effective immediately.

IX. Introduction of Numbered Resolutions:

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 introduction. Prior to introduction, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, provided information on the property, which is the subject of the proposed amendment, stated that the property would only be allotted one (1) equivalent dwelling unit (EDU), and that information from the Talbot County Office of Environmental Health will be forthcoming. Brennan Tarleton, Planning Officer, stated that the property does not have any additional subdivision rights. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 383. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 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 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 introduction. Prior to introduction, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, provided information on the 20± acre improved property, which is the subject of the proposed amendment, and stated that information from the Talbot County Office of Environmental Health will be forthcoming. Brennan Tarleton stated that the subject property is not subdividable. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 384. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 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 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 introduction. Prior to introduction, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the Department of Public Works had contacted the Maryland Department of the Environment to ascertain whether MEBA would be eligible for Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) monies for extension of sewer to the Region II Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Clarke stated that MEBA currently has a 2-stage lagoon system and would qualify for BRF funding for an upgrade to an ENR (Enhanced Nutrient Removal) system but would prefer to connect to the Region II Wastewater Treatment Plant as it would be less costly than the ENR upgrade. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 385. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 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 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 introduction. Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the 1.25-acre property has a failing septic system as determined by Accurate Environmental and is an improved lot with a single-family dwelling. Mr. Clarke stated that the Royal Oak Newcomb Force Main traverses the driveway of the subject property. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke, and Mr. Stepp as Resolution No. 386. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

X. Introduction of Legislation:

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 introduction. Prior to introduction, Patrick Thomas, County Attorney, stated that the Cannabis Article establishes a community repair and reinvestment fund which receives its revenue from the sale of cannabis, conversion fees for medical licenses that were converted to “adult use” licenses, and donations, among others. He stated that a percentage of the revenue received is distributed to each county; the counties are required to enact legislation establishing the purposes for which the funds will be utilized. Mr. Thomas stated that Talbot County currently has received approximately \$731,000 in revenue; the proposed legislation requires that the funding be used for community-based initiatives which benefit low-income communities or serve disproportionately impacted areas, as defined by State law; and administrative expenses the County incurs in administering the fund; the monies cannot be used for law enforcement. Mr. Thomas cited several examples for possible use of the funding, including after-school programs, behavioral health, housing and homeless prevention initiatives. He stated that the legislation authorizes use of the funds for the purposes outlined in State law and would also establish a commission to administer the funds; in Talbot County, entity administering the grant application process for the funding would be the members of the Talbot Family Network Board of Directors. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke, and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1620. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

XI. Eligible for Vote:

Resolution No. 378, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON KEMP ROAD, EASTON, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 24 AS PARCEL 41 FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION FILED BY BACK NINE, LLC, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. Prior to the vote, Mr. Leshner stated that he wished to offer an amendment to the resolution which stated that only a portion of the 40± acre property, 16.993± acres would be reclassified as “S-1” to read as follows: *A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP A 16.993± ACRE PORTION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON KEMP ROAD, EASTON, MARYLAND, SHOWN ON TAX MAP 24 AS PARCEL 41 FROM “UNPROGRAMMED” TO “S-1” IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS, PURSUANT TO AN*

APPLICATION FILED BY BACK NINE, LLC. Mr. Clarke stated that the applicant worked with the County to acquire an easement to extend sewer service farther down Kemp Road. The Council approved the amendment by voting 4 – 1 as follows:

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

The Council approved Resolution No. 378, as amended, by voting 4 – 1 as follows:

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

Resolution No. 378, as amended, is effective immediately.

XII. County Manager's Report:

- A. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Brian Naranjo to a three-year term on the Committee as the representative of the Town of St. Michaels; said term will expire on March 1, 2028. 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

- B. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Dr. Kristen Lycett to a four-year term on the Board as the representative of the Town of St. Michaels; said term will expire on July 1, 2029. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- C. Police Accountability Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Brian Naranjo to a four-year term on the Police Accountability Board as the representative of the Town of St. Michaels; said term will expire on August 1, 2029. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 4 – 0 - 1 as follows:

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

- D. Tourism Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Jeff Schneider to the Tourism Board as a representative of the hotel/motel sector; said term will expire on July 1, 2029. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the reappointment 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 Public Works – Requested Council approval of the County Engineer's recommendation to award engineering proposals for design of structural and mechanical repairs for the Bellevue Ferry Landing Bridge Improvement Project to Wallace Montgomery under Bid No. 22-08, the County's Open Ended Architectural/Engineering Services Agreement in the sum of \$205,536.14. Council discussion ensued with Ray Clarke, County Engineer. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, 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

- F. Request from Department of Parks and Recreation – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Parks and Recreation piggyback on Caroline County's contract with Shore Strategies for development of the Department's 2027 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) in the sum of \$39,050; the cost of which is reimbursable by Program Open Space (POS). Council discussion ensued with Emily Gilmer, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, who stated that the LPPRP is required to be updated every five (5) years and is a statewide planning document used to keep Maryland eligible for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies; the plan also guides land conservation, park development and recreational planning both at the State and local level, with each county's plan reflecting the needs of its particular community. Ms. Gilmer stated that Talbot County utilized Shore Strategies for development of the 2022 LPPRP. 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. BID NO. 25-12, REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, STATE LOBBYING LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION SERVICES – Requested Council approval to award Bid No. 25-12 to Providence Strategies in the sum of \$48,000. County Manager, Clay Stamp, stated that six (6) proposals were received, reviewed and ranked, and the top two (2) firms were interviewed. He stated that Providence Strategies was one of the lowest bidders and demonstrated the necessary experience and expertise the County is seeking. 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

- H. September 11th Commemorative Ceremony – Mr. Stamp invited members of the public to attend the September 11th Commemorative Ceremony which will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. at the intersection of West and Dover Streets in Easton.

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

Sarah Kilmon, Talbot County Communications Manager, stated that at Council's request, an online County newsletter system was initiated in early 2025, and to date, over 1,000 individuals have signed up to receive emails for various information. She stated that the County newsletter "County Connections" covers the top five things individuals may want to know about in the county, including events; the "Ready Report" provides citizens with information on a different topic each month; and "On the Ice" and "Recreation Roundup" provide information on ice programming and information on various programming and registration for same at the Department of Parks and Recreation; and the Talbot250 newsletter covers history or civics themed topics each month. Ms. Kilmon concluded her update by stating that citizens can also sign up to receive press releases and Council Highlights. Individuals may sign up to receive newsletters, etc. by logging onto the "Stay Connected" section at the bottom of the County website: www.talbotcountymd.gov.

- XIV. Council Comments:

Mr. Stepp Mr. Stepp stated that the Council had received a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in commemoration of the lives lost on September 11, 2001. He stated that thoughts and prayers will go out to the nation, especially on Thursday, September 11th, and asked for special prayers for those who lost friends or loved ones on that day 24 years ago.

Mr. Leshner - Mr. Leshner stated that he would not be in attendance at the Council meeting on Tuesday, September 23rd as he will be heading to a professional conference but will participate by phone if possible and will leave sealed votes on items which might be scheduled for vote.

Ms. Mielke No comments.

Ms. Haythe - Ms. Haythe concurred with Mr. Stepp's remarks regarding September 11th and the lives that were lost that day. She stated that, in her opinion, all of us can probably recall where we were when the events of that day

happened. She stated that she had just started her first job and she will never forget that day – nor do we want to ever forget the lives that were lost that day.

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan expressed his appreciation to Dr. Fahmi Fahmi for his presentation and for letting the citizens of Talbot County know that we are looking out for their health and safety. He stated that, in his opinion, Thursday is a special day for a lot of us – it is a day of both celebration and sadness as we remember the firefighters, emergency services personnel and the thousands of people that it took to get us through September 11th and the days that followed. He stated that it has now been 24 years since that tragic event took place and, in his opinion, there are a lot of young people who don't quite understand the significance that day.

Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council voted to reconvene on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room for an annual meeting with the president of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), and Michael Sanderson, Executive Director, MACo; and to convene 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. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

The meeting ended at 6:32 p.m.

The transcript of the Tuesday, September 9, 2025, County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

- XV. Work Session on Claiborne Water System – The Council met with representatives of the Claiborne community and Brennan Greene, L.E.H.S., Director, Talbot County Office of Environmental Health on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room to discuss the water system in the village of Claiborne. Ray Clarke, County Engineer, briefed the Council on the history of the water system, a private two-well system begun over 100 years ago when the village was a stopping off point for steam operated rail cars and ferries and both needed a source of water to continue their journeys. Once the railroad ceased operations in the community, two water companies, the Bay Hundred Water Company and the Claiborne Water Company began to serve 14 and 28 properties, respectively, both of which have been operated and maintained by several village residents. Mr. Clarke stated that Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) enforcement actions have become more stringent over the past several years and they now require that any private water system serving 15 or more residential structures is required to have a licensed operator. Mr. Clarke stated that when the County looked into possibly taking over the water systems, it was determined that however, because of the low number of houses served, the cost to hire a licensed operator and the needed removal of arsenic from the systems would be cost prohibitive to the residents. Mr. Clarke outlined various options which could be considered but stated that, in his opinion, it is his recommendation that Talbot County assist the residents of Claiborne by providing funding for the completion of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) under USDA Rural Development and MDE guidelines at an estimated cost of \$35,000 to \$50,000;

the PER could then become part a of a grant application to MDE for grant and loan funding, including the cost of the PER. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke, representatives of the village of Claiborne and Mr. Greene. County Manager, Clay Stamp, stated that efforts will be made by the County to help procure a licensed operator for the Claiborne Water System in the interim until such a time that other options can be more fully explored. Council agreed by consensus to move forward with the PER. A formal request by the Department of Public Works will be made to the Council in the near future. The work session concluded at 3:00 p.m.

XVI. Summary of Closed Session Held on September 9, 2025:

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

Time of closed session: 3:30 p.m. End 3:45 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	No action
For legal briefing regarding Public Information Act request	GP § 3-305(b)(7)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal advice	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay	No action

			Stamp, Jessica Morris, Patrick Thomas	
For legal briefing regarding Public Service Commission case no. 9789	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 9/2/2025	
OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK			
OPERATING FUNDS AT		8/26/2025	\$ 74,334,074.22
Airport Merchant Portal Hosting 8/2025			(11.00)
Repurposing Merchant Portal Hosting 8/2025			(15.00)
Roads Merchant Portal Hosting 8/2025			(15.00)
Returned Check #8890			(300.00)
Returned Paymentus Payments			(20,000.00)
Deposits			2,281,315.37
Checks			(146,288.87)
ACH Disbursements			(2,166,007.34)
OPERATING FUNDS AT		9/02/2025	\$ 74,282,752.38
PETTY CASH FUNDS			\$ 18,105.00
INVESTMENT FUNDS			
		<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)		4.32%	\$ 23,498,534.50
Bayvanguard Bank		4.15%	\$ 11,293,108.83
Shore United Money Market Account		4.33%	\$ 63,225,498.04
INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL			\$ 98,035,246.37
<u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u>			<u>\$ 172,317,998.75</u>

		TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT 9/9/2025	
OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK			
OPERATING FUNDS AT		9/2/2025	\$ 74,282,752.38
Total ADP Payroll PPE 8/29/2025			(1,024,336.62)
Total ADP Monthly Payroll PPE 8/31/2025			(19,181.07)
Returned Checks #203, #20024331			(4,828.93)
Returned Paymentus Payments			(6,961.01)
Deposits			3,120,982.09
Checks			(151,788.62)
ACH Disbursements			(368,388.82)
EFT's			(414,105.80)
Wire Transfers			(7,614,883.71)
OPERATING FUNDS AT	9/09/2025		\$ 67,799,259.89
PETTY CASH FUNDS			\$ 18,105.00
INVESTMENT FUNDS			
		<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	4.30%	\$	23,498,534.50
Bayvanguard Bank	4.15%	\$	11,293,108.83
Shore United Money Market Account	4.33%	\$	63,225,498.04
INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL		\$	98,035,246.37
TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS		\$	165,834,506.26