



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

March 23, 2021

Present – President Chuck F. Callahan, Vice President Pete Lesher, Frank Divilio, Corey W. Pack, Laura Price, County Manager Clay Stamp, and Acting County Attorney Patrick Thomas.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, March 23, 2021.
- II. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, March 9, 2021, Tuesday, March 16, 2021 and Tuesday, March 23, 2021.
- III. Proclamation: International Transgender Day of Visibility – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record which spoke of the fear and discrimination faced by transgender individuals of all racial and ethnic backgrounds who simply desire to live openly and authentically and to contribute to their communities. The proclamation encouraged all citizens to treat each other with dignity and respect. Mr. Pack, sponsor of the proclamation, stated that, in his opinion, the proclamation speaks of treating people fairly across all professional and social spectrums. Tina Jones, representative of the Talbot County transgender community, spoke of the contributions made by transgender individuals to their communities and their positive economic impact on same. She stated that Transgender Day of Visibility provides an opportunity for transgender individuals to show the world that they are parents who love their families, hardworking employees, entrepreneurs with successful businesses and citizens who want to make their communities a better place. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 5 – 0 as follows:
  - Mr. Callahan – Aye
  - Mr. Divilio – Aye
  - Mr. Lesher – Aye
  - Ms. Price – Aye
  - Mr. Pack – Aye
- IV. Council Discussion of Bay Crossing Study Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement – Prior to discussion of the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Mr. Callahan stated that the Maryland Transportation Authority has scheduled a public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in April and that Corridor 8 (Talbot County) remains one of the three crossing alternatives still under consideration; originally there were 14 proposed crossing alternatives under consideration. Miguel Salinas, Talbot County Planning Officer, stated that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is the State’s Tier 1 NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process which they are required to complete. Mr. Salinas stated that the Council had communicated to the State on several occasions that they are opposed to any corridor alignment that impacts Talbot County; specifically, across the Chesapeake Bay to just north of St. Michaels and then through Talbot County north of Easton to Route 50. He stated that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement clearly indicates that the preferred corridor for a new bridge crossing is Corridor 7, which is adjacent to the current Bay Bridge. Mr. Salinas reiterated Mr. Callahan’s previous statement that there will be another opportunity for the County to comment at the public hearing scheduled for April. He stated that a Tier 2 Study to more specifically align alternatives in the selected corridor will be completed if funding becomes available; to date no funding has been allocated. Council members

expressed their concerns that Corridor 8 remains an alternative and that Talbot County's historic resources were not acknowledged in the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. At Council's direction, a letter will be forwarded to the State and asked to be made a part of the record expressing the Council's concerns about Corridor 8 as a proposed additional Bay Bridge crossing, concerns about traffic congestion through Talbot County, and suggestions for improvements at several intersections in Talbot County as noted in the County's 2020 Priority Listing for the Consolidated Transportation Plan.

V. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

VI. Introduction of Numbered Resolutions:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND LOCATED ON ST. MICHAELS ROAD (MARYLAND ROUTE 33), EASTON, MARYLAND 21601 AND SHOWN ON TALBOT COUNTY TAX MAP NO. 34, GRID 2 AS PARCEL 11 FROM UNPROGRAMMED TO "S-1" IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS (*Repurposing Center*) was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the purpose of the legislation is to amend the County's Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan to re-designate the County's repurposing site on Maryland Rt. 33 as S-1, immediate priority status, so that sewer service can be extended to the repurposing facility. Mr. Clarke stated that there are also eight residential, five commercial, and one light industrial properties between the repurposing facility and the Town of Easton which could be included in the resolution, should Council choose to amend same. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price as Resolution No. 299. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 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 COMMERCIAL REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON OCEAN GATEWAY AND MARINA DRIVE, TRAPPE, MARYLAND 21673 AND SHOWN ON TALBOT COUNTY TAX MAP NO. 62 AS PARCELS 13, 21, 42, 43, AND 80 FROM UNPROGRAMMED TO "S-1" IMMEDIATE PRIORITY STATUS, AND TO RECLASSIFY AND REMAP RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON OCEAN FERRY POINT DRIVE, TRAPPE, MARYLAND 21673 AND SHOWN ON TALBOT COUNTY TAX MAP NO. 62 AS PARCELS 1 THROUGH 19 FROM UNPROGRAMMED TO "S-2" FUTURE PLANNED SEWER SERVICE IN 3 TO 5 YEARS (*Ferry Point*) was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the resolution results from a Preliminary Engineering Report completed by BayLand Consultants. He stated that the purpose of the resolution is to assist the five commercial properties at Ferry Point with obtaining sewer service through a community-based system and to establish a capital project in order to seek loan and grant funding through USDA for the sewer system project. Mr. Clarke outlined the type of community system proposed for the location and stated that although initially only the commercial properties will be provided with sewer service, the system can be expanded to incorporate the residential properties at Ferry Point. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, and Mr. Pack as Resolution No. 300. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 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 APPROVE A CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM ON RUSTLING OAKS DRIVE, WYE MILLS, MARYLAND

SHOWN ON TALBOT COUNTY TAX MAP 1, GRID 23 AS PARCEL 98 (*Preserve at Wye Mills*) was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Ray Clarke, County Engineer, stated that the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan had previously been amended to include the Preserve at Wye Mills. He stated that the proposed amendment to the Plan now before Council is needed to establish a capital project for replacement of the wastewater system which has been experiencing problems. He stated that the capital project is needed in order that the Council can begin the process of reviewing loan and grant programs available through the Maryland Department of the Environment for replacement of the system. Mr. Clarke stated that a loan from the County to the Preserve at Wye Mills Homeowner's Association is under consideration; if approved, the funding will be used to complete a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER); the PER would in turn be used to support the capital project for replacement of the wastewater treatment system. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshner, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price as Resolution No. 301. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

VII. County Manager's Report:

- A. Talbot County Agricultural Resolution Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Robert “Bob” Greenlee to four-year term on the Talbot County Agricultural Resolution Board as an at-large member; said term will expire on January 1, 2025. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Divilio – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Pack – Aye

- B. Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Kristen Jones to a three-year term on the Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board as a representative of the Talbot County Fire and Rescue Association; said term will expire February 1, 2024. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Divilio – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Pack – Aye

- C. Talbot County Tourism Board – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Kristen Greenaway to a four-year term on the Talbot County Tourism Board as a countywide cultural attraction representative; said term will expire on July 1, 2024. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Pack, the Council approved the appointment by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Divilio – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Pack – Aye

Mr. Leshar recused himself from voting as he is employed by the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, of which Ms. Greenaway is President.

- D. Virtual County Council Meetings – Requested Council approval of the recommendation of Dr. Maria Maguire, Talbot County Health Officer, that Council meetings remain in a virtual format through the end of April, 2021. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Leshar, the Council approved the recommendation by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Divilio – Aye  
Mr. Leshar – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Pack – Aye

- E. Request from Waterfowl Chesapeake - Requested Council approval to forward a letter of support for Waterfowl Chesapeake’s grant application for an FY21 Maryland Historical Trust Capital Grant in the sum of \$100,000; if approved, funding will be utilized to complete the restoration of the historic steel windows in the Waterfowl Building located at 40 S. Harrison St. in Easton; no County funds are required. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the letter of support by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye  
Mr. Divilio – Aye  
Ms. Price – Aye  
Mr. Pack – Aye

Mr. Leshar recused himself from voting as he is a member of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority which approves grant applications submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust.

VIII. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

IX. Council Comments:

Mr. Leshar – No comments.

Mr. Pack – Mr. Pack encouraged everyone to get whatever COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to them, stating that, in his opinion, it is crucial that the citizenry become vaccinated as the virus is still deadly, despite recent pictures on TV showing large gatherings at beaches and other venues. He concluded his comments reiterating that individuals should get vaccinated.

Mr. Divilio – Mr. Divilio expressed his appreciation to the Department of Parks and Recreation and Director, Preston Peper, for, in his opinion, going above and beyond to keep everyone socially distanced and safe so that activities for the kids could continue. He stated that his children had had an excellent ice hockey season. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Peper and the Department for getting the spring sports program in the mail which lists sports for the calendar year. Mr. Divilio encouraged those who had not already received the new program in their mailbox to stop by the Community Center and pick one up. He stated that it is no secret that kids are in need of some mental health, getting out and safely socializing

outdoors, and, as the Council representative on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, we are doing everything we can to keep the kids safe while keeping them active. Mr. Divilio concluded his comments by expressing his appreciation to the many individuals who do so many great things for the kids.

Ms. Price - Ms. Price stated that tomorrow is MACo's legislative wrap-up day, or the MACo sine die, which will be virtual. Ms. Price expressed her appreciation to MACo staff for, in her opinion, doing an excellent job during this unprecedented session for legislators, MACo staff and lobbyists who were not able to be in Annapolis. She stated that MACo held extra sessions to hear various speakers including, Senator Cardin, Dr. Karen Salmon, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, as well as sessions on the vaccinations. Ms. Price again expressed her appreciation to MACo staff and stated that she is honored to be a part of the organization. Ms. Price concluded her comments by stating that MACo is tentatively planning to have its summer conference in August in Ocean City after cancelling both the summer and winter conferences in 2020. She stated that, in her opinion, it will be good to get back and the way the vaccines are being rolled out, it should be a halfway normal conference even though there may be a few less people in attendance.

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan concurred with Mr. Divilio's and Ms. Price's statements regarding team efforts during the pandemic. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. Price for representing Council in Annapolis and stated that, in his opinion, she is doing a great job. He expressed his appreciation to all County employees for their hard work to help the Council and keep the County safe and that it takes a lot of coordination and hundreds of people to run the county. He stated that, in his opinion, Talbot County is a spotlight in the state – we set precedent on a lot of matters and people look at us and envy us with regard to a lot of things. Mr. Callahan concluded his comments by stating that Ms. Price and Mr. Pack have agreed on matters three or four times during the meeting which, in his opinion, shows that we can do teamwork.

- X. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting, to reconvene on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. for virtual budget deliberations and to reconvene on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in Open Session and immediately adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of legal, personnel and real estate matters as listed on the statement for closing the meeting, and for the regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Divilio – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Price – Aye

Mr. Pack - Aye

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

The transcript of the March 23, 2021 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XI. Summary of Closed Session held on March 23, 2021:

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

Time of closed session: 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.  
 Place of closed session: Via WebEx Events (virtual meeting)  
 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, Divilio, Leshner  
 Members opposed: None  
 Abstaining: None  
 Absent: Pack (arrived at 5:05 p.m.), Price (arrived at 5:05 p.m.)

3. Statutory authority to close session and listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:

<b>Topic description</b>	<b>Statutory authority</b>	<b>Persons present</b>	<b>Action taken</b>
To discuss personnel matter in Department of Corrections	GP § 3-305 (b) (1)	Corey Pack, Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Laura Price, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris, Angela Lane	No action
To discuss personnel matter in Sheriff's Office	GP § 3-305 (b) (1)	Corey Pack, Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Laura Price, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris, Angela Lane	No action
To discuss appointments to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305 (b) (1)	Corey Pack, Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Laura Price, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action
To consider acquisition of property in Cordova for a public purpose	GP § 3-305 (b) (3)	Corey Pack, Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Laura Price, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action

For legal advice regarding litigation involving the County	GP § 3-305 (b) (7) and (8)	Corey Pack, Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Laura Price, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action
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**CASH STATEMENT 3/9/2021**

BALANCE 3/02/2021	38,370,585.48
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 2/19/2021	(634,704.14)
TOTAL ADP MONTHLY PAYROLL PPE 2/28/2021	(11,067.54)
PENSION DED PPE 2/19/2021 & 2/28/2021	(39,961.96)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 2/19/2021 & 2/28/2021	(20,477.30)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 2/19/2021 PLAN 401(A)	(6,739.39)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 3/1/2021	(22,706.41)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 3/4/2021	(143,028.34)
MARCH 2021 RETIREE HEALTH INS PLAN #727	(32,333.12)
STATE REPORT 2/2021	(83,836.82)
AGRICULTURAL TRANSFER TAX PYMT 2/2021	(7,000.00)
ELECTION BOARD PPE 12/01/2020 & 12/08/2020	(11,123.28)
DEPOSITS	9,733,794.04
CHECKS	(396,846.12)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #347650	600.00
<b>BALANCE 3/9/2021</b>	<b>46,695,155.10</b>

**INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT**

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.06%	20,500,000.00

1880 BANK 10,166,938.59

**TOTAL INVESTED 30,666,938.59**

**PETTY CASH BALANCE 12,275.00**

**GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS 77,374,368.69**

**CASH STATEMENT 3/16/2021**

BALANCE 3/09/2021 46,695,155.10

CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 3/8/2021 (16,481.82)

USDA/RD MTHLY BOND PYMT #97-08 (1,304.00)

RETURNED CHECK (5,012.64)

#1901

TALBOT CO 2002 AIRPORT FACILITIES (42,380.00)

RETIREMENT GIFT CARD (250.00)

DEPOSITS 509,658.70

CHECKS (888,285.17)

**BALANCE 3/16/2021 46,251,100.17**

**INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT**

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.06%	20,500,000.00
1880 BANK			10,166,938.59

**TOTAL INVESTED 30,666,938.59**

**PETTY CASH BALANCE 12,275.00**



**GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS**

**76,930,313.76**

**CASH STATEMENT 3/23/2021**

BALANCE 3/16/2021	46,251,100.17
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 3/5/2021	(641,736.58)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 3/5/2021	(19,230.19)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 3/5/2021 PLAN 401(A)	(6,810.47)
PENSION DED PPE 3/5/2021	(39,397.13)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 3/15/2021	(56,212.93)
ELECTION BOARD PPE 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2020 & 1/5/2021	(21,013.47)
RETIREMENT GIFT CARD	(250.00)
WELLS FARGO GOLF EQUIPMENT LEASE PYMT	(4,092.00)
USDA/RD QTRLY BOND PYMT #92-11	(60,886.00)
USDA/RD QTRLY BOND PYMT #92-09	(26,240.00)
RETURNED CHECK #2804	(803.24)
BANK CHARGES 2/2021	(1,890.07)
INTEREST ON ACCOUNTS 2/2021	2,742.29
DEPOSITS	1,958,310.76
CHECKS	(703,109.83)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #349208 THROUGH 349236	43,804.12
<b>BALANCE 3/23/2021</b>	<b><u>46,674,285.43</u></b>

**INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF  
DEPOSIT**

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.05%	20,500,000.00
1880 BANK			10,166,938.59
<b>TOTAL INVESTED</b>			<b><u>30,666,938.59</u></b>

**PETTY CASH** **12,275.00**  
**BALANCE**

**GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS**

**77,353,499.02**