



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

March 31, 2020

Present – President Corey W. Pack (via conference call), Vice President Chuck F. Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Laura Price, County Manager R. Andrew Hollis, County Attorney Anthony Kupersmith (via conference call), Assistant County Attorney Mary O’Donnell, Clay Stamp, Director of Emergency Services and Assistant County Manager, and Finance Director Angela Lane.

- I. Agenda – The Agenda of Tuesday, March 31, 2020 was approved by unanimous consent.
- II. Approval of Minutes – The Minutes of Thursday, March 12, 2020 were approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Discussion of Local Emergency Declaration Regarding COVID-19 Issued March 16, 2020 and Amendment Related to Future New Occupancies of Short-Term Rental Properties and Bed and Breakfasts – With ongoing concerns surrounding the spread of the Coronavirus/COVID-19, the Council discussed amending the County’s Emergency Declaration issued on March 16, 2020 to include a new Section 10. *Short-Term Rentals and Bed and Breakfasts* which states in part that “no occupancies of short term rental or bed and breakfast properties may begin after March 31, 2020 until the expiration of this First Amended Declaration or further amendment by Council.” The amended Emergency Declaration was approved upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio and a vote of 5-0 as follows:

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

- IV. Discussion of FY 2021 Budget Preparation – Council discussed projected Development Impact Fees and proposed using \$100,000 from library and general government to the General Fund, \$35,000 to the Recreation Fund and \$400,000 to Capital Projects Fund. Ms. Lane confirmed that based on her research, the County can use Development Impact Fees from public schools for the Early Head Start classrooms capital project. There was general consensus to proceed as proposed with Ms. Price noting she would like to revisit the Early Head Start classrooms capital project if the Community Development Block Grant is not available this year.

Council reviewed the Grants/Special Revenue Fund which remain flat with total revenues of \$1,497,500 and total expenditures of \$1,497,500. Council reviewed Narcotics Task Force funds (forfeitures) which will remain flat with total revenues of \$20,150 and total expenditures of \$20,150. Council reviewed Recreation Facilities which will remain flat at \$1,039,380 and included a transfer from the General Fund of \$380,880 for the Community Center and \$76,790 for the Hog Neck Golf Course.

Council discussed the Sanitary Districts including District 1 (Unionville/Tunis Mills/Copperville), District 2 (St. Michaels, Rio Vista/Bentley Hay, Royal Oak/Newcomb/Bellevue and Martingham), District 5 (Tilghman), and Septage Receiving (Bio-Solids Facility) and Onsite Sewage Disposal System. The districts are self-supported by users of the system. There are no rate increases proposed for the FY2021 budget and two new positions proposed.

Council discussed Easton Airport which will remain flat with total revenues of \$3,600,600 and total expenditures of \$3,600,600.

Council discussed Talbot Family Network which will remain flat with total revenues of \$555,979 and total expenditures of \$555,979. This includes a County appropriation of \$2,500 for the Healthy Talbot website.

Council discussed the request from Chesapeake College to use a portion of their fund balance for an information technology/AV project this spring. Estimated cost is \$245,000 with the State funding 75% and the College's fund balance funding 25%. There was general consensus for Chesapeake College to use their fund balance for this project.

Council reviewed Capital Projects. By a vote of 3-2 Council approved the appropriation of \$400,000 for the Early Head Start classrooms as follows:

Mr. Callahan – aye  
Mr. Divilio – aye  
Mr. Leshner – aye  
Mr. Pack – aye  
Ms. Price – nay

Council discussed Capital Projects for Talbot County Public Schools and agreed to fund the parking lot resurfacing projects at Easton High School and St. Michaels Middle-High School as proposed, which will include a transfer of \$ 85,000 from the General Fund and use of \$150,000 in Development Impact Fees from the Easton category by a vote of 4-1 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – aye  
Mr. Divilio – aye  
Mr. Leshner – aye  
Mr. Pack – aye  
Ms. Price – nay

Council discussed the request from Hog Neck Golf Course to purchase tables and chairs for use in the pavilion in the amount of \$14,951.07. Funds for the purchase will come from the Hog Neck Golf Course scholarship account. There was general consensus to approve the purchase of tables and chairs.

Ms. Lane recapped the proposed budget for FY2021 which includes a budget of \$96,465,000 which includes \$2.4 million in Contingency Funds, \$1.6 million in Capital Outlay, \$1.5 million for maintenance of effort for Talbot County Public Schools and \$600,000 increase in debt service. There will be no change to the property tax rate and no educational supplement. The FY 2021 projected General Fund fund balance available for future use will be \$18.5 million and Rainy Day Fund will be \$13 million. The FY2021 budget is scheduled for introduction on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

The budget work session ended at 5:20 p.m.