



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

May 26, 2020

Present – President Corey W. Pack, Vice President Chuck F. Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Laura Price, County Manager R. Andrew Hollis, County Attorney, Anthony Kupersmith and Assistant County Attorney, Mary O'Donnell.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Pack requested and received Council's unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, May 26, 2020.
- II. Disbursements – Mr. Pack requested and received Council's unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, May 19, 2020 and Tuesday, May 26, 2020.
- III. Update on COVID-19 – Clay Stamp, Director, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services/Assistant County Manager; Fredia Wadley, M.D., Talbot County Health Officer – Mr. Stamp briefed the Council on the current state of the coronavirus pandemic and provided an overview of emergency operations since activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) 75 days ago following declaration of states of emergency by federal, State and local officials. He stated that the goal of the Emergency Operations Center is to provide a common operating picture for all partners, to facilitate coordination among all the operational groups in order to deal effectively with the many issues that have surfaced during this public health crisis, and to provide joint information which is timely and relevant. He outlined the various operational working groups supported by the EOC, including medical surge, feeding, sheltering for children of public safety personnel, and joint communication efforts between the private sector and the business community to help facilitate services where needed. He spoke of the Governor's recent activation of stage one of Maryland's Strong Roadmap to Recovery, the opportunities for innovation by the business community and the challenges the reopening presents. He stated that with the reopening, both his office and Dr. Wadley will continue to watch for clusters of outbreaks, hospitalization spikes and adherence to social distancing practices. Mr. Stamp concluded his update by stating that in the coming weeks he looks forward to the EOC transitioning back to a steady state status while continuing to monitor the situation and being prepared to respond should conditions change. Dr. Wadley provided up-to-date statistical and demographic information on coronavirus cases in Talbot County and in the state. She reiterated the Governor's four pillars for reopening: declining hospitalizations, adequate preparations for surge capacity and supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for hospitals, contact tracing, and testing, and provided details for each. She stated that at the present time, testing in Talbot County is currently limited to individuals who are symptomatic; however, testing capabilities in the state are anticipated to greatly increase in the next several days and named the current testing sites. Council discussion ensued with Dr. Wadley regarding various facets of the coronavirus pandemic. Mr. Stamp and Dr. Wadley will continue to update the Council on a regular or as-needed basis.
- IV. Council Discussion of THIRD AMENDED EMERGENCY DECLARATION AMENDING AND RESTATING THE SECOND AMENDED EMERGENCY DECLARATION OF APRIL 28, 2020, DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN TALBOT COUNTY FOR A PERIOD OF 30 DAYS, ORDERING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CERTAIN BUILDING AND THE SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN MEETINGS, AND ORDERING TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SHORT-TERM RENTALS AND BED AND BREAKFASTS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, IN ORDER TO PREVENT

THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, adopted on May 21, 2020 – The Clerk read the Fourth Amended Emergency Declaration, amending and restating the Third Amended Emergency Declaration of May 21, 2020, into the record. Mr. Pack stated that the Third Amended Emergency Declaration re-opened short-term rentals and bed-and-breakfasts in the county and extended the declaration out for 30 days through the month of June, but that several members of Council had indicated on May 21st that they wanted to review the wording again. Mr. Leshar outlined his proposed changes to the wording in No. 5 Closure of Public Buildings; No. 8 Board and Committee Meetings; and No. 9 County Council Meetings. At Mr. Leshar's request, County Attorney, Anthony Kupersmith, outlined each of the proposed changes in more detail and Council discussion ensued with Mr. Kupersmith and County Manager, R. Andrew Hollis. Mr. Hollis stated that although County Government offices had been closed to the public for a period of time, County staff had continued to provide service to citizens. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved amending No. 5 as read into the record by Mr. Kupersmith, by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Mr. Kupersmith read the wording of the proposed changes to No. 8 into the record and Council discussion ensued. Mr. Leshar made a motion to adopt the proposed changes to No. 8 as drafted; the motion was seconded by Mr. Divilio. Prior to the vote, Mr. Divilio made a motion to amend the wording on 8b to read as follows: *All attendees shall wear face coverings where social distancing of six feet or a physical barrier may not be permitted*; Mr. Leshar suggested that the wording should say *...cannot be maintained* instead of *... may not be permitted*; Mr. Divilio concurred with Mr. Leshar's suggestion, Mr. Leshar seconded the motion and the Council approved the amendment to No. 8b by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Callahan, No. 8, as amended, was approved by the Council by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Mr. Kupersmith read the proposed changes to No. 9 a, b, and c into the record, stating that the changes proposed to No. 9b mirrored those in No. 8b. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Leshar, Council approved the amendments to No. 9 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved No. 9, as amended, by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Mr. Kupersmith outlined changes proposed by Mr. Leshner to the language of No. 10 Short-Term Rentals and Bed and Breakfasts as follows: *The County Council encourages all short-term rentals and bed and breakfast owners to follow the recommended guidelines set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.* Mr. Kupersmith stated that the language just read into the record would replace language approved last Thursday that required owners to provide copies of the guidelines to all guests. He stated that the intent of the change is not necessarily about providing a physical piece of paper to a guest, it is about having the owners of the properties look at the proposed guidelines and implement some of the changes such as having check-in/check-out times that take into account the ability to disinfect the accommodations per CDC recommendations as outlined in Exhibit “A”. Mr. Leshner read Exhibit “A” into the record and Council discussion ensued. Mr. Kupersmith stated that the title of the document needed to be changed from Third Amended to *FOURTH AMENDED EMERGENCY DECLARATION AMENDING AND RESTATING THE THIRD AMENDED EMERGENCY DECLARATION OF MAY 21, 2020, DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN TALBOT COUNTY, ALLOWING FOR THE FUTURE REOPENING OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND THE RE-STARTING OF CERTAIN MEETINGS, IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19*; and a new *WHEREAS* clause added to read as follows: *WHEREAS, on May 21, 2020, the Talbot County Council adopted an Amended Emergency Declaration declaring a state of emergency in the county for a period of an additional 30 days and ordering the continued temporary closure of certain buildings, the continued suspension of certain meetings, the extension of certain expiring licenses, and allowed occupancies and reservations for short-term rentals and bed and breakfasts to re-start, in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and begin the path toward recovery....* . Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the changes requested by Mr. Kupersmith by voting 5 – 0 as follow:

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

The *FOURTH ANEBDED EMERGENCY DECLARATION* will supersede all previous Emergency Declarations approved by the Council with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- V. Recommendation from Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Regarding County Pools and Summer Camp – Preston Peper, Director, Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation – Mr. Peper stated that most of the programs conducted by the Department of Parks and Recreation require individuals to be in close proximity to one another and as such, it is the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board that County pools and summer camp remain closed for the 2020 season. He stated that the recommendation was being made based on the following factors: safety, feasibility, staffing and budgeting, and outlined the challenges with each. He stated that, in his opinion, camp could possibly open after July 1 since social distancing of campers is easier to maintain than with the pools and that lack of adequate staffing is not an issue as it is with the pools. Council discussion ensued. Upon motion by Mr.

Divilio, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved having the pools remain closed for the 2020 season and to prepare to open summer camp by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

VI. Introduction of Numbered Resolutions:

A RESOLUTION TO PLACE A QUESTION ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 2020 GENERAL ELECTION TO ADD A SECTION TO THE TALBOT COUNTY CHARTER TO ALLOW THE COUNTY COUNCIL TO WAIVE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Mr. Pack stated that Mr. Leshler had put forth a proposal regarding whether Council might want to have the latitude to waive the residency requirements for certain department heads (County Engineer, County Planning Officer and County Attorney) as currently outlined in the County Charter. He stated that the Council understands the difficulties that certain department heads may have in finding a home in Talbot County and moving their family here. He stated that he and Mr. Leshler had requested that Assistant County Attorney, Mary O'Donnell, draft legislation to be considered by Council for approval and placement on the ballot at the November 2020 General Election; a supermajority (four-fifths) vote by the Council is required for placement of the resolution on the ballot. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshler, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price as Resolution No. 285. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wye Oak Room, Talbot County Community Center, 10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A RESOLUTION TO PLACE A QUESTION ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 2020 GENERAL ELECTION TO AMEND § 614 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CHARTER TO CLARIFY THAT THE CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE CERTIFICATION PREPARED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION SHOULD BE USED TO IDENTIFY PROPERTIES INCLUDED ON THE TAX ROLLS was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, County Attorney Anthony Kupersmith stated that the legislation was derived from recommendations to the Council following meetings conducted by the Property Tax Referendum Committee. He reiterated a previous statement by Ms. Lane that the Constant Yield is, in her opinion, the document Talbot County needs to use in order to establish the tax base from year to year. Ms. Price stated that it is important that the Council hear from members of the public so that we will know whether to put the items on the ballot in November. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshler, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price as Resolution No. 286. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wye Oak Room, Talbot County Community Center, 10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A RESOLUTION TO PLACE A QUESTION ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 2020 GENERAL ELECTION TO AMEND § 614 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CHARTER SO THAT CONSUMER PRICE INDEX-URBAN (CPI-U), A MEASURE INTENDED TO TRACK THE COST OF GOODS IN URBAN, NOT RURAL, SETTINGS, IS NO LONGER USED IN CALCULATING THE CAP ON REVENUES DERIVED FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN TALBOT COUNTY was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Finance Director, Angela Lane, stated that it was the recommendation of the Property Tax Referendum Committee that the CPI-U (Consumer Price Index – Urban) be removed in order to allow the Council to set a rate that would generate two percent (2%) more in additional revenues than is currently generated. The resolution was

introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshner, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price as Resolution No. 287. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wye Oak Room, Talbot County Community Center, 10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton, Maryland 21601.

A RESOLUTION TO PLACE A QUESTION ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 2020 GENERAL ELECTION TO AMEND § 614 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CHARTER TO ALLOW, BUT NOT REQUIRE, THE COUNTY COUNCIL TO ADD UP TO ONE CENT (1¢) PER ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS OF ASSESSED VALUE ABOVE THE REVENUE CAP FOR NO MORE THAN FIVE YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Finance Director, Angela Lane, stated that the proposed legislation was recommended to the Council by the Property Tax Referendum Committee for consideration as a potential ballot question. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Leshner and Mr. Pack as Resolution No. 288. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wye Oak Room, Talbot County Community Center, 10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton, Maryland 21601.

VII. Introduction of Legislation:

A BILL TO AMEND ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 64 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE (DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES) TO ADD NEW DEFINITIONS FOR “SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED DWELLING”, “OTHER RESIDENTIAL”, AND “FRANCHISED BUSINESS”; AND TO EXCLUDE FRANCHISED BUSINESSES FROM THE SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVE RATE USED TO CALCULATE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Planning Officer, Mary Kay Verdery, stated that the purpose of the legislation is to amend Chapter 64 of the Talbot County Code to address two separate matters, the first of which is the application of impact fees for multiple detached single-family dwellings on a single lot. She stated that by adding a definition of “single-family detached” and “other residential”, multiple single-family detached homes would be permitted to have the same advantage with regard to impact fees that apartments or multiple family units can have, even though they are not physically connected. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Verdery. She stated that the purpose of the second portion of the legislation is to also reserve the incentive for companies which are not franchise businesses. Ms. Price stated that, in her opinion, the language of the legislation should be clarified to include only owner-operated franchises, not corporate chain franchises. Council discussion again ensued. At Council’s request, the proposed legislation will be redrafted as two separate pieces of legislation and scheduled for introduction at a later date.

VIII. Public Hearings:

Resolution No. 283, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND TALBOT COUNTY RESOLUTION 235 AND THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWER PLAN TO AUTHORIZE A SINGLE SEWER CONNECTION AND A SINGLE EQUIVALENT DWELLING UNIT OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT CAPACITY TO EACH BUILDABLE LOT OF LAND CREATED PURSUANT TO A PENDING MAJOR LOT LINE REVISION PLAT TITLED “MAJOR LINE REVISION ON THE LANDS OF MCMILES, LLC IN THE FIRST ELECTION DISTRICT TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND TAX MAP 24, GRID 24, PARCEL 118, LOTS 43-49”, PREPARED BY LANE ENGINEERING, LLC, AND DATED NOVEMBER 19, 2019, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, County Engineer, Ray Clarke, stated that the Public Works Advisory Board, at its meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 voted 5 – 0 to recommend that the Council approve the legislation. He stated that the Planning Commission, at its meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 voted 5 – 0 that the resolution was consistent with the County’s Comprehensive Plan. The public was afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation.

Resolution No. 284, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EXECUTION OF AN OPTION TO LEASE AS WELL AS THE TERMS OF A LONG-TERM LEASE OF CERTAIN UNIMPROVED LAND LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING CELLULAR TOWER ON CORKRAN ROAD AT THE EASTON AIRPORT TO NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC; THE LAND TO BE LEASED CONSISTING OF FOUR HUNDRED FOURTEEN (414) SQUARE FEET; THE TERM OF THE OPTION BEING ONE-YEAR IN EXCHANGE FOR THE NON-REFUNDABLE SUM OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00); AND, THE TERM OF THE LEASE BEING FIVE (5) YEARS WITH RENT OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) PER MONTH, SUBJECT TO A THREE PERCENT (3%) ANNUAL ESCALATOR, AND THE RIGHT TO RENEW SAID LEASE FOR FIVE (5) SUCCESSIVE RENEWAL TERMS OF FIVE (5) YEARS EACH, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Micah Risher, Manager, Easton Airport, stated that the resolution is for a ground lease for Cingular Wireless, the wireless subsidiary of AT&T, which, if approved, would provide for the placement of their equipment on the cellular tower at Easton Airport; Verizon service is already located on the tower. Easton Airport would receive revenue from Cingular Wireless and citizens would have enhanced cellular service. The public was afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation.

Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Callahan, Resolution No. 283 and Resolution No. 284 were brought to third reader with the Council voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

The Council approved Resolution No. 283 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Resolution No. 283 is effective immediately.

The Council approved Resolution No. 284 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Resolution No. 284 is effective immediately.

IX. Eligible for Vote:

Bill No. 1445, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE 2020-2021 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, *and amendments*, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote.

Finance Director, Angela Lane, read the proposed amendments into the record as follows:

Section 1. Tax Rates – Service Charge based on a rate of 0.50 percent, a change from 0.80, percent will be applied to the unpaid balance of Real Property Taxes in December on the properties with the semiannual tax payment option.

APPROPRIATION BUDGET – Sheriff’s Department – Salaries & Benefits – from \$3,749,204 to \$3,971,531 – an increase of \$222,327; Operating Expense from \$848,200 to \$854,200 – an increase of \$6,000; DARE – Salaries & Benefits - from \$53,322 to \$59,405, an increase of \$6,083; Reserve for Contingencies – from \$2,438,660 to \$2,204,250 – a decrease of \$234,410

Total changes from \$7,089,386 to \$7,089,386 - No net change.

Section 4. FY21 Annual Budget and Appropriation for Grants & Special Revenues Fund:

REVENUE BUDGET – Community Programs – Franchise fees – from \$110,000 to \$109,500 – a decrease of \$500.00;

APPROPRIATION BUDGET – Grants Fund – Community Programs – from \$110,000 to \$109,500 – a decrease of \$500;

Net change of \$0.

Section 7. Recreation Facilities Capital Projects for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, ending June 30, 2021:

Talbot County Community Center – Gymnasium Addition – from \$4,000,000 to \$4,000,000 – no change in the total project

Source of Funds – Local Funds/Contributions from \$100,000 to \$165,000 – an increase of \$65,000; Federal & State Grants – from \$800,000 to \$1,450,000 – an increase of \$650,000; Contributions – from \$3,100,000 to \$0 – a decrease of \$3,100,000; Long Term Debt – from \$0 to \$2,385,000 – an increase of \$2,385,000;

TOTAL FUNDS FY2021 – from \$4,000,000 to \$4,000,000

Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the changes as outlined in Section 1 and Section 4 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Mr. Divilio made a motion to approve Section 7 as outlined; Mr. Callahan seconded the motion and Council discussion ensued. The Council approved Section 7 by voting 4 – 1 as follows:

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

Mr. Leshner made a motion to approve Bill No. 1445, as amended; the motion was seconded by Mr. Divilio, and Council comment ensued regarding the budget process in these unprecedented times. The Council approved Bill No. 1445, as amended, by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Following approval of the FY2020-2021 Budget, as amended, Ms. Lane briefed the Council on the upcoming Bond Sale scheduled for June 2, 2020. She stated that she and Mr. Hollis had recently been advised by the County's two bond rating agencies, Moody's and Fitch, that Talbot County has maintained its current strong ratings, AA2 and AAA, respectively. She stated that the ratings are based on the County's stability in terms of its revenues, the handling of its finances, and the rating agencies' anticipation that the County will continue to be fiscally conservative.

- X. Update on County Repurposing Facility – Warren Edwards, Roads Superintendent; Mary Kay Verdery, Talbot County Planning Officer – Mr. Edwards updated the Council on his previous request for consideration to begin the process to be permitted to sell material from the proposed recycling center. He stated that he had spoken with Planning Officer, Mary Kay Verdery, regarding zoning related matters and that meetings are planned with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and for approval of the site and forestry plans; Council had previously approved Mr. Edwards moving forward with the site and forestry plan process. Ms. Verdery stated that the proposed repurposing center currently has a temporary use certificate which is specifically associated with projects which have been identified as large community and/or roads projects that have recycled material. She stated that what is being proposed is a permanent repurposing facility for the processing and sale of the product created at the facility which would require approval of a Special Exception from the Board of Appeals; a major site plan approval would also be required by the Planning Commission. Ms. Verdery stated that if approved, the proposed recycling facility would then be permitted to sell the material it recycles. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Edwards and Ms. Verdery. Mr. Edwards provided a PowerPoint presentation showing various stages of products recycled from the demolition of the Easton Elementary School (Moton Building). He stated that Ms. Verdery had previously estimated the timeframe for all approvals necessary for the proposed repurposing center would be four to six months. Council discussion again ensued with Mr. Edwards. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved having Mr. Edwards proceed with the process for approval of a permanent repurposing use certificate by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

XI. County Manager’s Report:

A. Request from Department of Emergency Services – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Emergency Services purchase 80 alerting pagers for the Cordova Volunteer Firemen’s Association and Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company in the sum of \$59,055.68 in order to address inadequate radio coverage in the northern end of the county. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the purchase by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

B. Request from Department of Public Works – Requested Council approval to submit a grant application to the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund in the sum of up to \$500,000 for additional upgrades to the Goldsborough Neck Road project to connect to Villa Road; the first phase of the upgrades has been completed. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved submittal of the grant application by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

C. Bid No. 17-09, ST. MICHAELS PUMPING STATION #3 UPGRADE/REHABILITATION – TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND (Change Order No. 17) – Requested Council approval to award Change Order No. 17 for Bid No. 17-09 to current contractor Schummer, Inc. in the sum of \$1,124,305.00, contingent upon the Town of St. Michaels paying the remaining cost of \$350,000. Mr. Hollis stated that the County had submitted an application for an additional \$1.4 million for the project and had recently been notified of its approval. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the Change Order by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- D. Bid No. 15-23, TALBOT COUNTY ST. MICHAELS PHASE V SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM REPLACEMENT/REHABILITATION AND GRACE STREET PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT ENGINEERING SERVICES – Proposed Engineering Agreement with Rauch, Inc. (Amendment No. 11, 12, and 13) – Requested Council approval to increase the engineering services agreement with Rauch, Inc. in the sum of \$182,125 to include Amendment No. 11, additional inspection and engineering services; Amendment No. 12, engineering services related to electronically mapping the remaining sewer; and Amendment No. 13, engineering design services for additional work; funding will come from recent funding awarded by the USDA. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the Amendments to the Engineering Agreement with Rauch, Inc. by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- E. Request for Letter of Support from Town of Easton – Requested Council approval of a letter in support of the Town of Easton’s request to the Maryland State Highway Administration for the installation of sidewalks on portions of Maryland Route 328 (Matthewstown Road). Mr. Leshner stated that the request is for sidewalks approximately halfway between the U.S. Rt. 50 and the Matthewstown Run intersection, which is a State road. He stated that the route is utilized by citizens residing at the new Galloway Meadows development to walk to Wal-Mart, etc. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Leshner. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved forwarding a letter in support of the Town’s request by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- F. Talbot County Economic Development Commission – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Ron Engle to a three-year term on the Talbot County Economic Development Commission as a representative of the Town of Easton; said term will expire on June 30, 2023. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- G. Comment on Talbot County’s Bond Ratings – Mr. Hollis stated that Ms. Lane’s previous statements about the County’s bond rating tells the public that the fiscally conservative decisions by this Council and those of previous Councils have offered stability on a continuing basis in a tax cap county. He stated that it is highly unusual to have sound bond ratings from

both Moody’s and Fitch and that tells the public that the Council is doing a good job for which credit is deserved.

XII. Public Comments: There was no public comment.

XIII. Council Comments:

Mr. Divilio – No comments.

Mr. Leshner - No comments.

Ms. Price - No comments.

Mr. Callahan - Following Mr. Hollis’ statements, Mr. Callahan stated that he would miss his conversations with Ms. O’Donnell. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. O’Donnell for her honesty, because, in his opinion, sometimes being honest is hard. Mr. Callahan concluded his comments by stating that Ms. O’Donnell had been a real asset for the County and he wished her the best.

Mr. Pack - Mr. Pack reminded everyone that the Maryland Primary is June 2nd, that eligible voters should have received their ballots through the mail, and encouraged everyone to mark their ballots and have them postmarked by the June 2nd deadline. Following Mr. Pack’s statement, Ms. Price related a past experience with mailed ballots which were sent to the incorrect address. Mr. Pack congratulated the Class of 2020 at Easton High School, St. Michaels High School and all the other public and private schools in Talbot County. He stated that, in his opinion, it is a very different time for them as they are the first virtual graduating class in history. Mr. Pack then asked Assistant County Attorney, Mary O’Donnell to come forward. He expressed his gratitude and well wishes to Ms. O’Donnell as she makes a career move to take the position of Magistrate in Dorchester County. He stated that, in his opinion, she is a perfect fit for that job and that community, having worked there for many years himself in the field of public safety and correctional services and working closely with the judges and the State’s Attorney. He again expressed his appreciation to Ms. O’Donnell for her service to Talbot County and the positive impacts she had during her time with the County.

Ms. O’Donnell stated that she would miss everyone, had learned a great deal from everyone, which, in her opinion, will serve her well in the future. She stated that the time she had spent with Talbot County has been a very important time in her life. She concluded her comments by stating that she will still be living in Talbot County so will continue to be a part of things.

County Attorney, Anthony Kupersmith expressed his appreciation to Ms. O’Donnell for her contributions to the Talbot County Office of Law during her tenure over the past three years. Mr. Kupersmith wished Ms. O’Donnell the best in her new job.

Mr. Hollis expressed his appreciation for serving with an employee of such high caliber and high standing and that, as Mr. Kupersmith had previously stated, he had also learned a lot from Ms. O’Donnell. He stated that Dorchester County is fortunate to have someone of her caliber.

XIV. The Council will reconvene on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 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. The Closed Session and the Council meeting will take place in the Wye Oak Room at the Talbot County Community Center, 10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton, Maryland.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

The transcript of the May 26, 2020 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XV. Summary of Closed Session held on May 26, 2020:

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

Time of closed session: 5:00 p.m. to 5:35 p.m.
 Place of closed session: Wye Oak Room, Talbot County Community Center
 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: Pack, Callahan, Price, Divilio, Lesher
 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	Persons present	Action taken
Discuss appointments to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305 (b) (1)	Corey Pack, Chuck Callahan, Laura Price, Frank Divilio, Pete Lesher, Andy Hollis, Susan Moran, Anthony Kupersmith, Mary O'Donnell	None
Discuss personnel matter in Permits and Inspections	GP § 3-305 (b) (1)	Same as above	Consensus to fill vacancy for part-time administrative assistant
Discuss personnel matter in County Attorney's Office	GP § 3-305 (b) (1)	Same as above	None
Discuss proposed acquisition of property	GP § 3-305 (b) (3)	Same as above	No action

for a public purpose in Easton area			
Legal advice regarding damage to County roads and possible litigation	GP § 3-305 (b) (7) and (8)	Same as above, plus Warren Edwards	Approval given to negotiate with insurance company for road repair

CASH STATEMENT 5/19/2020

BALANCE 5/12/2020	5,706,941.73
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 5/01/2020	(599,954.54)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 5/01/2020	(17,871.87)
PENSION DED PPE 5/01/2020	(38,105.55)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 5/01/2020 PLAN 401(A)	(7,116.40)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 5/11/2020	(35,660.01)
STATE REPORT 4/2020	(19,827.52)
WF/GF EQUIPMENT LEASE PYMT 5/2020	(4,092.00)
DEPOSITS	193,376.90
CHECKS	(830,604.07)
BALANCE 5/19/2020	<u>4,347,086.67</u>

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.44%	15,500,000.00
1880 BANK			10,124,514.33
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>25,624,514.33</u>
PETTY CASH			<u>15,570.00</u>
BALANCE			
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>			<u>29,987,171.00</u>

CASH STATEMENT 5/26/2020

BALANCE 5/19/2020	4,347,086.67
-------------------	--------------

CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 5/18/2020	(38,191.30)
ELECTION BOARD PPE 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, & 5/5/2020	(29,906.34)
MAY 2020 ENTERPRISE LEASE PYMT	(8,966.68)
SALES & USE HOG NECK GOLF COURSE DUE 5/20/2020	(0.12)

DEPOSITS	608,031.57
CHECKS	(381,593.32)
VOIDED CHECK(S) # 340817	125.00

BALANCE 5/26/2020	4,496,585.48
--------------------------	---------------------

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.38%	15,500,000.00
1880 BANK			10,124,514.33

TOTAL INVESTED	25,624,514.33
-----------------------	----------------------

PETTY CASH BALANCE	15,570.00
---------------------------	------------------

<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>	30,136,669.81
-------------------------------------	----------------------