



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

March 24, 2026

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 – The Agenda for Tuesday, March 24, 2026, was brought forward for approval. Mr. Stepp made a motion to amend the agenda to delay the presentation on the Proclamation for National Public Health Week to a later session; the motion was seconded by Ms. Mielke and the Council approved the agenda, as amended, by voting 3 - 2 as follows:

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

- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, March 17, 2026, and Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

- IV. Update to Board of Health – Dr. Fahmi Fahmi, Talbot County Health Officer – Dr. Fahmi utilized a PowerPoint presentation to update the Council, sitting as the Board of Health, on the following services provided by, and initiatives of, the Talbot County Health Department: (1) Senior Services – Dr. Fahmi provided statistical information on the number of senior citizens in Talbot County who receive various services from the Health Department, including through the Senior Care program, nurse monitoring, screenings and evaluations. He noted various partnerships to help enable expansion of senior services, including Health Department employees' participation with the Maryland Department of Health's Office of Long Term Supports and Services to facilitate the employees' certification as statewide trainers for the Inter-Resident Assessment Instrument Home Care and Pediatric (interRAI – HC) assessment tools, a standardized system used to evaluate and coordinate care for individuals with complex health needs; coordination with Talbot County Emergency Medical Services on the Mobile Integrated Health program; the participation of Senior Services Director, Carrie Ottey, on the Talbot County Senior Citizen Task Force, and the purchase of a van currently being modified to accommodate transport of handicapped individuals; (2) Sustainable Transportation – receipt of an electric vehicle from Baltimore to provide expanded delivery of services and outreach in the county in a more efficient, eco-friendly manner; (3) Family Services Program – training of 23 doulas in the community for the Maternal Child Health Program which has provided 784 home visits for the Healthy Families Program; the Early Head Start Program currently serves 28 children and families; Easton High School is in the process of developing a vegetable garden which will be located on the Easton Elementary School campus to both support nutrition and education on healthier foods for the Healthy Families Program; the

Maryland Children’s Health Program has assisted 553 families this fiscal year with Medicaid enrollment and care coordination and is working to support 132 individuals with developmental disabilities; (4) Community Garden – Dr. Fahmi stated that the community garden project, proposed for the Easton Elementary School campus, is designed to improve food insecurity for Early Head Start children and their families by providing fresh produce as well as educational sessions on cooking; (5) Health Services - Dr. Fahmi provided statistical information on the various health services provided by the Talbot County Health Department for the reporting period of July 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025, including immunizations, screenings, smoking cessation classes, family planning, the number of clients served, and the tracking of several cases of communicable diseases. He stated that the Health Department had initiated a new free adult vaccine program for uninsured and underinsured adults; (6) Environmental Health – Dr. Fahmi stated that Environmental Health Department is in the process of moving from a paper to digital format to ensure the Department is more efficient and customer focused. He stated that the Health Department made a presentation to Easton Scout Troop 190 regarding food safety; (7) Information Technology (IT) – He stated that technology software is being revamped to provide increased workflow efficiency and security, including the use of AI to help ensure that the Health Department website is more user friendly to individuals who are hearing or visually impaired; (8) Preparedness, Prevention, School Health – Dr. Fahmi stated that to date, 39 children have been fitted with glasses, free of charge, thanks to a partnership with eye specialists; this is the second time the free eye service has been provided; is partnering with the American Legion to offer a Healthy Heart Ambassadors Program to assist individuals with maintaining a healthier style of living; the Health Department continues its intern program with participation by students from Johns Hopkins, Stevenson University and the University of Maryland on a rotational basis. Dr. Fahmi stated that the Health Department currently has two vending machines, one in their lobby and one at the Department of Corrections, offering free health and personal hygiene items, as well as Narcan and test strips for addictive medications; (9) Public Information Office – Dr. Fahmi stated that the Public Information Office (PIO) has been instrumental in getting information out to the public throughout the year in a timely manner on such matters as the availability of cooling centers in the summertime and temporary shelters during winter storm season; influenza prevention and vaccines, pool safety, and pollen and tick season. The goal is to provide information one season ahead. He stated that the Health Department is undergoing significant changes in its emergency preparedness program, has a new emergency preparedness director, and training is ongoing for the whole department. He stated that the Health Department is currently undergoing a five-year strategic planning process to ensure that manpower is strategically placed where needed within the Department. Dr. Fahmi concluded his presentation by expressing his appreciation to the Council and Mr. Stamp for their support. Council members expressed their appreciation to Dr. Fahmi and the Health Department for the services they provide to the citizens of Talbot County,

- V. Presentation of Delmarva Community Transit’s FY2027 Annual Transportation Plan – Michelle Nichols, Interim President/CEO, Chief Operating Officer, Delmarva Community Services, Inc.; Samantha Parker, Special Projects consultant, Delmarva Community Services, Inc.; Andrea Waters, Transportation Grants Specialist, Delmarva Community Services, Inc.– Prior to presentation of the FY27 Annual Transportation Plan, Ms. Nichols expressed her appreciation to the Council for their partnership in providing transportation services to the citizens of Talbot County and assured the Council that Delmarva Community Services, Inc. is continuing to move forward under new leadership. Ms. Parker briefed the Council on the various types of transportation services provided by Delmarva Community Transit (DCT): general customers, senior transports, Mobility on Demand (MOD) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) services (Talbot County only). She stated that in 2025, DCT provided 22,388 route services in Talbot County and 20,600 on-demand rides throughout Caroline, Kent and Talbot counties. Ms. Parker stated that DCT plans to begin

meeting with the Council on an annual basis prior to coming to the Council to request approval of their annual transportation plan to discuss various initiatives related to routes, promoting ridership etc. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Nichols and Ms. Parker. Ms. Waters briefed the Council on Delmarva Community Transit's annual transportation grant application to Maryland Department of Transportation for FY2027 funding under the Federal Transit Act; the Transportation Plan covers transportation for Talbot, Kent, and Caroline counties. She stated that the grant application for FY27 includes operating and capital funding requests as well as the sources of all funding received through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). She stated that the FY27 application also includes a request for funding for replacement of three (3) vehicles: two (2) transit vans and one (1) bus. The total federal and State funding provided is \$1,799,786; the local share, provided by Kent, Caroline and Talbot counties totals \$526,382. Council discussion ensued with the representatives as various facets of the presentation were brought forward. Council members expressed their appreciation to Delmarva Community Transit for the services they provide. The Council approved the FY27 Annual Transportation Plan as presented by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

VI. Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TALBOT COUNTY TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A SECTION 5303, 5304, 5307, 5309, 5310, AND 5311 GRANT UNDER THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ACT was read into the record by the Clerk and 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

VII. Presentation by Easton Utilities on Talbot County Rural Broadband Project, *Connect Talbot* – John Horner, President & CEO, Easton Utilities; Ted Book, Vice President, Easton Velocity – Mr. Horner utilized a PowerPoint presentation to update the Council on the *Connect Talbot* project, an initiative to ensure that unserved residents of Talbot County have access to broadband. He stated that as of now, the project is complete, and as such, Talbot County is the first fully funded county in the state of Maryland and is the first county to provide access to all citizens. Mr. Horner stated that Easton Velocity, a service of Easton Utilities, completed 360 miles of mainline fiber throughout the county, and to date, 2,300 customers have signed up for service. Mr. Horner provided a brief timeline of the project which began in 2016 when the State of Maryland formed the Rural Broadband Task Force. He stated that in 2017 Talbot County issued a Request for Interest, and in 2019 Easton Utilities was chosen to partner with Talbot County on the project for extension of broadband access. He stated that following approval by the Town of Easton to move forward, Easton Utilities entered into a formal agreement with Talbot County, whereby the County provided

\$3 million in funding as matching funds to initiate the project. He stated that in 2020 Easton Utilities received \$14 million in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Reconnect Grant funding and construction began; additional grant funding was received from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), USDA, the State of Maryland and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as a result of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; total grant funding received was \$35 million, with the total cost of the project \$45 million; the total County investment was over \$5 million, including grant funding. Mr. Book provided a timelapse video of the installation of fiber outlining preexisting service in 2021 to present coverage. He stated that customers who are interested in being connected are encouraged to do so while grant funding remains available; individuals can determine their eligibility for service at: <https://eastonvelocity.com/connectalbot/>. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Book and Mr. Horner. Mr. Horner expressed his sincere appreciation for the support to all those who assisted with getting the project started and bringing it to fruition, including former and current federal, State, Town, and County representatives and staff, and his predecessor, Hugh Grunden. Council members expressed their appreciation to Easton Utilities for their partnership on the project and concurred with Mr. Horner's statement that this is a "legacy project".

VIII. Eligible for Vote:

Bill No. 1624, A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 190 (ZONING, SUBDIVISION, AND LAND DEVELOPMENT) OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING THAT CANNABIS GROWING AND THE PROCESSING OF CANNABIS GROWN ON-SITE SHALL BE PERMITTED BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION IN THE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION, COUNTRYSIDE PRESERVATION, AND WESTERN RURAL CONSERVATION ZONING DISTRICTS, PROVIDING THAT THE PROCESSING OF CANNABIS GROWN OFF-SITE SHALL BE PERMITTED BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION IN THE VILLAGE MIXED, GENERAL COMMERCIAL, AND LIMITED INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICTS, AND PROVIDING THAT CANNABIS DISPENSARIES SHALL BE PERMITTED BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION IN THE LIMITED COMMERCIAL, GENERAL COMMERCIAL, AND LIMITED INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICTS, EACH SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS, AND DEFINING TERMS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. Prior to the vote, County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that, if approved, the legislation would allow for the growing and processing of cannabis in the county, as well as allow for cannabis dispensaries in the county, all by Special Exception only with approval from the Board of Appeals. He stated that the provisions for growing and processing of cannabis are much stricter than in previous legislation considered by the Council, which provides for 1,000-foot setbacks from residential and institutional uses, including schools and increases the minimum lot size requirement to 75 acres, both of which are a significant increase over the previous legislation requiring 500-foot setbacks and a minimum lot size of 20 acres. He stated that the provisions outlined in the legislation for dispensaries are as strict as are permitted under State law; Council discussion ensued. Mr. Callahan stated that, in his opinion, although Council had done a good job with the legislation, he still could not vote for it. Mr. Stepp stated that he would be voting in favor of the legislation because if the Council doesn't enact its own legislation, the County's regulations will default to the State regulations which are much more liberal; Ms. Mielke and Ms. Haythe concurred with Mr. Stepp's comments. The Council approved Bill No. 1624 by voting 4 – 1 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Nay

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Mielke – Aye

Ms. Haythe - Aye

- IX. Presentation of 2026 Priority Listing to Maryland Department of Transportation – Ray Clarke, County Engineer; Josh Elliott, Assistant County Engineer – Mr. Clarke stated that the Public Works Advisory Board, at its meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2026, reviewed the priority listing. Mr. Elliott noted that the *Easton Airport Airfield Modernization Program* section has been updated to reflect the current status of the project. Mr. Elliott reviewed each item on the priority listing and stated that the *US-50/Norris Taylor Drive – Traffic Signal* and *Chapel Road (West Side of US-50) – Dedicated Turn Lane* items within the town of Easton can be removed from the listing as those projects have been completed by the State Highway Administration. He stated that Talbot Thrive requested at the Public Works Advisory Board meeting that the *Frederick Douglass Recreational Trail from the Town of Easton to the Town of Queen Anne* be added back to the listing in the event funding opportunities are available; the item was omitted from the 2025 Priority Listing. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Elliott and Mr. Clarke as the various items were brought forward. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the 2026 Priority Listing with the changes as outlined by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Mielke – Aye

Ms. Haythe - Aye

- X. County Manager’s Report:

- A. Adult Public Guardianship Review Board – Requested Council approval for the appointment of William Chapman as the Board’s attorney; said term will complete the unexpired term of Glenn Klakring; requested the appointment of Christine Montague to the Board to complete the unexpired term of Kerri Engels Roberts; said terms will expire on January 1, 2028. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the appointments by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan - Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Mielke – Aye

Ms. Haythe - Aye

- B. Commission on the Aging – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Kate Stinton (citizen representative); Wendy Palmer (citizen representative); and Sandra Wieland (nursing home mental health consultant) to three-year terms on the Commission; said terms will expire on April 1, 2029. Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan - Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

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

- C. Talbot County Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board – Requested Council approval to forward a letter of recommendation to the Governor’s Appointments Office to have Thomas “Tom” Costigan move from an Alternate Member to a Member on the Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board. Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved forwarding the letter of recommendation by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- D. Upper Shore Aging Board of Directors – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Judy Simon to a three-year term on the Upper Shore Aging Board of Directors as a Talbot County representative; said term will expire in September 2029. Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Ms. Haythe, 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

- E. Request for Letter of Support – Requested Council approval for a letter in support of Waterfowl Festival Inc.’s application for Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Heritage Area Grant Funding; if approved, the funding will be utilized toward restoration of the historic stage in the Waterfowl Festival Inc. facility; no County funding is required. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved forwarding a letter of support by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- F. Bid 25-04, GRASS CUTTING SERVICES – PARKS, BALL FIELDS, AND LANDINGS – TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND – Requested Council approval of the recommendation of the Assistant Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to extend the contract for Bid No. 25-04 with Marshall’s Professional Property Management LLC for the 2026 season in the sum of \$89,500; there are sufficient funds in the budget. Mr. Stamp stated that the contract provides for four (4) one-year renewal options upon Council’s approval. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp,

seconded by Mr. Haythe, the Council approved the contract extension by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- G. Request from Town of Easton – Requested Council approval of a request from the Town of Easton to Enter Into a Deed of Right-of-Way and Easement with Talbot County, Maryland for Extension of the Town’s “Rails to Trails” Over, Through, Across, and Under County Property located in the Town of Easton, Talbot County, Maryland Described as Tax Map 104, Grid EA, Parcel 1367. Mr. Stamp stated that the subject parcel is known as the Moton School property. Council discussion ensued. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved entering into a Deed of Right-of-Way and Easement by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- H. Bid No. 25-15, TALBOT COUNTY REGION IV WWTP IMPROVEMENT PLANS PRESERVE AT WYE MILLS, RUSTLING OAKS DRIVE, WYE MILLS, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND – Contract Scope Adjustment – Commissioning – Requested Council approval of the County Engineer’s recommendation to award contractor, Premier Services Group, LLC, a Change Order for Bid No. 25-15 - contract scope adjustment – commissioning, for The Preserve at Wye Mills (Region IV) Wastewater Treatment Plant replacement project in the sum of \$110,000; said cost is eligible for a 75.6% grant (\$83,160) and a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan (\$26,840), bringing the total project cost to \$1,910,000. Council discussion ensued with County Engineer, Ray Clarke who stated that the new Region IV wastewater treatment plant will be the first MBR (Membrane Bioreactor Technology) plant in the county and will provide a higher level of filtration. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the Change Order by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- I. Bid No. 25-15, TALBOT COUNTY REGION IV WWTP IMPROVEMENT PLANS PRESERVE AT WYE MILLS, RUSTLING OAKS DRIVE, WYE MILLS, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND – Construction Engineering and Inspection Services – Requested Council approval to award a Change Order to Rauch, Inc. the contract for construction engineering and inspection services for Bid No.25-15 in the sum of \$62,250; the award is subject to approval by the Maryland Department of the

Environment. If approved, said cost is eligible for a 75.6% (\$47,137) Enhance Nutrient Removal (ENR) grant and a State Revolving Fund loan (\$15,213). Council discussion ensued with Assistant County Engineer, Josh Elliot. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the Change Order as outlined by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- J. Household Hazardous Waste Day – Mr. Stamp stated that Maryland Environmental Service will host a Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Queen Anne’s County Department of Public Works facility located at 312 Safety Drive in Centreville. The event, which will be held rain or shine, is open to residents of Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne’s and Talbot counties.

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

During public comments, Mr. Phil Riggin requested Council’s consideration to add an item to the 2026 Priority Listing to extend the length of the eastbound US Route 50/Dutchmans Lane left turn lane to address congestion in the left turn lane which often overflows into the travel lanes. Council discussion ensued. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved adding the request to the 2026 Priority Listing by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- XII. Council Comments:

Mr. Stepp - No comments.

Mr. Leshner - Mr. Leshner stated that he, Ms. Mielke, and Ms. Haythe had attended the grand opening for the new St. Michaels Community Center facility at the corner of Railroad Avenue and North Talbot Street. He stated that there was a great turnout of the community for, in his opinion, a vital community institution which will now be able to serve the community even better with its expanded space. He stated that the St. Michaels Community Center had held a significant fundraiser, and in addition to a new consignment shop, the building will have a youth activity area and food storage area, both of which will contribute so much more to the capabilities of the organization and the way it serves the community. He stated that one of the county’s major food banks is hosted by the St. Michaels Community Center. Mr. Leshner concluded his comments by congratulating the Community Center

and expressed his appreciation to all those who came out to show their support.

Ms. Mielke - Ms. Mielke congratulated Easton High School and their production of *The Wizard of Oz*, which, in her opinion, was outstanding – from the sets and costumes, and particularly the students who had so much talent – it was just incredible. She stated that she is proud of what they did, and the direction and support they received from staff. Ms. Mielke concluded her comments by stating that for anyone who wasn't there really missed it – it was just fabulous.

Ms. Haythe - Ms. Haythe congratulated the St. Michaels Library on their reopening following their expansion. She stated that, in her opinion, it is really remarkable, and that libraries are the backbone of any community. She stated that President Callahan, Councilwoman Mielke, and she were able to attend the event on Saturday, and, in her opinion, it was a great community gathering. Ms. Haythe concluded her comments by congratulating Dana Newman (Director, Talbot County Free Library) and the Library staff for a job well done.

Mr. Stepp - Following Ms. Haythe's comments, Mr. Stepp stated that he had attended the construction tour and had thanked Dana Newman.

Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan stated that there were approximately 200 people in Attendance at the reopening of the St. Michaels Library, all of whom were, in his opinion, appreciative and happy, and that it was a phenomenal job. Mr. Callahan expressed his appreciation to Josh Elliott and Ray Clarke for overseeing the project.

Upon motion by Ms. Haythe seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council voted to reconvene on Thursday, March 26, 2026 and Thursday, April 5, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom with Providence Strategies for a briefing on the Maryland General Assembly legislative session - the meeting is open to the public; and at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2026 for a work session on the FY27 Budget; on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. for a work session on the FY27 Budget; at 5:00 p.m. for a meeting with the incorporated municipalities in the Meeting Room of the Talbot County Free Library; and on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in Open Session, then adjourn into Closed Session as listed on the statement for closing that meeting, and for the regularly scheduled meeting at 5:00 p.m. by voting 5– 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan - Aye

Mr. Stepp - Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Ms. Mielke – Aye

Ms. Haythe - Aye

The meeting ended at 7:01 p.m.

The transcript of the Tuesday, March 24, 2026, County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XIII. Summary of Closed Session Held on March 17, 2026:

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

Time of closed session: 2:10 p.m. End 3:30 p.m.  
 Place of closed session: County Council Office  
 Purpose of the closed session: To consider various matters as set forth in the statement for closing the meeting

2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:

Names of members voting aye: Callahan, Leshner, Haythe, Mielke, Stepp  
 Members opposed: None  
 Abstaining: None  
 Absent: None

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

<b>Topic Description</b>	<b>Statutory Authority</b>	<b>Reason for Closed Session Discussion</b>	<b>Persons Present</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
To discuss personnel matter in the Finance Office	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves a specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Donna Pardieu, Martha Sparks, Kaitlin Foster-Clark	No action
To discuss personnel matter at Hog Neck Golf Course	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves a specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Donna Pardieu, Martha Sparks, Kaitlin Foster-Clark	No action
To discuss personnel matter at Parks and Recreation	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves a specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Donna Pardieu, Martha	No action

			Sparks, Kaitlin Foster-Clark	
To discuss personnel matter in the Department of Public Works	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves a specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Donna Pardieu, Martha Sparks, Kaitlin Foster-Clark	No action
To discuss personnel matter in the Sheriff's Office	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves a specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Donna Pardieu, Martha Sparks, Kaitlin Foster-Clark	No action
To discuss personnel matter in the State's Attorney's Office	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves a specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Donna Pardieu, Martha Sparks, Kaitlin Foster-Clark	No action
To discuss personnel matter in the County Manager's Office	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves a specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Donna Pardieu	No action

XIV. Summary of Closed Session Held on March 24, 2026:

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

Time of closed session: 4:00 p.m. End 5:00 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:

<b>Topic Description</b>	<b>Statutory Authority</b>	<b>Reason for Closed Session Discussion</b>	<b>Persons Present</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
To discuss personnel matter in the County Manager’s Office	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves a specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Donna Pardieu	No action
To consider the acquisition of real property in Easton for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition	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, Susan Moran, Patrick Thomas	No action
For legal advice regarding opioid settlement proposal	GP § 3-305(b)(7)(8)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal advice	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Susan Moran, Patrick Thomas	Council concurred with recommendation

XV. Summary of Closed Session Held on March 26, 2026:

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

Time of closed session: 4:20 p.m. End 4:30 p.m.

Place of closed session: County Council Office

Purpose of the closed session: To consider various matters as set forth in the statement for closing the meeting

2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:


Names of members voting aye: Callahan, Leshner, Mielke, Stepp

Members opposed: None

Abstaining: None  
 Absent: Haythe

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>Reason for Closed Session Discussion</b>	<b>Persons Present</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
To discuss personnel matter in the Department of Emergency Services	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Discussion involves a specific individual	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Susan Moran, Donna Pardieu	Council concurred with recommendation

	<b>TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND</b> <b>WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT</b> <b>3/31/2026</b>		
<b>OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK</b>			
<hr/>			
<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>3/24/2026</b>		<b>\$ 30,742,471.84</b>
Total ADP Monthly Payroll PPE 3/31/2026			(17,780.30)
Community Center Sales & Use Tax Due 3/20/2026			(531.94)
Golf Course Sales & Use Tax Due 3/20/2026			(81.50)
Roads Sales & Use Tax Due 3/20/2026			(64.24)
Bank Charges 2/2026			(2,955.35)
Deposits			1,148,736.53
Checks			(254,667.26)
ACH Disbursements			(1,706,647.51)
EFT's			
<b>OPERATING FUNDS AT</b>	<b>3/31/2026</b>		<b>\$ 29,908,480.27</b>
<b>PETTY CASH FUNDS</b>			<b>\$ 17,855.00</b>
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS</b>			
		<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)		3.70%	\$ 24,051,261.30
Bayvanguard Bank		3.89%	\$ 11,555,773.08
Shore United Money Market Account		3.64%	\$ 64,691,889.08
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 100,316,778.46</b>
<b><u>TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</u></b>			<b>\$ 130,225,258.73</b>



**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT**  
**4/7/2026**

**OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK**

**OPERATING FUNDS AT** **3/31/2026** **\$ 29,908,480.27**

Total ADP Payroll PPE 3/27/2026	(1,011,667.17)
Returned Paymentus Payments	(9,270.29)
Airport Merchant Portal Hosting 3/2026	(11.00)
Repurposing Merchant Portal Hosting 3/2026	(15.00)
Roads Merchant Portal Hosting 3/2026	(15.00)

Deposits	1,937,296.86
Checks	(105,028.11)
ACH Disbursements	(1,973,556.52)
EFT's	(845,392.47)
Wire Transfers	(1,555,660.38)
Voided Check	1,225.00

**OPERATING FUNDS AT** **4/7/2026** **\$ 26,346,386.19**

**PETTY CASH FUNDS** **\$ 17,855.00**

**INVESTMENT FUNDS**

	<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	3.68%	\$ 24,051,261.30
Bayvanguard Bank	3.89%	\$ 11,555,773.08
Shore United Money Market Account	3.64%	\$ 64,691,889.08

**INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL** **\$ 100,316,778.46**

**TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS** **\$ 126,663,164.65**