

COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

August 27, 2024; 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's go ahead and</p> <p>4 get ready to get started. (Inaudible) get</p> <p>5 started. Okay. If everybody could just be</p> <p>6 quiet, we can get started here.</p> <p>7 We got a special night here with the girls</p> <p>8 softball team and we got a lot of great things</p> <p>9 going to happen.</p> <p>10 So if we could go ahead and stand for the</p> <p>11 prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance of the</p> <p>12 Flag, please.</p> <p>13 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Just want to welcome</p> <p>15 everybody. Appreciate it, coming tonight.</p> <p>16 Okay.</p> <p>17 First on the agenda, we've got, Council,</p> <p>18 is there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>19 corrections to the agenda, Council?</p> <p>20 MS. HAYTHE: No.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hearing none, the</p>	<p>1 MS. SIMONSON: Thank you so much for the</p> <p>2 opportunity to come before you.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure, Sure.</p> <p>4 MS. SIMONSON: I'm Kelly Simonson. I'm</p> <p>5 the director of corporate communications for</p> <p>6 Easton Utilities. And I just wanted to welcome</p> <p>7 and introduce you to Kurt Fuchs, who is our new</p> <p>8 manager of external affairs.</p> <p>9 And Kurt brings over 20 years of</p> <p>10 experience in various government and external</p> <p>11 affairs positions. And he's going to be</p> <p>12 focused on evaluating public policy and</p> <p>13 regulatory shifts, while, of course,</p> <p>14 cultivating external relationships.</p> <p>15 So Kurt, prior to joining Easton</p> <p>16 Utilities, he was the director of government</p> <p>17 affairs for Horizon Farm Credit, where he</p> <p>18 worked across a five-state footprint to support</p> <p>19 rural communities in agriculture in financial</p> <p>20 and related services. And he spent nine years</p> <p>21 prior to that with government relations with</p>
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<p>1 agenda is accepted as unanimous consent. Okay.</p> <p>2 Next on the agenda is the minutes of</p> <p>3 July 9th. Council has had a chance to take a</p> <p>4 look at the minutes. You got any changes,</p> <p>5 additions, or deletions to the minutes? Okay.</p> <p>6 Hearing none, the chair moves that the minutes</p> <p>7 be accepted as unanimous consent.</p> <p>8 Next is the disbursements of August 20th</p> <p>9 and 27th. We've had a chance to take a look at</p> <p>10 them. Is there any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>11 corrections to the disbursements, Council?</p> <p>12 Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves that the</p> <p>13 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.</p> <p>14 Okay.</p> <p>15 First on the agenda, we've got a new</p> <p>16 member, Kurt Fuchs, for the town. Kurt, you</p> <p>17 want to come on up, you and Kelly. I want to</p> <p>18 welcome you guys.</p> <p>19 MR. FUCHS: Thank you.</p> <p>20 MS. SIMONSON: Thank you.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p>	<p>1 the Maryland Farm Bureau.</p> <p>2 So he's a native of the Eastern Shore and</p> <p>3 graduated from McDaniel College with a degree</p> <p>4 in political science.</p> <p>5 And I'll hand it over to Kurt.</p> <p>6 MR. FUCHS: Thank you, Kelly.</p> <p>7 President Callahan, Members of the</p> <p>8 Council, thank you for the opportunity to be</p> <p>9 with you this evening.</p> <p>10 As someone born and raised on the</p> <p>11 midshore, I'm excited to bring my 20-plus years</p> <p>12 of government and external affairs experience</p> <p>13 to bear for the region, for the Easton, Town of</p> <p>14 Easton, and the county.</p> <p>15 I'm delighted to be a part of the</p> <p>16 incredible team at Easton Utilities. I look</p> <p>17 forward to working with all of you on behalf of</p> <p>18 Easton Utilities, our customers in town and</p> <p>19 throughout the county.</p> <p>20 I know you have a very robust agenda this</p> <p>21 evening. So I'll end my remarks there, but</p>

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<p>1 happy to entertain any questions. And if I</p> <p>2 haven't already reached out to you</p> <p>3 individually, look forward to doing so very</p> <p>4 soon.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. That's</p> <p>6 great.</p> <p>7 Council.</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: So welcome aboard. Known you</p> <p>9 for a very long time since my economic</p> <p>10 development days. Truly an asset to the</p> <p>11 community. So I look forward to working with</p> <p>12 you.</p> <p>13 MR. FUCHS: Thank you very much. I</p> <p>14 appreciate it. Good seeing you.</p> <p>15 MS. MIELKE: Congratulations. And I do</p> <p>16 look forward to working with you as well.</p> <p>17 MR. FUCHS: Thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHER: Easton Utilities has been</p> <p>19 such a, become such a vital partner to the</p> <p>20 county over the broadband project. And we are</p> <p>21 really grateful for that project. And I am</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So next on the</p> <p>2 agenda is a big special moment for Talbot</p> <p>3 Softball, Junior Girls Softball State</p> <p>4 Champions.</p> <p>5 Can the coaches come on up? Okay, guys.</p> <p>6 Somebody has got to do the talking here. Greg.</p> <p>7 SPEAKER: I didn't expect to do any</p> <p>8 talking.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Exactly. That's</p> <p>10 okay.</p> <p>11 Tell us a little bit of what's going on</p> <p>12 and how you got there.</p> <p>13 SPEAKER: Well, we won the State</p> <p>14 Championship, which is a first for Talbot</p> <p>15 Softball.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great, that's great.</p> <p>17 SPEAKER: Our age group, we didn't have to</p> <p>18 do a district tournament, which is usually a</p> <p>19 tough battle to get through to even have a</p> <p>20 chance to go to the State tournament.</p> <p>21 We were able to just go right to the State</p>
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<p>1 sure that that will give us continued avenues</p> <p>2 to work with, with you and with the</p> <p>3 organization.</p> <p>4 Look forward to that.</p> <p>5 MR. FUCHS: Absolutely. Thank you.</p> <p>6 MR. STEPP: Welcome, Kurt. Looking</p> <p>7 forward to coffee on the 10th.</p> <p>8 MR. FUCHS: Thanks.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Welcome, Kurt. And if I'd</p> <p>10 known you needed a job, you could have checked</p> <p>11 with us first.</p> <p>12 But no. We're glad to see you. And we</p> <p>13 wish you all the luck. So anything that we can</p> <p>14 do to help you, reach out to us. We'll be glad</p> <p>15 to help you.</p> <p>16 MR. FUCHS: Thank you.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.</p> <p>18 Appreciate it.</p> <p>19 MS. SIMONSON: Thank you.</p> <p>20 MR. FUCHS: Thank you.</p> <p>21 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.</p>	<p>1 tournament. And it's kind of actually a</p> <p>2 challenge because you didn't have a game to</p> <p>3 like get warmed up for it. But we won every</p> <p>4 game at the State tournament.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Wow. That's great.</p> <p>6 SPEAKER: The State Championship. And</p> <p>7 that's the first for Talbot Softball.</p> <p>8 Dave, you can probably tell me. When was</p> <p>9 the last time a team from around here won a</p> <p>10 State Championship?</p> <p>11 MR. STEPP: I do not remember one.</p> <p>12 SPEAKER: It's been a while.</p> <p>13 MR. STEPP: We've been in it for a long</p> <p>14 time.</p> <p>15 SPEAKER: And got to go to the Regional</p> <p>16 tournament in Connecticut, where if we had won</p> <p>17 that, we would have gone to the World Series.</p> <p>18 So we were the Maryland representative at the</p> <p>19 regional tournament. So that was a big</p> <p>20 accomplishment for the girls. We were just</p> <p>21 along for the ride.</p>

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you. I got you.</p> <p>2 So any questions or --</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: No questions. Just</p> <p>4 congratulations.</p> <p>5 I feel like we need some girl music,</p> <p>6 though, Girl on Fire or something rooting for</p> <p>7 the girls, some type of music for them.</p> <p>8 But congratulations. This is truly an</p> <p>9 honor to be able to present you with</p> <p>10 certificates this evening. Congratulations on</p> <p>11 all the hard work that you've put in and</p> <p>12 dedication to make it to States and win.</p> <p>13 So congratulations to the coaches and the</p> <p>14 girls.</p> <p>15 SPEAKER: Thank you. Can we bring the</p> <p>16 girls?</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, we're getting ready to.</p> <p>18 Don't worry about that.</p> <p>19 SPEAKER: They did all the work.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>21 MS. MIELKE: Great accomplishment by the</p>	<p>1 the 2025 season holds for you all.</p> <p>2 Coaches, I know the amount of effort y'all</p> <p>3 put into it.</p> <p>4 Parents, I know the amount of effort y'all</p> <p>5 put into it. Sitting on the sidelines, driving</p> <p>6 to practices, driving to games, financial</p> <p>7 commitment, everything it takes to make it to</p> <p>8 where you'll did is absolutely amazing.</p> <p>9 So huge heartfelt congratulations, guys.</p> <p>10 SPEAKER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: And to follow up with that,</p> <p>12 congratulations. I mean this is a moment in</p> <p>13 time that you'll remember forever.</p> <p>14 And that's what's special about these</p> <p>15 ladies, is you did such a good job. Not only</p> <p>16 us, but the State. So I mean you're State</p> <p>17 Champions. So that's pretty special. So we</p> <p>18 really, really are very, very proud of you</p> <p>19 girls. That's for sure. And the coaches, too.</p> <p>20 So okay. Let's get ready to hand the</p> <p>21 certificates out.</p>
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<p>1 girls.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: And you guys as the coaches.</p> <p>4 And very proud, very proud. You should</p> <p>5 all be proud of your accomplishments, and I'm</p> <p>6 sure you are.</p> <p>7 Thank you for all you've done.</p> <p>8 MR. LESHER: To the coaches, to the team,</p> <p>9 you've made the whole county proud. Thank you.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: This one is extra special, no</p> <p>11 doubt.</p> <p>12 Ladies, you all did absolutely amazing</p> <p>13 representing us here in Talbot. We have come a</p> <p>14 long way in just a few years of this league</p> <p>15 being in existence.</p> <p>16 It's been a pleasure to have been a part</p> <p>17 of it personally. It's been a pleasure to</p> <p>18 coach several of you that's wearing the</p> <p>19 uniforms in here. If not, maybe some siblings.</p> <p>20 But awesome, awesome job.</p> <p>21 Congratulations. And can't wait to see what</p>	<p>1 MR. STEPP: All right.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Yup. So if you want</p> <p>3 to go.</p> <p>4 So we're going to call a name and the</p> <p>5 young lady come on up.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: And the coaches.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: And the coaches. Coaches,</p> <p>8 come on up here.</p> <p>9 MS. MIELKE: And Johnny.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: Here is what we're going to</p> <p>11 do. I'm going to go ahead and as opposed to</p> <p>12 reading --</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Johnny, you come on up.</p> <p>14 MR. STEPP: -- a bunch of times, what I'm</p> <p>15 going to do is I'm going to read our</p> <p>16 certificate from the county. And then I'm</p> <p>17 going to heed my chair to Senator Mautz to read</p> <p>18 his as well.</p> <p>19 So what we're going to have for all of you</p> <p>20 ladies here from the county, Certificate of</p> <p>21 Recognition. It says this certificate is</p>

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<p>1 awarded to, it's going to have your name on it,  2 in recognition of your valuable contributions  3 to the 2024 Talbot Softball Junior League All  4 Star Team Maryland Junior League State  5 Champions.  6 So as far as names, read everyone out  7 here. Ms. Josey Bissonette, Paige Bodle,  8 McKenna Brach, Kayleigh Burkhardt, Ms. Leah  9 Dadds, Madi Fisher, Katelyn Gay, Ryleigh Groce.  10 Make sure I say that one right. Okay. Mercy  11 Haddaway, Ella Kennedy, Lane Kennedy,  12 Ms. Natalee Lyons, Evelyn Mautz, and Ms. Leah  13 Smith.  14 And then coaches. Greg Dadds, Danny  15 Bissonette, John Brach, and Jed Gay.  16 Senator, please.  17 MR. CALLAHAN: Sorry. It happens all the  18 time.  19 MR. LESHER: You're not the first one.  20 MR. MAUTZ: Oh, my goodness, I get to sit  21 in the County Council chair. You guys hit</p>	<p>1 SPEAKER: Me. Thank you.  2 MR. STEPP: Y'all are growing up on us.  3 Ms. Ryleigh.  4 SPEAKER: Dave, you were kind of in charge  5 when we first came into it, you know.  6 MR. STEPP: This one is extra special.  7 SPEAKER: Talbot softball is mostly Dave's  8 brain child.  9 MR. STEPP: This started in Washington  10 Street Pub.  11 SPEAKER: Sure did, didn't it. Good  12 volunteers.  13 MR. STEPP: Craig.  14 SPEAKER: That one.  15 MR. STEPP: Ms. Lane. And Ms. Natalee.  16 SPEAKER: She's not here today.  17 SPEAKER: Thank you.  18 (Cross talk.)  19 SPEAKER: She's not here.  20 SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Stepp.  21 MR. STEPP: John.</p>
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<p>1 another record. My goodness.  2 We're going to also give out Senate  3 citations to all the players. You're going to  4 get a Maryland pin. And we're also going to  5 present the coaches with a citation. And we  6 have a special citation from Senate of Maryland  7 recognizing Talbot Softball, which is a high  8 water mark.  9 You guys are going to have a lot of  10 memories. Each one of you has personal  11 memories. But at the end of the day, you will  12 always be remembered as being a Maryland State  13 Champion. God bless you and congratulations.  14 Congratulations.  15 MR. STEPP: All right.  16 MR. MAUTZ: Josey, I know you're here.  17 There you are. There you go.  18 SPEAKER: Thank you.  19 MR. STEPP: McKenna. Ms. Kayleigh.  20 SPEAKER: She's still growing.  21 MR. STEPP: Madi.</p>	<p>1 SPEAKER: Thank you.  2 MR. STEPP: Yes, sir. Thank you.  3 SPEAKER: Here you go, sir.  4 SPEAKER: Thank you.  5 MR. MAUTZ: And there you are.  6 SPEAKER: Thank you, sir.  7 MR. MAUTZ: And here is for the league.  8 SPEAKER: Nice.  9 MR. MAUTZ: Is that all of them?  10 Ladies, push in.  11 MS. KILMON: Dave, go up. And then  12 Johnny, you can stand right here. There you  13 go. Squeeze in just a little. All right.  14 You guys ready? Looking good, guys.  15 Good? All right. Cool.  16 SPEAKER: When we get outside, I'll take  17 more.  18 SPEAKER: Thank you very much.  19 SPEAKER: Thank you.  20 MS. MIELKE: Thank you for all you do,  21 guys.</p>

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<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you for coming in.</p> <p>2 SPEAKER: Thank you very much, sir,</p> <p>3 Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it, guys.</p> <p>5 Thanks a lot.</p> <p>6 MS. MIELKE: You ain't seen nothing yet.</p> <p>7 (Cross talk.)</p> <p>8 SPEAKER: That's two.</p> <p>9 MS. MIELKE: That's okay.</p> <p>10 SPEAKER: All right, everybody. Smile.</p> <p>11 Thank you so much.</p> <p>12 SPEAKER: Circle around. As loud as you</p> <p>13 can. One, two, three, Talbot.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: I do love it. It's</p> <p>15 awesome. All right. Our names are back.</p> <p>16 MR. STEPP: I think that's the highest</p> <p>17 decibel limit of any County Council meeting to</p> <p>18 date. I love it.</p> <p>19 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. Just needed some</p> <p>20 music.</p> <p>21 MR. STEPP: Yeah, we did.</p>	<p>1 four times over the past nine months and came</p> <p>2 up with a proposal to present to you. I think</p> <p>3 you've been provided with it.</p> <p>4 But basically what it will do is currently</p> <p>5 our number one priority was to fund the Talbot</p> <p>6 County Detention Center. There's a medicated</p> <p>7 treatment program that is mandated by Maryland</p> <p>8 law where our Corrections Department had</p> <p>9 applied for a grant a year ago, got that grant,</p> <p>10 but then the grant dried up. There's no grant</p> <p>11 funds available this year.</p> <p>12 It's approximately \$130,000 per year to</p> <p>13 run that. It offers medicated-assisted</p> <p>14 treatment to people housed there, as well as</p> <p>15 peer support after they leave to help them</p> <p>16 overcome their addiction and continue with</p> <p>17 medicated-assisted treatment.</p> <p>18 Then, like I said, that's about \$130,000 a</p> <p>19 year. We thought that that was priority one</p> <p>20 for the county. You have to fund it anyway</p> <p>21 because it's mandated. It's another unfunded</p>
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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. That was</p> <p>2 great. That's definitely a special moment.</p> <p>3 Next on the agenda, Sheriff, you want to</p> <p>4 come on up. It's a presentation and request</p> <p>5 for approval for a Local Abatement Plan for</p> <p>6 Talbot County opioid.</p> <p>7 So Sheriff, you want to go ahead.</p> <p>8 Welcome. First of all, welcome.</p> <p>9 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you, Chuck.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: And explain to us what you</p> <p>11 need.</p> <p>12 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Sure. So the County</p> <p>13 Council charged the LDAAC, Local Drug and</p> <p>14 Alcohol Coordinating Council, with making a</p> <p>15 proposal to you all and about how to spend the</p> <p>16 opioid restitution funds that are coming from</p> <p>17 various lawsuits throughout the country coming</p> <p>18 through our State government, who is the</p> <p>19 conduit for this money coming to Talbot County.</p> <p>20 So we met three or four times. We had a</p> <p>21 subcommittee of the LDAAC. We met three or</p>	<p>1 mandate that's handed to us by the State.</p> <p>2 And then one of the things of much</p> <p>3 discussion, Mr. Leshar has been present for</p> <p>4 several of those meetings, was the smaller</p> <p>5 nonprofits in the county who seldom get any</p> <p>6 grant funding. We thought that to bridge some</p> <p>7 gaps, to actually have a micro-grant program</p> <p>8 where they could apply to you, the County</p> <p>9 Council, for some of this other funding and to</p> <p>10 use that.</p> <p>11 For instance, I'll use like Valerie Albie</p> <p>12 at Mariah's Mission. She's been supplying</p> <p>13 clothing and bicycles for people in recovery.</p> <p>14 Bicycles so they can get to recovery meetings</p> <p>15 as well as employment. And clothing for</p> <p>16 literally hundreds of people for seven, eight</p> <p>17 years. She's applied for a number of grants</p> <p>18 through the State. Never gets a grant, never</p> <p>19 gets any funding.</p> <p>20 So it was the little mom and pop things</p> <p>21 for that, for treatment, education, and other</p>

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<p>1 services that aren't being met through some of</p> <p>2 the bigger grant dollars that might be going to</p> <p>3 the Health Department or going to Midshore</p> <p>4 Behavioral Health or don't seem to find their</p> <p>5 way to some of these people that are actually</p> <p>6 doing good things.</p> <p>7 So our proposal basically is we could use</p> <p>8 one of the administrative positions at our</p> <p>9 office to take those grants, to write the</p> <p>10 grant, get the grant structure, send it out,</p> <p>11 have them come back.</p> <p>12 We can go through them. The LDAAC would</p> <p>13 meet and give you suggestions of where those</p> <p>14 micro-grants would be spent. So we would say</p> <p>15 okay, here is this one. They're asking for</p> <p>16 \$5,000. Here's this one asking for \$3,000.</p> <p>17 This is what they've done in the past. This is</p> <p>18 what they would do. And then bring that back</p> <p>19 to you and you could make those decisions or</p> <p>20 you could charge the LDAAC with that.</p> <p>21 And then we would like to do the</p>	<p>1 challenge with this.</p> <p>2 But that's our, basically our proposal.</p> <p>3 Did I miss anything, Ms. Sparks?</p> <p>4 MS. SPARKS: Not that I can think of, no.</p> <p>5 We have -- well. I'll just add that this</p> <p>6 plan gives us access -- is a plan for two</p> <p>7 specific funding sources.</p> <p>8 One are the direct disbursements directly</p> <p>9 to the county would receive that. That's been</p> <p>10 approximately \$259,000 to date.</p> <p>11 But part of the opioid settlement funds</p> <p>12 also go to the State. And they create these</p> <p>13 targeted abatement grants. So they allocated a</p> <p>14 portion of that to Talbot County. So once we</p> <p>15 have this plan that's filed, we will also have</p> <p>16 access to those funds, but they're much, much</p> <p>17 smaller.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.</p> <p>19 Any questions, Council?</p> <p>20 MS. HAYTHE: No questions. I mean I think</p> <p>21 it's a great idea and all the work that you do,</p>
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<p>1 micro-grants for two years at a clip. Only</p> <p>2 because by the time you get the funding, one</p> <p>3 year is like -- people would have to apply</p> <p>4 every year. And then reevaluate this whole</p> <p>5 program in two years.</p> <p>6 Looking at the funding right now, there's</p> <p>7 not enough money in the fund right now to fund</p> <p>8 the Detention Center for two years. But we</p> <p>9 anticipate through Martha's work that every</p> <p>10 year we know what some of the payment plans</p> <p>11 are, that the State is giving that lawsuit</p> <p>12 money to us.</p> <p>13 So we think we're pretty confident that</p> <p>14 we'll be able to fund that or you could fund</p> <p>15 that for two years at the Detention Center, but</p> <p>16 we would want to look at that year after year</p> <p>17 depending because the money starts to -- not as</p> <p>18 much comes every year.</p> <p>19 And there's still some lawsuits that are</p> <p>20 stuck in court. So we really don't know all of</p> <p>21 the whole story, and that's been the big</p>	<p>1 Joe, you know.</p> <p>2 SHERIFF GAMBLE: We've had a lot of help.</p> <p>3 Martha, Clay, and the whole LDAAC. Thank you.</p> <p>4 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. And the team. So I</p> <p>5 think this is a, you know, a great use of</p> <p>6 funds.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah.</p> <p>9 MS. MIELKE: Good job. Good job.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: When I came on the Council</p> <p>11 five and a half years ago, we were already</p> <p>12 engaged in litigation with, I don't know,</p> <p>13 hundreds of other jurisdictions because of the</p> <p>14 impacts of the opioid epidemic on Talbot County</p> <p>15 and every other jurisdiction across America.</p> <p>16 And this is our first moment where we're</p> <p>17 seeing some of the benefit of that coming back</p> <p>18 to actually take care of some of the problems</p> <p>19 that this epidemic has caused in our community,</p> <p>20 in prevention, in recovery.</p> <p>21 So thank you, Sheriff Gamble, for your</p>

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<p>1 leadership.</p> <p>2 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: And finding where the</p> <p>4 priority and the need is for this and guiding</p> <p>5 us down this path.</p> <p>6 This is -- I wish we didn't have to do</p> <p>7 this, but the need is out there. And we</p> <p>8 finally have a little bit of funding to be able</p> <p>9 to start addressing it.</p> <p>10 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You good?</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: No better way to spend this</p> <p>13 than hearing from, directly from where it needs</p> <p>14 to go. So appreciate the effort you guys put</p> <p>15 into it, everyone has put into this, and</p> <p>16 getting this to where it is. So glad that it's</p> <p>17 going to be spent the right way.</p> <p>18 SHERIFF GAMBLE: And if I could throw out</p> <p>19 one more thing at you before you dismiss me.</p> <p>20 Saturday night, six to eight, Anchor</p> <p>21 Church. We're kicking off Talbot Goes Purple</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>4 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. There you go,</p> <p>12 Sheriff. Thanks a lot.</p> <p>13 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you.</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you for the good work.</p> <p>15 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We're a little early</p> <p>17 on public hearing. So Clay, you want to go</p> <p>18 ahead and get a few things out?</p> <p>19 MR. STAMP: Yeah, sure. Thank you,</p> <p>20 Council President and Council.</p> <p>21 Under county manager report this evening,</p>
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<p>1 again. You can dunk me or some other sheriff's</p> <p>2 deputy as well, yet to be named.</p> <p>3 All food, everything is free for the</p> <p>4 community. So anybody watching, come out</p> <p>5 Saturday night, Anchor Church. Right next to</p> <p>6 Country School. And we'll be there six to</p> <p>7 eight with plenty of free stuff and all kind of</p> <p>8 educational stuff pertaining to this.</p> <p>9 It will be a lot of fun. We had a lot of</p> <p>10 fun out there last year. We'll have a lot of</p> <p>11 fund this year. So we're looking forward to</p> <p>12 it.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great, that's great.</p> <p>14 Okay. Okay.</p> <p>15 At this time, is there a motion?</p> <p>16 MR. LESHER: I'll move approval of the</p> <p>17 Local Abatement Plan as recommended.</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>20 second to approve the Local Abatement Plan.</p> <p>21 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote.</p>	<p>1 I have several requests for your consideration</p> <p>2 for board and committee appointments.</p> <p>3 The first one would be for the Economic</p> <p>4 Development Commission. We're requesting the</p> <p>5 appointment of Mr. John Horner to that</p> <p>6 commission.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the</p> <p>9 appointment of John Horner to Economic</p> <p>10 Development Commission.</p> <p>11 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>13 could you call the vote.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>19 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>21 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p>



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<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>3 MR. STAMP: The next will be for the Local</p> <p>4 Drug and Alcohol Coordinating Council.</p> <p>5 Requesting the appointment of Mr. Kevin Hartmann</p> <p>6 to that council.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve Mr. Hartmann</p> <p>8 to the council.</p> <p>9 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>11 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>12 vote.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>16 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>18 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>20 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p>	<p>1 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>4 MR. STAMP: Thank you. That completes the</p> <p>5 board and committee appointments this evening.</p> <p>6 Have several other items for your</p> <p>7 consideration.</p> <p>8 I'd ask that Mr. Brian Schmidt come</p> <p>9 forward. We have a partnership opportunity,</p> <p>10 Council. The Town of Trappe is requesting</p> <p>11 Council approval to develop a girls' softball</p> <p>12 field, batting cage, and the addition of ADA</p> <p>13 restrooms at the Home Run Baker Park Sports</p> <p>14 Complex through a town municipal application</p> <p>15 for Community Parks and Playground grant.</p> <p>16 If successful, the county and the town</p> <p>17 would enter into a joint lease agreement.</p> <p>18 The county Parks and Recreation Advisory</p> <p>19 Board reviewed this request in their meeting on</p> <p>20 July 18th and was supportive of the proposal.</p> <p>21 Trappe Council President Brian Schmidt is</p>
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<p>1 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>2 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.</p> <p>3 The next would be for the Police</p> <p>4 Accountability Board. We're requesting the</p> <p>5 reappointment of Mr. Chris Rice representing</p> <p>6 Easton and recommended by the mayor, and</p> <p>7 Ms. Jo Ann Murray, covering sheriff area three,</p> <p>8 reappointment to the Police Accountability</p> <p>9 Board.</p> <p>10 MS. MIELKE: So moved.</p> <p>11 MR. STEPP: Second.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>13 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>14 vote.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>18 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p>	<p>1 here, and he will add any additional</p> <p>2 information and answer questions.</p> <p>3 Thank you, Brian.</p> <p>4 MR. SCHMIDT: Thanks for having me. I'm</p> <p>5 not sure I really need to add too much. That</p> <p>6 was pretty elaborate.</p> <p>7 The basic gist of it is Home Run Baker</p> <p>8 Park, which is a county park within our</p> <p>9 municipal borders, there's been a scoreboard</p> <p>10 that's been out by itself for a very long time.</p> <p>11 And Cheryl Lewis has written a grant for</p> <p>12 Home Run Baker to get money to produce a new</p> <p>13 ball field. And I believe it's specifically</p> <p>14 supposed to be for girls' softball. So there</p> <p>15 will be three fields within the Trappe district</p> <p>16 at that point.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great.</p> <p>18 MR. SCHMIDT: Yup.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Any discussion?</p> <p>20 MR. LESHNER: And while the county does own</p> <p>21 the park, county is ineligible to apply for</p>

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<p>1 this grant.</p> <p>2 MR. SCHMIDT: Correct.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: So we can only achieve this</p> <p>4 through the partnership with the Town of</p> <p>5 Trappe --</p> <p>6 MR. SCHMIDT: Correct. It's a --</p> <p>7 MR. LESHER: Thank you to the town for</p> <p>8 stepping up to this partnership.</p> <p>9 MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you. Thank you.</p> <p>10 Happy to do so.</p> <p>11 MR. STEPP: And based upon what everyone</p> <p>12 just saw previously with our --</p> <p>13 MS. HAYTHE: Yes.</p> <p>14 MR. STEPP: -- softball team, softball is</p> <p>15 alive and well in Talbot.</p> <p>16 MR. SCHMIDT: It is.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: It is a need for additional</p> <p>18 field space because it's doing so well. So</p> <p>19 encourage everyone on the Council to run with</p> <p>20 this, please.</p> <p>21 Brian, thank you.</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Brian.</p> <p>4 Appreciate it.</p> <p>5 MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.</p> <p>7 MR. STAMP: Council, next I would ask Ray</p> <p>8 Clarke, your county engineer, to come forward.</p> <p>9 Ray has a request, first of all, to award</p> <p>10 an amendment number one for Bid Number 22-07.</p> <p>11 This is, as you read in your packet,</p> <p>12 requesting Council approval to modify a county</p> <p>13 contract with Rauch, Incorporated, at a cost of</p> <p>14 \$36,654 to complete the 2024 Report of the</p> <p>15 Review at a total contract cost of \$166,184.</p> <p>16 There are sufficient funds available for</p> <p>17 this effort, and Ray is here to add additional</p> <p>18 information and answer questions relative to</p> <p>19 this request.</p> <p>20 Ray.</p> <p>21 MR. CLARKE: Just for the Council and so</p>
Page 35	Page 37
<p>1 MR. SCHMIDT: Absolutely.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Brian. Okay.</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: What's the request, a letter?</p> <p>4 MR. STAMP: So the request is that you</p> <p>5 approve the partnership.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: Okay.</p> <p>7 MR. STAMP: With the Town of Trappe.</p> <p>8 MR. STEPP: I'll start with a motion.</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>11 second to have a partnership with Trappe on the</p> <p>12 field with the grants. Madam Secretary, could</p> <p>13 you call the vote.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>19 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>21 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p>	<p>1 the public knows, when we were -- this is</p> <p>2 actually associated with the Report of the</p> <p>3 Review and the comprehensive water and sewer</p> <p>4 plan update.</p> <p>5 Ultimately when we started the comp water</p> <p>6 and sewer plan, we ended up having I guess to</p> <p>7 specify the number of meetings that we would</p> <p>8 have. We ended up actually exceeding that when</p> <p>9 we started the project. So we ended up having</p> <p>10 more meetings. So there was more time spent on</p> <p>11 meeting and ultimately the development of the</p> <p>12 Report of the Review. And so ultimately, this</p> <p>13 time is basically being kind of reintroduced</p> <p>14 into this amendment.</p> <p>15 At the same time, we also are eliminating</p> <p>16 the comprehensive water and sewer plan, the</p> <p>17 digital plan, as part of this project. That</p> <p>18 will be something we'll rebid once the</p> <p>19 Comprehensive Plan has been updated, the 2026</p> <p>20 Comprehensive Plan is updated.</p> <p>21 So at this point, what we're trying to do</p>

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<p>1 now is just kind of get the Report of the</p> <p>2 Review wrapped up, packaged, and then</p> <p>3 ultimately ready for your all's review as well</p> <p>4 as the Planning Commission and the Public Works</p> <p>5 Advisory Board, and then ultimately posting</p> <p>6 that on the website.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Council.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: I'd like to request that a</p> <p>9 vote on this be deferred to the next meeting</p> <p>10 because I have two issues that I'd like to look</p> <p>11 into.</p> <p>12 One is the past litigation involving the,</p> <p>13 well, involving the applicant here. I don't</p> <p>14 mean Ray. And whether we have a conflict in</p> <p>15 making this award ethically.</p> <p>16 And the second is that there wasn't a</p> <p>17 sufficient, in my opinion, statement of what</p> <p>18 the services actually were. There was just a</p> <p>19 okay, here is the number. And I'd like to know</p> <p>20 specifically what they are requesting in terms</p> <p>21 of hours and work.</p>	<p>1 Council to get clarity on exactly how much more</p> <p>2 information you have.</p> <p>3 You do have the scope and detail provided</p> <p>4 to you. So I'll get with you --</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: It's not -- it's just a lump</p> <p>6 sum number.</p> <p>7 MR. STAMP: That's fine. I'll get with</p> <p>8 you to find out exactly what you're looking</p> <p>9 for.</p> <p>10 So we'll add that to the next agenda.</p> <p>11 MS. HAYTHE: So are we going to ask for</p> <p>12 that going forward on all proposals for bid</p> <p>13 approvals then or is this just specific to one?</p> <p>14 Because that's what we normally get, is a</p> <p>15 supplemental documentation and then the number</p> <p>16 when we're approving a bid.</p> <p>17 So we're going to ask for detailed</p> <p>18 information on the scope and the times and all</p> <p>19 that --</p> <p>20 MR. STAMP: So again, I'll need to get</p> <p>21 with Council on this because we did provide</p>
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<p>1 So I'd ask that that be produced and we</p> <p>2 vote on it on the next meeting.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Ray, hearing that, is there</p> <p>4 anything that you can add to that, any help</p> <p>5 with her questions?</p> <p>6 MR. CLARKE: Yeah. What we can do is we</p> <p>7 can actually go back to the scope and identify</p> <p>8 how the scope was set up and ultimately show</p> <p>9 what the Report of the Review and what the time</p> <p>10 associated with that scope is. We can then</p> <p>11 utilize the manhour reports that were part of</p> <p>12 the proposal. In addition to that, we can also</p> <p>13 provide the invoicing and whatnot associated</p> <p>14 with the project.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Can you take care of</p> <p>16 that for the next meeting for us?</p> <p>17 MR. CLARKE: Yes, sir.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great.</p> <p>19 MS. MIELKE: Thank you very much, Ray.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.</p> <p>21 MR. STAMP: I just need to work with</p>	<p>1 what normally --</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Right.</p> <p>3 MR. STAMP: -- we provide as backup in</p> <p>4 this case.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: Right.</p> <p>6 MR. STAMP: But I think she's interested</p> <p>7 in receiving more information. I'm not sure</p> <p>8 what that is, but I'll work with her to figure</p> <p>9 that out and Ray.</p> <p>10 But normally we provide backup. There was</p> <p>11 backup in the packet.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: Correct.</p> <p>13 MR. STAMP: But I think we're looking for</p> <p>14 additional information.</p> <p>15 MS. MIELKE: But aren't they saying that</p> <p>16 they put in more time than they bid for?</p> <p>17 MR. CLARKE: Yes.</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: And they want to be</p> <p>19 compensated for that?</p> <p>20 MS. HAYTHE: He said he had extra</p> <p>21 meetings.</p>

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<p>1 MR. CLARKE: There was extra meetings as</p> <p>2 well.</p> <p>3 MS. HAYTHE: That involved your department</p> <p>4 as well with the extra meetings, correct?</p> <p>5 MR. CLARKE: Correct.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: It wasn't them on their own.</p> <p>7 MR. CLARKE: No.</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: He said extra meetings.</p> <p>9 I mean I have sufficient information. But</p> <p>10 if Councilwoman Mielke needs additional time,</p> <p>11 that's fine.</p> <p>12 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>15 MR. STAMP: Okay. We'll move to the next</p> <p>16 item, which Ray --</p> <p>17 MR. CLARKE: Sure thing.</p> <p>18 MR. STAMP: Okay.</p> <p>19 MR. CLARKE: This is actually an amendment</p> <p>20 for Ferry Cove, which I believe is, the Bid</p> <p>21 Number on this...</p>	<p>1 engineering for it so we could go ahead and get</p> <p>2 ourselves positioned for funding through MDE.</p> <p>3 At the same time, we were also working</p> <p>4 very closely with MDE on the development of a</p> <p>5 consent agreement. And then ultimately had to</p> <p>6 work on those, and then we would utilize Rauch</p> <p>7 as part of our team in help doing management of</p> <p>8 operations of The Preserve at Wye Mills at that</p> <p>9 time. So that's what amendment number three is</p> <p>10 associated with.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>12 MR. STAMP: So just to read into the</p> <p>13 record and to augment what Ray said, this is</p> <p>14 amendment four.</p> <p>15 And again, this is requesting Council</p> <p>16 approval to modify the contract with Rauch at a</p> <p>17 cost of \$31,520 to complete engineering design</p> <p>18 service for Ferry Point Marina wastewater</p> <p>19 treatment plant project for the total contract</p> <p>20 cost of \$206,274.</p> <p>21 This will be charged to the capital</p>
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<p>1 MR. STAMP: Is 20 --</p> <p>2 MR. CLARKE: 20-04. This is associated</p> <p>3 with the Ferry Point Marina design. The</p> <p>4 additional time that we have identified in this</p> <p>5 amendment, amendment number four, is really</p> <p>6 associated with the efforts right now in trying</p> <p>7 to find the point source discharge for that</p> <p>8 wastewater treatment plant.</p> <p>9 At the same time, I will note, too, that</p> <p>10 we have another amendment, amendment number</p> <p>11 three. So we're kind of ahead of ourselves</p> <p>12 here. Amendment number three basically has not</p> <p>13 been presented to the County Council. So this</p> <p>14 is amendment number four.</p> <p>15 Amendment number three is actually</p> <p>16 associated with The Preserve at Wye Mills. At</p> <p>17 the time we were doing the Ferry Point Marina</p> <p>18 design, we had no contract with Rauch,</p> <p>19 Incorporated for The Preserve at Wye Mills. So</p> <p>20 we did a change order on the Ferry Point</p> <p>21 contract to have Rauch develop the preliminary</p>	<p>1 projects.</p> <p>2 MR. CLARKE: And ultimately, it will then</p> <p>3 be billed out to the property owners that are</p> <p>4 connected to that wastewater system.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there a motion?</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>8 MR. STEPP: Second.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Motion and second to</p> <p>10 approve. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>11 vote.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>15 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>19 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p>

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<p>1 MR. STAMP: That completes your county 2 manager report for this evening. Thank you, 3 Council. 4 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. Good 6 job, Mr. Stamp. Okay. 7 So now we're going to go ahead at this 8 time and start the public hearing. Madam 9 Secretary, when you get a chance, can you go 10 ahead and read the Bill 1577. 11 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1577, an emergency 12 bill to amend Bill Number 1231 for the purpose 13 of coordinating the temporary closure of 14 Maryland Route 662C to facilitate timely 15 construction of a new hospital and regional 16 medical center by Shore Health System, Inc. and 17 minimize impacts to vehicular traffic on Ocean 18 Gateway, US Route 50 during the 2025 summer 19 travel season. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job, Madam 21 Secretary.</p>	<p>1 everybody. Thank you for the opportunity to be 2 here. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely. 4 MR. KOZEL: I appreciate that, and say a 5 few words this evening. 6 As you all know, the new Shore Health 7 Medical Center has been part of our vision for 8 the last 20 years. We know how important this 9 project is to the University of Maryland Shore 10 Regional Health and to UMMS. And we also know 11 how important this project is to Talbot County 12 and the midshore community we serve. 13 The new hospital is the largest 14 construction project on the midshore that most 15 of us are likely to see in our lifetime. I 16 know hundreds of people, including each of you 17 on the Council, who have supported us 18 throughout this endeavor and whose support we 19 will continue to need to help us cut the ribbon 20 and open the new hospital in the summer of 21 2028.</p>
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<p>1 Mr. McClean, you want to go ahead and give 2 us an overview? 3 MR. MacLEOD: Mr. President, I wasn't -- 4 MR. CALLAHAN: MacLeod, I'm sorry. 5 MR. MacLeod: Well, you have before you an 6 amendment to speak to the -- you have an 7 amendment to Bill 1577 that would incorporate 8 two agreements. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 10 MR. MacLEOD: Into the bill. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 12 MR. MacLEOD: And then you have a question 13 on the bill. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. At this 15 time, I'll go ahead and open the public 16 hearing. I'll be three minutes for individuals 17 and five minutes for an organization. 18 So I see you guys are upfront right now. 19 So you can go ahead and be glad to hear you. 20 Welcome, Ken and Ryan. 21 MR. KOZEL: Thank you. Good afternoon</p>	<p>1 It must not go unsaid as to how much we 2 appreciate your efforts and your unwavering 3 support. 4 We realized that getting this far, 5 securing all the approvals needed to proceed, 6 and initiating site preparations was going to 7 be incredibly challenging. And I am so 8 grateful that we have achieved these milestones 9 together. 10 What we also realize, having been through 11 several construction projects myself, is the 12 site preparation and construction phases can be 13 just as stressful and challenging at times as 14 the approval process was. 15 Case in point is the recent FAA report we 16 received stating a corner of the penthouse on 17 roof is eight feet too high. Despite all the 18 reviews indicating our building height met 19 standards, we will need to work with the FAA to 20 address their assessment before the spring, 21 when we will seek construction permits to build</p>

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<p>1 the building.</p> <p>2 But we know that like the team effort it</p> <p>3 took to get us here, we need that same team</p> <p>4 effort to bring this project to fruition. We</p> <p>5 will not succeed without you and those who have</p> <p>6 helped us thus far.</p> <p>7 What I will ask is that you always keep in</p> <p>8 mind as the project continues to evolve is that</p> <p>9 we at Shore Regional Health will always have</p> <p>10 good intent, good intent for the safest project</p> <p>11 possible, good intent for transparency and open</p> <p>12 communication, and good intentions for</p> <p>13 collaboration that promote an efficient and</p> <p>14 cost effective project.</p> <p>15 We also know that unprecedented numbers of</p> <p>16 extremely sick patients coming into our Easton</p> <p>17 Hospital over the last 12 months has caused</p> <p>18 challenges with patients being admitted, going</p> <p>19 from the emergency department to an inpatient</p> <p>20 bed. I want the Council and the community to</p> <p>21 know that we are working tirelessly to safely</p>	<p>1 community. With good intent as our foundation</p> <p>2 and trust in collaboration as our cornerstones,</p> <p>3 I know we will collectively continue to</p> <p>4 succeed. Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Appreciate it.</p> <p>6 Okay.</p> <p>7 MR. LESHER: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>9 MR. LESHER: We have an offer on the table</p> <p>10 from Shore Health.</p> <p>11 Can we, first of all, thank you for that</p> <p>12 and for that opportunity. And I hope this</p> <p>13 Council will be agreeable to, in fact, take you</p> <p>14 up. I think we appreciate the opportunity to</p> <p>15 spend more time and learn more about the moves</p> <p>16 that you're making to make these improvements</p> <p>17 and wondered if we might direct staff to work</p> <p>18 with Shore Health on scheduling that</p> <p>19 opportunity.</p> <p>20 MR. KOZEL: Great. Thank you for that</p> <p>21 opportunity. We'll work with...</p>
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<p>1 improve our throughput, and we are making</p> <p>2 progress.</p> <p>3 I'd like to ask the Council for the</p> <p>4 opportunity to share our plans and progress we</p> <p>5 are making at a future Council meeting, if you</p> <p>6 so allow.</p> <p>7 But back to the regional medical center.</p> <p>8 Today we are here because the emergency bill</p> <p>9 for the Route 662 relocation is essential to</p> <p>10 keep the project's timeline and minimize the</p> <p>11 impact of the road relocation on seasonal</p> <p>12 travelers.</p> <p>13 We accept the responsibility for the need</p> <p>14 for urgency, and we strive to improve the</p> <p>15 communications as we move forward.</p> <p>16 We thank you for bringing this bill</p> <p>17 forward for consideration this evening, and I</p> <p>18 thank you in advance for your support.</p> <p>19 As this project continues to progress, I</p> <p>20 assure you we are striving to make this time a</p> <p>21 time that brings both pride and joy to our</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. And if you would</p> <p>2 like to introduce the young lady in the back</p> <p>3 there that's head of communications, we'd be</p> <p>4 glad to introduce her.</p> <p>5 MR. KOZEL: The young lady in the back is</p> <p>6 Ms. Kristin Jones Bryce.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>8 MR. KOZEL: Kristin Jones Bryce is our</p> <p>9 senior vice president of external affairs at</p> <p>10 the University of Maryland Medical System.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. And</p> <p>12 your other right-hand man.</p> <p>13 MR. KOZEL: And Arvin Singh is the vice</p> <p>14 president for strategy and communications for</p> <p>15 Shore Regional.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. Okay.</p> <p>17 MR. KOZEL: Thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, guys.</p> <p>19 Appreciate it.</p> <p>20 Would anybody else like to come up and</p> <p>21 voice their opinion on 662? Go ahead,</p>

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<p>1 Mr. Stamp.</p> <p>2 MR. STAMP: I was just going to say that</p> <p>3 we really rated here having Kristin here.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>5 MR. STAMP: She's an amazing part of the</p> <p>6 UMMS team.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>8 MR. STAMP: (Inaudible.) And it's great</p> <p>9 having her here in Talbot County.</p> <p>10 Thank you, Kristin.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Would anybody else</p> <p>12 like to come up and say a few words? Okay.</p> <p>13 At this time --</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: When I was reading the</p> <p>17 legislation, I did fail to note that we</p> <p>18 received 68 comments from individuals who</p> <p>19 either live on that road, travel that road.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: So they were just sent today.</p>	<p>1 quick process.</p> <p>2 And also, I raise a question about whether</p> <p>3 passage of this legislation is really an</p> <p>4 emergency. It's a legal question.</p> <p>5 So I would like to propose that we hold</p> <p>6 the vote to the next meeting so that we can</p> <p>7 acquire this information.</p> <p>8 It's a fast-moving situation with the need</p> <p>9 for the road or not. And I think that we need</p> <p>10 sufficient time to get some more information</p> <p>11 than we already have before we vote.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHER: Is the FAA -- I mean I</p> <p>13 understand that the height concern raised by</p> <p>14 the FAA letter is relevant to the construction</p> <p>15 and to permitting.</p> <p>16 I don't know that it's germane to the bill</p> <p>17 in front of us dealing with the land transfer</p> <p>18 for this road.</p> <p>19 MS. MIELKE: It is -- sorry.</p> <p>20 I feel that it is germane because the</p> <p>21 issue with moving 662 has to do with a small</p>
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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>2 MS. MIELKE: And also a letter.</p> <p>3 MR. STAMP: (Inaudible) in opposition.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Oh, in opposition to the bill.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Thank</p> <p>6 you for letting us know that. Okay.</p> <p>7 At this time, this is eligible for third</p> <p>8 reader.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: If Council chooses to bring it</p> <p>10 to third reader.</p> <p>11 MS. MIELKE: I'd like to make a comment.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.</p> <p>13 MS. MIELKE: Just for the record, and I am</p> <p>14 on the record on this, we all want the new</p> <p>15 hospital, and I fully support and want to</p> <p>16 facilitate the timely construction.</p> <p>17 With regard to this legislation, I think</p> <p>18 that there is some items that need to be</p> <p>19 addressed before we can proceed with a vote.</p> <p>20 And one of them is a complete exploration</p> <p>21 of the issue with the FAA, which is making</p>	<p>1 corner of the hospital being designed to be on</p> <p>2 the road.</p> <p>3 If we're looking at a situation where</p> <p>4 there may be a requirement to revisit the</p> <p>5 location of the hospital on the property, that</p> <p>6 issue as well could be addressed one way or the</p> <p>7 other. So I think that there is a tie to it</p> <p>8 because we're talking about possible</p> <p>9 realignment of the hospital.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: I see the bill that we have</p> <p>11 here as a, not to sound too literal, but I see</p> <p>12 the bill in front of us as a horizontal bill</p> <p>13 dealing with horizontal position, as opposed to</p> <p>14 the vertical position with the FAA.</p> <p>15 So I don't see the relevance between the</p> <p>16 two.</p> <p>17 MS. MIELKE: Well, because we were told --</p> <p>18 MR. STEPP: I hear that.</p> <p>19 MS. MIELKE: -- that they couldn't revisit</p> <p>20 moving the corner off of 662 because it would</p> <p>21 be so costly to redesign it.</p>

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<p>1 And my question is if it does have to --</p> <p>2 if they have to go back and do a redesign, this</p> <p>3 could be addressed. That's all I'm saying.</p> <p>4 There's a possibly, and it's worth exploring.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: So Ryan, can you explain to</p> <p>6 us? Because a redesign to meet the requirement</p> <p>7 of FAA would not, it wouldn't involve anything</p> <p>8 with the road, right?</p> <p>9 MS. MIELKE: With all due respect, he's</p> <p>10 the lawyer, not the --</p> <p>11 MS. HAYTHE: Correct?</p> <p>12 MR. SHOWALTER: So I think there's two</p> <p>13 responses there.</p> <p>14 The first is with respect to the FAA</p> <p>15 issue, there's no scenario in which the</p> <p>16 building would be shifted to come into</p> <p>17 compliance. There are a number of ways that</p> <p>18 that would be addressed, but they relate to</p> <p>19 potential adjustments to the height of the</p> <p>20 penthouse.</p> <p>21 What we're talking about is the highest</p>	<p>1 requires a tower crane, it requires road</p> <p>2 circulation around the building, it requires</p> <p>3 grade that extends beyond the foundation of the</p> <p>4 building. So we did look at what would be</p> <p>5 involved to avoid closing 662. It would</p> <p>6 require a shift of the hospital by</p> <p>7 approximately 150 feet so that we could</p> <p>8 accommodate the grading changes, the tower</p> <p>9 crane, and the construction lanes without</p> <p>10 disturbing 662.</p> <p>11 So there's no scenario in which the</p> <p>12 hospital will be shifting horizontally.</p> <p>13 And so as Mr. Stepp indicated, the FAA</p> <p>14 issue is a vertical issue. It has to be</p> <p>15 resolved before we get a building permit in the</p> <p>16 spring, but it's not going to change the</p> <p>17 horizontal configuration of the site.</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: With all due respect,</p> <p>19 Mr. Showalter, you're the attorney. And I</p> <p>20 think that we need these answers from the</p> <p>21 engineers and the architects.</p>
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<p>1 portion of the building in the center core of</p> <p>2 the building.</p> <p>3 There's no scenario in which the hospital</p> <p>4 shifts to cause compliance with the FAA. And</p> <p>5 if it shifted, because the slopes, the</p> <p>6 construction standards that are designed to</p> <p>7 provide protection for the runway, they extend</p> <p>8 outward and upward from the center line of the</p> <p>9 runway.</p> <p>10 So if there was a shift in the hospital to</p> <p>11 avoid that issue, the hospital would actually</p> <p>12 shift to the north onto 662, not away.</p> <p>13 Shifting it away from 662 would shift it closer</p> <p>14 to the airport.</p> <p>15 The second point is, and I know,</p> <p>16 Ms. Mielke, you've asked this question before,</p> <p>17 but there is a small corner of the building</p> <p>18 that is on 662. And you're right, it's a small</p> <p>19 portion of the building.</p> <p>20 But the important thing to understand is</p> <p>21 that the construction of the building, it</p>	<p>1 MR. SHOWALTER: Which is fine. I'm here</p> <p>2 as their spokesperson today.</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: Well, I know that this was</p> <p>4 brought up at the meeting yesterday. And I'd</p> <p>5 like an opportunity speak with them about that.</p> <p>6 And because I'll tell you having to close</p> <p>7 this road while you're building the other one,</p> <p>8 the original plan was you build a route around</p> <p>9 of 662 and then close the present 662. And</p> <p>10 you're proposing to reverse that.</p> <p>11 And in my mind, if one person is seriously</p> <p>12 injured or killed because of this detour that</p> <p>13 you're proposing, closing the road, we had</p> <p>14 numerous reports from our sheriff, from Public</p> <p>15 Works about all the problems this will cause, I</p> <p>16 don't want it on my conscience.</p> <p>17 And I think that we have an obligation of</p> <p>18 due diligence to check every little aspect of</p> <p>19 this to make sure that the only alternative,</p> <p>20 the only alternative is to close that road.</p> <p>21 And I don't think that it is the only</p>



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<p>1 alternative. Thank you.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Mr. Stamp, in our</p> <p>3 conversation, I believe we talked about the</p> <p>4 safety and EMS and police.</p> <p>5 Did we hear back from them in regards to</p> <p>6 this being a hazard in regards to closing 662?</p> <p>7 MR. STAMP: So Joe, the sheriff, is still</p> <p>8 here, and he can speak for himself.</p> <p>9 Mr. LeCates, our DES director, is out of</p> <p>10 town right now.</p> <p>11 I can speak as your former DES director</p> <p>12 and have been working closely on this matter.</p> <p>13 We are convening a group. I think the meeting</p> <p>14 is next Friday with all the principals to go</p> <p>15 over the proposed detour route.</p> <p>16 I think that the recognition of State</p> <p>17 Highway, that we need to have a very clear plan</p> <p>18 in place. And their willingness to move</p> <p>19 forward to facilitate that meeting helps me</p> <p>20 have a level of comfort that we'll come up with</p> <p>21 a suitable solution so that the detour will</p>	<p>1 monitor that. I don't think that -- if it</p> <p>2 becomes an issue.</p> <p>3 And the Traffic Safety Committee, I mean</p> <p>4 we deal with detours all the time. You get a</p> <p>5 pretty good crash on Route 50 and we've got to</p> <p>6 come down. I think we've addressed that with</p> <p>7 the county road issue of bulking up the county</p> <p>8 roads.</p> <p>9 I know County Roads have been out there</p> <p>10 working. I've seen them myself out there</p> <p>11 working trying to replace some culverts and</p> <p>12 stuff so we won't have any issues with truck</p> <p>13 traffic coming down.</p> <p>14 At the end of the day, it's an</p> <p>15 inconvenience, but I don't see it as being a</p> <p>16 huge safety issue for the public, for the</p> <p>17 motoring public. It's going to be an</p> <p>18 inconvenience, but it is what it is.</p> <p>19 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.</p> <p>20 MS. MIELKE: That's different than your</p> <p>21 written report.</p>
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<p>1 flow smoothly and not cause safety concerns.</p> <p>2 But again, I can't speak for the sheriff.</p> <p>3 And he is here.</p> <p>4 If you'd like to say something, Joe.</p> <p>5 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Can I speak from here?</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Can you come on up,</p> <p>7 Sheriff, please?</p> <p>8 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Sure. So we are meeting.</p> <p>9 The Traffic Safety Committee is meeting again.</p> <p>10 We've discussed this at previous Traffic Safety</p> <p>11 Committee meetings.</p> <p>12 My only concern was if you didn't block</p> <p>13 off the cut-through through the ice skating</p> <p>14 rink, people will take that as a shortcut. I</p> <p>15 mean --</p> <p>16 MR. LESHER: The back entrance to the</p> <p>17 Community Center?</p> <p>18 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Yeah. But it also then</p> <p>19 limits access to that for people from the north</p> <p>20 and the west.</p> <p>21 So I know you're kind of -- I think we can</p>	<p>1 SHERIFF GAMBLE: I don't think it is</p> <p>2 different.</p> <p>3 My written report was the cut-through at</p> <p>4 the ice-skating rink and that more people would</p> <p>5 be using Route 50 to access the ice skating</p> <p>6 rink, making that left across 50 where --</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Which is very dangerous.</p> <p>8 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Yeah. I mean the</p> <p>9 reported crashes there are none at this point.</p> <p>10 I mean we went back and looked at it to see</p> <p>11 what reported crashes there were there.</p> <p>12 I don't like that turn, anyway. I don't</p> <p>13 like any left turn off of 50 with traffic</p> <p>14 coming that way, whether it's there,</p> <p>15 (Inaudible) Road, all the way up. I think</p> <p>16 anything with a two-lane highway is dangerous.</p> <p>17 But we pulled the crash data. And we</p> <p>18 don't have any crashes, reported crashes there</p> <p>19 over the last I think it was two years we</p> <p>20 looked at.</p> <p>21 So I mean I think that was my report. I</p>

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<p>1 don't think I'm changing my report.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Sheriff.</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: I think basically what he has</p> <p>4 reported and you mentioned about this upcoming</p> <p>5 meeting is a reason why we should postpone the</p> <p>6 vote for tonight and have it at the next</p> <p>7 meeting so I can get all the information.</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: I beg to differ with Council</p> <p>9 woman Mielke.</p> <p>10 And if we could move forward with the</p> <p>11 process. And if we're going to move it to the</p> <p>12 third reader, could we please because we've</p> <p>13 heard that there's no safety issue.</p> <p>14 I believe we have until the October 1st to</p> <p>15 make sure that everything is intact as it</p> <p>16 relates to emergency services.</p> <p>17 This is an emergency bill. We're here</p> <p>18 because it's an emergency. So delaying it</p> <p>19 would make it a non-emergency in my opinion.</p> <p>20 So President Callahan, if we could move</p> <p>21 forward. Respectfully, Councilwoman Mielke.</p>	<p>1 move forward. I'm happy with everything. I'm</p> <p>2 excited for how your message is going to be</p> <p>3 going into a positive direction because of some</p> <p>4 of the issues we're dealing with with the old</p> <p>5 hospital.</p> <p>6 And that's the goal for everybody to</p> <p>7 understand. Our goal is to have a brand new</p> <p>8 hospital with state of the art in customer</p> <p>9 service. That's what we're all doing.</p> <p>10 So just for two minutes, brief the public</p> <p>11 on what this meeting was about, because I was</p> <p>12 very impressed with your meeting last night.</p> <p>13 MR. KOZEL: Thank you, Council President.</p> <p>14 And in the room, we have representatives</p> <p>15 from the town, the county, Easton Utilities,</p> <p>16 certainly Shore Regional University of</p> <p>17 Maryland, Whiting Turner Mahogany, our</p> <p>18 construction firm. So it's a group of partners</p> <p>19 that we've collaborated with who meet</p> <p>20 regularly.</p> <p>21 And the intent of that meeting is to have</p>
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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. There was one thing I</p> <p>2 would love to do.</p> <p>3 Ken, would you mind coming up for a</p> <p>4 minute, please. Okay. I would like for you to</p> <p>5 address a little bit of the good information</p> <p>6 that we had yesterday at your meeting. Okay.</p> <p>7 It was Mrs. Mielke, it was me, and it was</p> <p>8 Clay. Okay. And we went around the table.</p> <p>9 And I felt extremely comfortable with the way</p> <p>10 that you handled moving forward in changing</p> <p>11 some of the communication between us, the</p> <p>12 municipalities, and the town.</p> <p>13 And by the way, this agreement was back in</p> <p>14 '13 that we signed. And we've had at least</p> <p>15 five adjustments to the regulations to make</p> <p>16 this hospital the way it is now.</p> <p>17 So I felt extremely comfortable and</p> <p>18 thankful that you did your due diligence on</p> <p>19 hiring the people to help us understand the</p> <p>20 position you're in for this new hospital.</p> <p>21 Because I want this hospital. I want to</p>	<p>1 transparent, open communication with regard to</p> <p>2 this project and really try to make sure that</p> <p>3 we are supporting each other to go from where</p> <p>4 we are today to a successful opening in the</p> <p>5 summer of 2028. It's so important.</p> <p>6 And one of the things that we learned</p> <p>7 early on in this process is that we can do a</p> <p>8 better job communicating with each other about</p> <p>9 the situations that are coming up that each</p> <p>10 individual group may be experiencing that is</p> <p>11 relevant for all of us to know and to</p> <p>12 understand and to support each other as we work</p> <p>13 through these challenges.</p> <p>14 So one of the things we intend to do is</p> <p>15 convene a communications group that will focus</p> <p>16 on providing messages. Certainly it starts</p> <p>17 with an executive summary of that meeting,</p> <p>18 coming back to councils so that that can be</p> <p>19 shared with the town and the county so you are</p> <p>20 fully aware, in addition to support from staff,</p> <p>21 as to what conversations we're having regarding</p>

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<p>1 this project.</p> <p>2 But that's then complemented with some</p> <p>3 strategy around how do we better communicate to</p> <p>4 our community and to our constituents and to</p> <p>5 the public at large about this project and get</p> <p>6 ahead of the messaging about what's to come and</p> <p>7 plan and strategize on how we can effectively</p> <p>8 communicate that to the community.</p> <p>9 So I think with that, then we also talked</p> <p>10 about also sharing some of the challenges that</p> <p>11 we've had as an organization with regard to</p> <p>12 throughput given that our volumes are</p> <p>13 25 percent higher than we've experienced in</p> <p>14 last year and the year before that. But share</p> <p>15 what those challenges present and how we're</p> <p>16 trying to address those challenges.</p> <p>17 So it's not only about the regional</p> <p>18 medical center, but it's also about the current</p> <p>19 state of the state and how we're working</p> <p>20 through improving.</p> <p>21 And then finally, it's about sharing that</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.</p> <p>2 MR. LESHER: We've heard from 60 some</p> <p>3 residents who will be inconvenienced by this</p> <p>4 who have concerns about this. This is a change</p> <p>5 in the plan. We didn't want to have to close</p> <p>6 this road in order to make this happen.</p> <p>7 But at the same time, a delay here means</p> <p>8 that -- has downstream consequences, financial</p> <p>9 consequences for the project. And we have to</p> <p>10 acknowledge that.</p> <p>11 And this Council does not want to be</p> <p>12 responsible for creating barriers to the</p> <p>13 construction either in schedule or cost.</p> <p>14 I think I heard a motion from Council</p> <p>15 Woman Haythe to move this to third reader.</p> <p>16 MS. HAYTHE: Yes.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHER: And I will second the motion.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>19 we've got a motion and second to move this to</p> <p>20 third reader. Could you call the vote, please.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p>
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<p>1 regional vision that we've established. As you</p> <p>2 know, we're talking about Talbot County today,</p> <p>3 but we are five counties on the midshore and</p> <p>4 each county has an integral part in the</p> <p>5 strategy and the integrated system that we're</p> <p>6 trying to develop here. So communicating that</p> <p>7 as well as part of the strategy. I think it's</p> <p>8 incredibly important for the future.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: I appreciate that. And I</p> <p>10 think we're all trying to get to the same</p> <p>11 place. It's going to take a lot of effort.</p> <p>12 It's going to take a lot of coordinating with</p> <p>13 the county and the municipalities.</p> <p>14 And I appreciate your effort because we've</p> <p>15 come a long way and we've gotten to the point</p> <p>16 where we see light at the end of the tunnel</p> <p>17 moving forward and stuff.</p> <p>18 So at this time, Council, I feel -- go</p> <p>19 ahead.</p> <p>20 MR. LESHER: So, you know, look, Council</p> <p>21 is in a tough position.</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: No.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: The first thing we have to</p> <p>11 address here before we move this to a vote is</p> <p>12 there's an amendment on the table, amendment</p> <p>13 number one, to Bill 1577. And I will -- we</p> <p>14 don't need a motion. You just need to call the</p> <p>15 vote on the amendment.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>20 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p>

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<p>1 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: Abstain.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHHER: And then finally, it would be</p> <p>7 appropriate, now that we have an amended bill</p> <p>8 before us, is to ask to call the roll on Bill</p> <p>9 1577.</p> <p>10 Oh, no. Actually, we've called it to</p> <p>11 third reader. I think you need to actually go</p> <p>12 through the motion of third reader.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Correct. I was getting</p> <p>14 ready to say that.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1577, an emergency</p> <p>16 bill to amend Bill Number 1231 for the purpose</p> <p>17 of coordinating the temporary closure of</p> <p>18 Maryland Route 662C to facilitate timely</p> <p>19 construction of a new hospital and regional</p> <p>20 medical center by Shore Health System, Inc. and</p> <p>21 minimize impacts to vehicular traffic on Ocean</p>	<p>1 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. Public</p> <p>3 comment. Thank you. Hey, Martha, could you go</p> <p>4 out and see if there's a list out there?</p> <p>5 MS. SPARKS: Yeah.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: I just want to make sure.</p> <p>7 MR. STEPP: Conner, you want to say</p> <p>8 anything?</p> <p>9 CONNER: Oh, everybody left.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: We have nobody.</p> <p>11 MS. SPARKS: Nope.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's all good.</p> <p>13 Okay.</p> <p>14 Now we've got Council comment. Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>15 MR. STEPP: Great meeting.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>17 MR. STEPP: It's nice to see a courtroom</p> <p>18 full of not only our youth but full of folks</p> <p>19 who the reason to celebrate, not the opposite,</p> <p>20 that we see from time to time.</p> <p>21 So it was wonderful to celebrate our</p>
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<p>1 Gateway, US Route 50, during the 2025 summer</p> <p>2 travel season.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>4 MR. LESHHER: No, you don't need a motion.</p> <p>5 You can just call the roll.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>7 call the vote.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>11 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>13 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>15 MS. MIELKE: No.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>17 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>19 MR. SHOWALTER: Thank you very much.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Appreciate</p> <p>21 everything.</p>	<p>1 Junior League Softball champs.</p> <p>2 Yeah. I'm looking forward to Talbot Goes</p> <p>3 Purple on Saturday night, the kickoff, and all</p> <p>4 that that brings in September.</p> <p>5 And coming into the fall season. Kids are</p> <p>6 back to school.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.</p> <p>8 MR. STEPP: All good things in Talbot</p> <p>9 County.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: All good. Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHHER: Well, the week before last we</p> <p>12 were down at MACo, the Maryland Association of</p> <p>13 Counties. And I will report in one of the</p> <p>14 sessions that I attended there, we did have, as</p> <p>15 we always do, an opportunity to meet with</p> <p>16 Secretary of Transportation Paul Wiedefeld and</p> <p>17 all of his agency heads, at which point we have</p> <p>18 the opportunity to raise and discuss safety</p> <p>19 issues at various intersections with State</p> <p>20 roads throughout Talbot County.</p> <p>21 We continue to raise a number of those</p>

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<p>1 issues. Some of those are brought forward from</p> <p>2 previous years. We often, as we have, revise</p> <p>3 those, tweak those as new concerns come in and</p> <p>4 offer alternative priorities.</p> <p>5 The section that I attended had to do with</p> <p>6 Maryland's Vision Zero. This is, this is what</p> <p>7 can we, in the public sphere, do to reduce</p> <p>8 motor vehicle crash fatalities to zero, down to</p> <p>9 nothing.</p> <p>10 And that's, that's a lofty goal, but we</p> <p>11 need to acknowledge that every one of those, we</p> <p>12 don't call these, they don't call these</p> <p>13 accidents because almost all of these motor</p> <p>14 vehicle crashes are the result of something</p> <p>15 that is a choice. That is speed related, that</p> <p>16 is a choice. That is caused by aggressive</p> <p>17 driving, that is a choice. That is caused by</p> <p>18 unrestrained drivers or passengers, in this day</p> <p>19 and age people still not wearing seat belts,</p> <p>20 that is a choice. Driving while impaired or</p> <p>21 driving while distracted, these are choices.</p>	<p>1 And I do appreciate what Mr. Kozel</p> <p>2 mentioned about finally becoming transparent in</p> <p>3 what their plans are.</p> <p>4 I just have to reiterate that I don't</p> <p>5 think that we have enough information, that the</p> <p>6 issue has not been addressed on why it's an</p> <p>7 emergency, issue has not been addressed on how</p> <p>8 much it really would have cost to redesign it</p> <p>9 and take that whole corner off the road.</p> <p>10 And those people who signed that petition</p> <p>11 are the ones who are going to suffer the most.</p> <p>12 And we're not talking about a minor closing for</p> <p>13 a few weeks. We're talking about six months at</p> <p>14 a minimize and probably even more. And for</p> <p>15 that reason, I just have to reiterate my</p> <p>16 position and the feelings of the citizens of</p> <p>17 Talbot County who are going to be impacted the</p> <p>18 most; farmers, other people who use the roads,</p> <p>19 and the residents.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: So on a high note, I echo</p>
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<p>1 We have two -- Maryland has a dashboard up</p> <p>2 on Vision Zero tracking traffic fatalities.</p> <p>3 There are to date this year in 2024 366</p> <p>4 Statewide, two of which were in Talbot County.</p> <p>5 One caused by an impaired driver, one caused by</p> <p>6 attributed to a lack of restraint, a seat belt.</p> <p>7 These are all, these are all -- we work</p> <p>8 with the State, the secretary of transportation</p> <p>9 on trying to make roads safer, on trying to</p> <p>10 improve intersections, on trying to make the</p> <p>11 driving environment as safe as possible. But</p> <p>12 we never will achieve Vision Zero unless we</p> <p>13 address driving behaviors. And that was the</p> <p>14 strong message coming out of the Vision Zero</p> <p>15 session at MACo this year.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>17 Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: Yes. I did want to reiterate</p> <p>19 that I do support the University of Maryland</p> <p>20 enlarging its new hospital. I'm on record on</p> <p>21 that.</p>	<p>1 what Dave said as well. It was truly exciting</p> <p>2 to see the Talbot Softball Junior League in</p> <p>3 here today and see all of those girls. I think</p> <p>4 youth truly give me energy and working with</p> <p>5 young women and seeing them here this evening.</p> <p>6 So congratulations to them again.</p> <p>7 And thank you, Dave, for your hard work in</p> <p>8 starting and helping with that organization. I</p> <p>9 hear --</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: Absolutely a pleasure.</p> <p>11 MS. HAYTHE: -- you were the key person in</p> <p>12 that.</p> <p>13 MR. STEPP: One of many, one of many.</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: But that's exciting.</p> <p>15 But also want to congratulate my fellow</p> <p>16 Council member who will be walking down the</p> <p>17 aisle this weekend and just wish you the best.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.</p> <p>19 MS. HAYTHE: And may God shine His face</p> <p>20 and bless your union this weekend.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm going to need Him, I'm</p>

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<p>1 going to need Him.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: She's going to need Him. So</p> <p>3 just wanted to say congratulations.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. I really</p> <p>5 appreciate that, Council. Yup. So Saturday is</p> <p>6 my big day. I'm getting married. Tonight I'm</p> <p>7 leaving with my dad and we're driving down to</p> <p>8 Georgia and meeting the family down there. So</p> <p>9 I'm excited, you know.</p> <p>10 MR. STAMP: Don't forget the ring.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Don't forget the ring.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: I'm going to text you.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: I got all these</p> <p>14 instructions. It's just crazy right now.</p> <p>15 But I really appreciate the shout-out for</p> <p>16 that. And I really appreciate you guys'</p> <p>17 support. That's for sure.</p> <p>18 And you know, like Dave said and Keasha</p> <p>19 said, those girls and that softball team</p> <p>20 winning that State Championship is such a</p> <p>21 special moment for us as a community to help</p>	<p>1 us. You did a great job at the work session</p> <p>2 when we had an accommodation tax work session.</p> <p>3 So we're working on trying to provide a</p> <p>4 little bit more money for the communities and</p> <p>5 things like that. So you'll hear upcoming work</p> <p>6 on the accommodation tax because we need to</p> <p>7 support those municipalities.</p> <p>8 So being that's said, Mr. Leshner, you want</p> <p>9 to go ahead and get us out of the meeting here.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next</p> <p>11 meeting will be held on Tuesday,</p> <p>12 September 10th, beginning at 5 o'clock p.m.</p> <p>13 The Council will be convening in open session</p> <p>14 and then adjoining into closed session, as</p> <p>15 listed on the statement for closing that</p> <p>16 meeting.</p> <p>17 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn</p> <p>18 this meeting and reconvene as noted?</p> <p>19 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.</p> <p>20 MR. STEPP: Second.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p>
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<p>1 these young ladies shine and grow. And that's</p> <p>2 what it's all about.</p> <p>3 I mean young kids nowadays, it's tough on</p> <p>4 them. And to see that growth and to see that</p> <p>5 positivity, that's what us as a Council are</p> <p>6 here to provide, spotlight these girls and</p> <p>7 guys, young men.</p> <p>8 But other than that, I appreciate</p> <p>9 everything. And also I appreciate you guys.</p> <p>10 We got a new guy here with us tonight, Chip.</p> <p>11 Appreciate you stepping in for Patrick.</p> <p>12 Patrick is on vacation. You've done a good</p> <p>13 job. You have definitely put your input on</p> <p>14 things tonight for us. I appreciate that.</p> <p>15 MR. MacLEOD: Appreciate being here.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.</p> <p>17 And Mr. Stamp and Susan.</p> <p>18 We want to wish Jess a little bit of</p> <p>19 recovery. She's under the weather. So we want</p> <p>20 to wish her the best.</p> <p>21 And Martha, thanks for sticking in with</p>	<p>1 second to adjourn. Madam Secretary, could you</p> <p>2 call the vote.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>6 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>8 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>10 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>14 (Meeting concluded at: 6:12 p.m.)</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p>

1 STATE OF MARYLAND

2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and  
3 for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City,  
4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot  
5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me  
6 at the time and place herein set according to law,  
7 was interrogated by counsel.

8  
9 I further certify that the examination was  
10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed  
11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed  
12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription  
13 in a true and accurate manner.

14  
15 I further certify that the stipulations  
16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my  
17 presence.

18  
19 I further certify that I am not of counsel  
20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,  
21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way  
interested in the outcome of this action.

AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 3rd  
day of September 2024 at Easton MD



Diane Houlihan  
Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2025

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